

Protecting Clean Energy Investments

A Toolkit for State-Level Advocates



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Federal Clean Energy Programs Are Under Threat

Federal investments are bringing billions of dollars into clean energy industries, creating good-paying jobs, lowering energy costs, and cutting pollution.

But right now, those programs are under threat from both the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress.

The Executive Threat

The Trump administration's illegal freeze of federal funds is preventing states from implementing critical programs, stalling job-creating projects, and creating uncertainty for businesses and workers. While some funds have started to flow again, some remain frozen, and all remain under threat of future freezes. This isn't just an economic issue—it's an attack on the rule of law. When legally appropriated funds are withheld, it violates the constitution and inhibits the government's ability to deliver on its promises. These funds were allocated by Congress to benefit the people, and preventing their distribution is an affront to the will of the American people.

In addition to illegally freezing funding, the Trump administration is significantly and arbitrarily reducing staff in critical roles across all agencies and the regional offices that support them, putting the proper and timely implementation of these programs at risk.

The Congressional Threat

Over in Congress, Republican lawmakers are using federal budget negotiations to target these critical investments—pushing to freeze or cut programs which bring benefits to their very own districts.

The outcome of the reconciliation process, which allows budget-related legislation to pass with a simple majority, will determine whether or not states can continue realizing the vast benefits of clean energy.

This is where you come in.

State and Local Groups Have Unique Power

The state groups that are helping communities use these funds have unique power here.

In this toolkit, we're going to show how to use real stories (that make it clear how these investments are benefitting voters) to defend these programs.

Across party lines, federally-supported programs are creating jobs, lowering energy costs, and strengthening local economies. Whether it's a rural manufacturing plant expanding because of clean energy tax credits or a family saving on utility bills thanks to home energy rebates, these stories matter. They show lawmakers that protecting federal clean energy funding is about more than policy—it's about improving lives and securing a better future for everyone in their districts.

The Ask

We're going to show you exactly *how* to use your unique power to push Congress to:

1. Demand the full release of all federal funds legally appropriated by Congress now and in the future and keep the staff who are carrying out these critical programs.
2. Protect long-term clean energy and climate investments from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that lower costs, improve public health, and secure a brighter future for all Americans

How to Advocate for These Programs in Congress

There are many ways to reach out to Congress, and further on in this toolkit we will share scripts and templates for reaching out by:

- Posting on social media
- Emailing
- Calling
- Meeting in person or virtually

But first, here is guidance that applies to any method of outreach.

TIP: Later in this toolkit, you'll find an [overview of all the IRA programs](#) at risk. Check out the list and the excellent resources from organizations tracking these investments state by state to get a full picture of the IRA's powerful impact.

Step 1: Who Are You Going to Contact?

First, make a list of the people in Congress you will reach out to:

Your U.S. House Representatives and Senators!

It is the job of members of Congress to hear from and listen to their constituents. And **it is imperative that members from across your state know exactly how these programs benefit businesses and organizations in their state.**

Find your senators and House representatives by going to [usa.gov/elected-officials](https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials), entering your address, and then clicking on “Federal officials”

Representatives on Key Committees

In addition to making sure your own electeds hear from you, **it is essential that representatives on the [Ways and Means Committee](#) and senators on the [Finance Committee](#) hear from you!**

These committees have jurisdiction over all tax legislation, including the creation and repeal of tax credits. Members on these committees need to know that repealing the IRA would be detrimental to individuals, businesses, and other entities across the country.

Importantly, you should also reach out to Congressional leadership!

They need to hear from you to know that this should be a priority for Congress. Republican leadership is using the trifecta (House, Senate, and presidency) to advance tax cuts for billionaires over our shared goals of increased jobs, lower energy costs, and domestic manufacturing. We need to make sure they know that we are holding them accountable!

- Senate
 - Senate Majority Leader: [Senator John Thune](#) (R)
 - Senate Minority Leader: [Senator Chuck Schumer](#) (D)
- House
 - Speaker of the House: [Representative Mike Johnson](#) (R)
 - Majority Leader: [Representative Steve Scalise](#) (R)
 - Minority Leader: [Representative Hakeem Jeffries](#) (D)

Have more time?

Cover all of the bases by reaching out to other relevant committee members...

- The Senate [Committee on Environment and Public Works](#) and House Committee on [Energy and Commerce](#) have jurisdiction over the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is the avenue through which most of the threatened program funding flows.

- Members on these committees (especially the chairs and ranking members) need to hear from advocates like you to understand how important it is that none of this funding is cut or clawed back.

TIP: Once you have the list of Congressmembers you will contact, spend a few minutes searching each one online and reviewing their website and social media accounts. Jot down a few notes on what they care about to help guide your outreach!

- What issues do they list as their top priorities?
- How have they [voted on clean energy issues](#) in the past?
- What caucuses or coalitions do they belong to?

You can reference these in your outreach to help you build trust and rapport.

Step 2: Review Your Key Talking Points

When you call your representatives you'll want to be prepared to say the following most important points (what you're asking them to do first and foremost):

1. **Congress needs to demand the full release of all federal funds legally appropriated by Congress** and demand that the staff who are carrying out these critical programs are kept.
2. **Congress must protect long-term clean energy and climate investments** from the IRA and IJJA that lower costs, improve public health, and secure a brighter future for all Americans.

Additional Key Talking Points on IRA Programs For *Democrats* in Congress

- **IRA tax credits are directly benefitting communities** by creating good jobs, reducing pollution, and making it easier for businesses, schools,

nonprofits and individuals to take advantage of dependable, affordable clean energy.

- Repealing these IRA programs would increase energy costs, stifle innovation, weaken our global competitiveness, and undermine our ability to reduce harmful climate pollution.
- Democrats need to demand the full release of all federal funds legally appropriated by Congress.
- Democrats need to be unified and hold the line to protect long-term clean energy and climate investments.
- Repeal would directly threaten climate progress. The tax incentives in the IRA are projected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, and repealing any of them could threaten that progress.

Additional Key Talking Points For *Republicans* in Congress

- **Repealing energy tax credits is bad for the economy.** Energy tax credits have spurred investments across the economy and led to savings for millions of Americans. Preserving the tax credits is not just about clean, reliable energy—it's about protecting American jobs, American innovation, and energy affordability.
- Republicans need to protect Congress' power of the purse and demand the full release of all federal funds legally appropriated by Congress.
- Republicans need to protect long-term clean energy investments that lower costs, and secure America's economic leadership.

Additional Talking Points for *Any* Congressman

- **Repeal would hurt businesses that have already invested billions based on IRA incentives.** The IRA has already spurred \$270 billion in private-sector investments in clean energy and manufacturing, and repeal would jeopardize those investments and potentially leave billions of dollars in clean energy projects stranded.

- **Repeal would raise energy prices for American families.** A Rhodium Group report estimates that without the IRA, average household energy costs could increase by as much as \$500/year.
- **Clean energy is the answer to increasing energy demand.** As energy demand skyrockets, clean energy like wind and solar are the fastest, cheapest option to quickly expand and strengthen the grid.
- **Repeal will stifle innovation and slow economic growth.** The IRA has supercharged growth for industries like electric vehicles and battery storage, and over 2.4 million Americans are employed in clean energy industries. Repeal could put all of this at risk.
- **Clean energy makes the U.S. competitive.** China and the EU are investing heavily in clean energy, and IRA incentives are designed to help ensure the U.S. can keep up in the global clean energy economy.

Step 3: Know Your Story

Remember: State advocates with specific stories about how IRA programs have benefited them are in a unique position of power! Congressmembers are often persuaded by real life stories about the impact of policy on their constituents.

Before reaching out, **take some time to consider how climate and clean energy programs in the IRA have helped you or your community.** Some questions to consider:

- Are you, your organization, your business, or your community benefiting from any of the tax credits for clean energy, clean transportation, or energy efficiency?
- Is your state's economy uniquely benefiting from these investments? (*i.e. wave of new manufacturing jobs in Georgia, electric vehicle and battery production in Michigan, solar installation boom in Texas*)

- Have you benefited from any climate grant or loan programs? (*Check out the state fact sheets in the [“Resources” section](#) as a guide!*)
- Have *transferability* or *direct pay* benefited an organization or business you’re associated with? (*Think schools, rural electric cooperatives, non-profits, and other non-taxable entities installing solar panels, for instance!*)
- What are the tangible benefits you’ve seen or expect to see?
- How have people’s lives or conditions improved, or how do you expect them to improve?
- Are there any personal reasons why this kind of funding is important to you?

Dos and Don'ts

As you prepare to write, call, or meet with Congressmembers, keep in mind these tips:

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Highlight the positive impacts of the IRA thus far● Share personal stories/experiences to lend credibility to your message—especially stories that highlight the specific benefits of these programs for you/your community, and the losses and higher costs that will impact you if these credits are repealed● Tailor data and messaging specific to their state or district● Reference any relevant priority issues they highlight on their website, relevant votes they've made in Congress, or any relevant caucuses or coalitions they are a part of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● (Democrats): Get ahead of leadership by taking positions on trades you or “Dems” might be willing to accept (<i>i.e. phasing out tax credits instead of fully protecting them</i>). We can't lose ground before the battle has even begun.● (Republicans): Take a confrontational stance in meetings with staffers

More Resources

- [YouGov + Evergreen poll on the popularity of federal clean energy investments](#)
- Citizens Climate Lobby: [IRA Investments by Congressional District](#)

- [E2 analysis of the IRA's economic benefits](#)
- [Climate Power report on the IRA's jobs and investments](#)
- [Advanced Energy United: "Unlocking Advanced Energy Stories"](#)
- [Grist map of IRA and IIJA grant recipients](#) (does not include those benefiting from tax credits)

Ready, Set, Engage! Templates and Scripts

Outreach Tactic 1: Meet for a Conversation

When it comes to advocacy, **nothing beats a meeting**. Here are two ways you can meet in person with your elected Congressmembers.

Meet in Their District or DC Office (or Virtually)

If the [House](#) and/or [Senate](#) is in session and you're in D.C., **offer to meet at their D.C. office**. If Congress is on break, **offer to meet at their district office**. Either way, they may agree to a virtual meeting instead, which is still great!

You can usually ask for a meeting one of three ways, depending on the specific Congressman:

- Online form—If your elected official has a meeting request form on their website, use this!
- Call—Call the appropriate office (D.C. or district) during business hours and use a version of the script below. (Leave a voicemail if nobody answers.)
- Email—If you have an email address for someone in their office because you have corresponded before, use that. If not, look for a contact email on their website, and use a version of the script below.

Sample Script for a Meeting Request

“I am a constituent, and I would like to request a meeting with [official’s title and name] or staff to discuss issues related to budget reconciliation. When is a good time to meet?”

Other things to consider:

- Who else can you bring? Invite up to four other people who can bolster your message.
- Do you have an outline? Use the “How to Advocate for the Programs” section of this toolkit to create an outline for yourself that keeps you organized during the meeting.
- Do you have a “leave behind?” Bring along a printed document summarizing your story and key talking points to leave with the elected official or staff. (Keep it to 1-2 pages.)

Meet in District at a Site Visit

Does your organization or business have a physical location where IRA investments are put to use or could be put to use? **Invite your Congressman to an in-district site visit!**

1. Plan! You’ll need to plan the itinerary for a short site visit (90 minutes or less), and know who you want present. (Who can help deliver the message about how IRA investments are helping your business, group, or community?)
2. Schedule, but be flexible. Look at upcoming [House](#) and [Senate](#) recesses when your elected official is likely to be in district, and identify some days and time that will work for your team—you may need to be flexible to land a visit.
3. Reach out! You can use the same forms of outreach listed above to invite them to the site visit. Feel free to use a version of the sample invite below.
4. Follow up. If you don’t hear back within a couple of days, reach back out again and offer to answer any questions about the invitation. KEY: Also plan to follow-up *after* the site visit!

Sample Site Visit Invitation

Dear [elected official's title and name],

I'm reaching out on behalf of [your organization/business] to invite you to visit [location] during one of your upcoming district work periods.

[Brief description of your organization/business.]

Certain federal programs are important to [your organization/business], and we'd be honored to show you just how they're working in your own district and provide a more comprehensive understanding of how [your industry/sector/work area] is impacting your constituents.

If you and your staff are available to visit us during one of your trips home, we would be happy to accommodate your schedule.

- What: A tour of [location] followed by a meeting with staff to discuss our priorities
- Where: [Address]
- When: A mutually agreeable date when you are in district
- Issues: Tax credits [and IRA grant or loan programs, if applicable]
- Contact: [contact information for whoever is coordinating]

Please let me know when you are available to visit, and thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Did you meet with your federal legislator or host a site visit? Let us know by dropping a quick note to states@evergreenaction.com. This will help us create more resources like this in the future!

Outreach Tactic 2: Make Calls, Send Emails

If a meeting isn't an option for you or if you're reaching out to a key committee member who doesn't directly represent you, then this is the engagement tactic for you.

Sample Email or Call

Adapt this for use as a phone script as well!

Subject: Please protect clean energy investments

Bcc: states@evergreenaction.com

Hello [TITLE AND NAME],

My name is [NAME], and I'm a constituent in [CITY/TOWN]. I'm [BRIEFLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS].

Thank you for your service and leadership as my elected representative. I particularly appreciate [ANYTHING FROM YOUR RESEARCH THAT IS RELEVANT].

I am writing because [MY COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS] has a lot at stake due to [THE FEDERAL FUNDING FREEZE AND/OR THREATENED CUTS TO CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENTS].

[YOUR STORY OF HOW YOUR SPECIFIC COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS IS BENEFITTING FROM CLEAN ENERGY/CLIMATE INVESTMENTS. INCLUDE ANY LOSSES OR HIGHER COSTS THAT WOULD IMPACT YOU IF PROGRAMS ARE REPEALED.]

[FOR DEMOCRATS:]

[FOR REPUBLICANS:]

Clean energy tax credits are directly benefitting communities by creating good jobs, reducing pollution, and making it easier for businesses, schools, nonprofits and individuals to take advantage of dependable, affordable clean energy.

Repealing these programs would increase energy costs, stifle innovation, weaken our global competitiveness, and undermine our ability to reduce harmful climate pollution.

I am urging you to protect Congress' power of the purse by demanding the full release of all federal funds legally appropriated by Congress, and to unite with other Congressional Democrats to hold the line during budget reconciliation to protect long-term clean energy and climate investments.

Repealing energy tax credits is bad for the economy. Energy tax credits have spurred investments across the economy and led to savings for millions of Americans. Preserving the tax credits is not just about clean, reliable energy—it's about protecting American jobs, American innovation, and energy affordability.

I am urging you to protect Congress' power of the purse by demanding the full release of all federal funds legally appropriated by Congress, and to protect long-term clean energy investments that lower costs and secure America's economic leadership.

[FOR ALL:]

Thank you for your attention to this important budget issue. I would love to hear back from you or your team about how you intend to ensure these crucial federal programs are protected.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME & CONTACT INFO]

Did you call or email your federal legislator? Let us know by dropping a quick note to states@evergreenaction.com. This will help us create more resources like this in the future!

Outreach Tactic 3: Post to Social Media

A little public pressure can go a long way, so consider tagging your elected official on social media.

1. Copy any of the example posts below and then *personalize* with your story
2. Post to as many social media platforms as you can with any social accounts your organization/business has
3. Make sure you tag your targets using the handle they use on *that* specific platform
4. Have good photos of projects or programs that have directly benefited from these investments? Include them!

Sample Social Media Posts

- .@electedofficial, clean energy tax credits are [HOW THE PROGRAMS ARE BENEFITTING YOUR ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS/COMMUNITY.] Stand up for your constituents by protecting these programs during reconciliation.
- Repealing energy tax credits is bad for America, @electedofficial. [HOW REPEAL WOULD HURT YOUR ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS/COMMUNITY.]

Preserving the tax credits is not just about clean, reliable energy—it's about protecting America.

- Clean energy tax credits are creating good jobs, reducing pollution, and making it easier for groups like ours to take advantage of affordable clean energy. @electionofficial, we're counting on you to make sure federal funds keep flowing and to protect these credits from repeal.

Overview of Key Federal Programs at Risk

We are currently facing two threats to the future of IRA funding.

The first is President Trump's various attempts to freeze funding, which have created immense uncertainty for the future of trillions of dollars, including all federal funding under the IIJA and IRA and for the staff implementing these programs. These are illegal actions (only Congress is authorized to pause or halt obligated funds), but President Trump has made it clear that he will attempt to use executive action to imperil crucial clean energy programs. **We need members of Congress to be outspoken in holding the administration accountable until it permanently releases all appropriated funds.**

Second, even if the constitution wins out and appropriated funds are allowed to flow freely again, the IRA programs are still under threat. Republicans have pledged time and time again to claw back the funding allocated in this bill, which they can legally do through the process of reconciliation. **It is imperative that we stand united against any action to repeal or weaken the IRA tax incentives for clean energy, energy efficiency and electric vehicles.**

Tax Credits

Clean Energy

- 45Y - the **Clean Electricity Production Tax Credit (PTC)** is a technology-neutral tax credit for the *production* of new clean electricity.

- 48E - the **Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit (ITC)** is a technology-neutral tax credit for investments in clean energy generation.
 - 48(h) - the **Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit** increases the 48E ITC for investments in eligible facilities located in low-income communities.
- The **Energy Community Bonus Credit** provides a 10 percent additional tax credit to the ITC/PTC for eligible projects, facilities, and technologies located in [energy communities](#).
- **Transferability** is a provision that makes it easier for companies to sell their credits to other parties directly, allowing more companies to access the benefits of credits regardless of their tax liability.
- **Direct/Elective Pay** is a provision that expands access to tax credits beyond private businesses to allow tax-exempt entities (think: local governments, nonprofits, state agencies, schools, Tribes, community based organizations, etc.) to qualify for the full value of the tax credit through a direct payment from the government.
- Other bonus credits:
 - The **Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship** incentives provide an increased clean energy credit if certain labor requirements are met.
 - Prevailing wage requirement: All workers handling construction, alteration, and repair for a certain time period must be paid no less than the prevailing wage (established by county and worker classification).
 - Apprenticeship requirement: 15 percent of construction labor hours for each project must be performed by an apprentice.

- The **Domestic content bonus credit** increases the ITC/PTC credits by up to 10 percent if the energy project is built with a certain percentage of materials produced/manufactured within the United States.
- 45U - the **Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production Credit** provides a production tax credit to any existing or new nuclear power plant that produces electricity through 2032.

Clean Transportation

- 25E - the **Credit for Previously-Owned Clean Vehicles** pays buyers 30 percent (up to \$4,000) of the sale price for qualified used electric/fuel cell vehicles purchased from a licensed dealer for \$25,000 or less.
- 30D - the **Clean Vehicle Credit** pays up to \$7,500 for new clean vehicles purchased before the end of 2032.
- 45W - the **Credit for Qualified Commercial Clean Vehicle** helps businesses and tax-exempt organizations transition their fleets to clean vehicles by paying up to \$7,500 for vehicles under 14,000 lbs and \$40,000 for all other clean vehicles purchased for their operations.
- 30C - the **Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit** allows businesses and individuals to deduct 30 percent of the cost of installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency

- 25C - the **Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit** allows homeowners to deduct up to 30 percent of the cost of qualifying energy-efficient home improvements (capped at \$3,200 per year).
- 45L - the **New Energy Efficient Homes Credit** provides up to \$2,500 for homes that meet ENERGY STAR certification and up to \$5,000 for homes achieving the Department of Energy's Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) certification.

Manufacturing

- 48C - the **Advanced Energy Project Credit** provides a 30 percent tax credit on investments in advanced energy manufacturing facilities and other entities that invest in advanced energy projects.

Grants and Loans

- **Community Change Grants** - The IRA allocated \$2 billion dollars in funds for environmental and climate justice activities that benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges.
 - [Evergreen Action webinar on Community Change Grants](#)
- **Climate Pollution Reduction Grants** - The IRA allocated almost \$5 billion in funds for states, local governments, Tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.
 - [Evergreen Action webinar on Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)** - The largest grant program under IRA, the GGRF provides \$27 billion to communities, nonprofits, financial institutions, state, local and Tribal governments for investments that address the climate crisis, promote energy independence and lower energy costs, and revitalize economies in historically overlooked communities. The \$27 billion is divided among three competition programs:
 - The **National Clean Investment Fund**: \$14 billion for businesses and community lenders to invest in zero-emission projects that will allow communities to confidently transition away from their reliance on fossil fuels.

- The **Clean Communities Investment Accelerator**: \$6 billion for up to 7 “hub nonprofits” that could scale up financing for clean technology projects.
- **Solar for All**: \$7 billion (up to 60 grants) for states, municipalities, Tribal governments and eligible nonprofits to deploy residential and community solar, and storage technologies and enabling infrastructure, in low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Resources on the Benefits of These Programs

The following resources have detailed information on the clean energy, job growth, and public health benefits of these programs.

- [White House archive - IRA/ IIJA investment tracker](#)
- [Climate Power’s Clean Energy Boom report](#)
- [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) and CHIPS and Science Act \(CHIPS\) Manufacturing Investment Announcements](#)
- [State by state fact sheets](#)

What's Next?

Congratulations! If you've used this toolkit, you've helped to protect programs that are vital to our communities and our future.

- **Find this helpful?** If this toolkit was helpful to you, please let us know by dropping a quick note to states@evergreenaction.com so we can make more resources like this in the future.
- **IRA questions?** If you have more questions about IRA tax credits or climate programs, reach out to us at states@evergreenaction.com.
- **Need more advocacy help?** If you'd like to get more help doing Congressional advocacy, consider joining up with your [local LCV chapter](#) or signing up for [Climate Changemakers](#).