



Sierra Club Federal Budget Talking Points

President Obama's budget makes a clean break with the failed policies of the past. It is a responsible plan to rebuild and renew our economy by setting the right priorities for America: invest in clean energy to create millions of new green jobs, fight global warming, and end our dependence on oil.

The President's comprehensive plan to address climate change, including the budget, will fund our transition to a cleaner, greener economy by making polluters pay for their global warming pollution and eliminating billions in giveaways to Big Oil. Because it anticipates such a system and prioritizes a transformation to a clean energy economy, passing the President's budget is the first step Congress can take in the plan to address our climate and energy challenges.

In addition to unprecedented attention to global warming, the budget restores funding for key environmental priorities previously crippled by the Bush administration. The budget also adds new funding for important environmental initiatives like clean water, Great Lakes protection, high speed rail and the Superfund toxic waste program.

Supplemental points

The president's program funds critical international climate programs, wildlife and habitat adaptation efforts, and will protect workers and vulnerable communities during the transition away from dirty energy.

The Bush administration starved federal agencies of funding in order to cripple environmental enforcement and other essential activities. The President's plan returns agencies to the levels necessary to full carry out their responsibilities under our nation's most important environmental laws.

The President's budget wisely kills plans to store the nation's high-level nuclear waste at the unsafe and unproven Yucca Mountain site, once and for all.

President Obama's plan not only restores funding for basic activities, but adds new funding for important environmental initiatives, for example:

- The Environmental Protection Agency's budget is increased 34 percent, following years of steady cuts under the Bush administration *In particular, essential funding for clean water is doubled and totals nearly \$4 billion
- \$475 million is provided to deal with invasive species and water pollution issues in the Great Lakes.
- A new \$5 billion, 5 year state grant program for high-speed rail *A dedicated fund to fight wildfires *Important funding toward enabling fish, wildlife, and natural systems to adapt to and survive the impacts of global warming