

# One Year of Progress: The Ocean Climate Action Plan

On March 21, 2023, President Biden announced America's first-ever [Ocean Climate Action Plan](#), a government-wide strategy led by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Council on Environmental Quality to leverage the power of the ocean as a source of climate solutions.

One year later, the Ocean Climate Action Plan, the Administration's commitment to environmental justice and public engagement, and unprecedented ocean and coastal investments from the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are positioning the United States as a global leader on comprehensively addressing ocean and coastal climate priorities.

The Ocean Climate Action Plan is driving interagency coordination and catalyzing collaboration across government, academia, nonprofit, and private sectors like never before. With dedicated leadership across the Administration, ambitious ocean champions in Congress, and a strong nationwide network of ocean advocates, the ocean is becoming a place where climate and environmental justice goals can be achieved. Thanks to many of the actions of the Biden Administration over the past year, the US has made critical progress for our ocean, climate, coasts, and communities.

## Progress Highlights:

- Scaling up the responsible development of offshore wind, including approving the nation's largest [offshore wind project](#)
- Decarbonizing U.S. ports with a [\\$3 billion](#) investment that will reduce public health and environmental impacts on surrounding communities
- Promoting green shipping corridors through international partnerships across the [Atlantic and Pacific Oceans](#), and the [Gulf of Mexico](#)
- Promoting coastal resilience with [\\$3.3 billion](#) to better prepare coastal communities for climate impacts and boost ocean and climate research
- Releasing an [Ocean Justice Strategy](#) to integrate environmental justice principles into the federal government's ocean activities, addressing historic inequities and underinvestment in communities connected to the ocean and Great Lakes

## Progress Highlights (cont.)

- Advancing ocean protection by allocating \$30 million to support sanctuary designations, representing the single largest investment in sanctuary designations in the program's 50-year history, and \$50 million to sanctuary infrastructure
- Developing the U.S. Ocean Acidification Action Plan establishing key mitigation, research and adaptation measures
- Improving climate resilience for US fisheries with \$20 million to support management planning and implementation projects; and
- Launching a Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Fast Track Action Committee to increase knowledge on the safest and most effective mCDR technologies and investing \$50 million at NOAA and DOE to accelerate research and pilot projects.

The need for ocean climate action remains urgent, with global ocean temperatures surpassing record highs and extreme weather disasters in the US costing \$93 billion in 2023. While the most recent plan to drill our ocean for oil and gas offered the fewest leases in history, we need to do more by ensuring actions on our public lands and waters are consistent with US climate goals and our agreement at COP28 to transition away from fossil fuels. Additionally, US leaders must not be lured by false solutions like offshore CCS—historically used to increase oil production—at a time when we need to rapidly reduce emissions.

The potential benefits of continued ocean climate action are enormous: successful policies and targeted investments can help reach global climate goals; advance environmental justice and support U.S. frontline communities; and increase the health and resilience of ocean ecosystems and the coastal economies that depend on them. On this trajectory, the US will help ensure that the ocean is a source of climate solutions, not climate problems, for the future of our planet and people.

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***“Today, we’re releasing the first-ever United States Ocean Climate Action Plan to harness the tremendous power of the ocean to help in our fight against the climate crisis.”***

-President Biden, March 21, 2023