

FROM PLATFORM TO POLICY

The Iowa Democratic Party [Platform](#) is a roadmap which you can and should expect a Democrat running for and elected to office to be guided by when supporting legislation and policies.

Climate and the Environment

2018 Iowa Democratic Party Platform Principle

We advocate for agricultural and environmental policies that sustain the family farm while preserving the quality of our land and resources. The 2016 [Democratic National Committee Platform](#) states that climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children's health and futures, and that Americans deserve the jobs and security that come from becoming the clean energy superpower of the 21st century.

Policy

Democrats seek to empower environmental justice and build a clean energy economy while combating climate change. Democrats believe that clean air and water are basic rights for all Americans. We are committed to getting 50 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade, with half a billion solar panels installed within four years and enough renewable energy to power every home in the country. We recognize that climate change is an urgent threat and a defining challenge of our time.

As we ascertain that climate change is an existential threat to our nation and our planet, we will declare a climate crisis within the first 30 days of the new administration to move us toward a sustainable and healthy future. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from the United Nations has recommended reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050; these are the emission goals and timelines we will strive for. Emissions in the US (and other wealthy developed countries) need to decrease at roughly 10% per year, while developing countries have access to a carbon budget, which would allow a more just transition.

Where We Are Now

The Republican environmental platform speaks to the beauty of our natural resources while condemning it to destruction by fossil fuel initiatives for the sake of energy independence. They also state that "human health and safety are the proper measurements of a policy's success." While true, they fail to recognize the dangers pollution from fossil fuel use poses to humans, especially those in marginalized and minority communities.

Currently, hundreds of environmental and agricultural regulations have been scrapped by the current administration, endangering the health of US citizens and future of our planet. Establishing even stronger environmental regulations for the purpose of protecting the health of every citizen by guaranteeing clean water, clean air, and healthy agricultural/food policies is essential.