

# AMERICA'S PLEDGE

In 2017, Michael Bloomberg and former California Governor Jerry Brown launched **America's Pledge** in the wake of President Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris Agreement, to ensure that U.S. climate progress continued despite federal inaction. Since then, America's Pledge has annually aggregated and quantified the actions of U.S. states, cities, businesses and other non-federal actors to drive down their greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, presenting these findings to the United Nations.

The unique circumstances of the past year demanded two separate analyses from America's Pledge to determine the state of bottom-up climate leadership in the U.S., leading to both an impact analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic on our future climate and energy outlook, titled **Delivering on America's Pledge: Achieving Climate Progress in 2020**, as well as an assessment of U.S. climate progress from states, cities, and businesses throughout the past three years titled, **We Are Still In to Deliver on America's Pledge: A Retrospective**, published in partnership with the We Are Still In coalition.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Bottom-up climate leadership has kept the U.S. on a path of progress.** Since the launch of We Are Still In and America's Pledge in 2017, climate action by U.S. states, cities, and businesses has increased dramatically. Despite four years of environmental rollbacks from President Trump's administration, bold climate actions from non-federal actors have successfully counterbalanced the climate denial and obstruction from the White House.
- **Post-election federal leadership can put America back in alignment with the Paris Agreement.** If the federal government re-engages, invests in a green stimulus recovery and works together with states, cities, and businesses to enact climate-forward policies, we can cut emissions by 49% from 2005 levels by 2030 and put America back in alignment with the Paris Agreement, reaching net zero emissions by 2050.
- **America has passed a tipping point in its clean energy transition.** Unprecedented non-federal leadership, strong market forces, and overwhelming public demand for climate solutions all suggest that clean energy is here to stay.
- **Ambitious, expanded action by U.S. states, cities, and businesses can reduce emissions up to 37% by 2030.** Despite the pandemic and economic recession, non-federal climate action can still substantially reduce emissions, with or without help from Washington.
- **The global pandemic and economic recession have not impeded non-federal climate action.** America's Pledge identifies five key sectors with the greatest 2030 emission reduction opportunities: electricity, transportation, buildings, methane, and HFCs. Confidence in these sectors' ability to drive ambitious 2030 emission reductions has increased, with the exception of buildings, in which confidence has remained unchanged.

**Recent polling shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans support increased federal action on climate.**

The pandemic has given federal, state and local governments, businesses, and community leaders an opportunity to accelerate our progress, achieve environmental justice, and put us on a pathway to a 100% clean energy economy.