



Climate Advocacy in the New Congress

Catholic Climate Covenant

Encounter for Our Common Home Campaign

Overview

- ▶ 2022 Review
- ▶ 118th Congress
- ▶ Climate Policy Options
- ▶ Encounter for Our Common Home



Encounter
FOR OUR COMMON HOME



U.S. Climate Policy: 2022 in Review

- ▶ Inflation Reduction Act
 - ▶ \$369 billion in climate programs and investments
 - ▶ Reduce U.S. GHG emissions 40% from 2005 levels by 2030
 - ▶ Allocates \$60 billion for improvements in air and water quality in directly affected communities
 - ▶ Will help avoid up to 3,900 premature deaths and up to 100,000 asthma attacks annually by 2030.
 - ▶ Includes clean energy and electric vehicle tax credits that will save families who take advantage more than \$1,000 per year.
- ▶ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes clean energy projects cheaper and more efficient for businesses and homeowners.

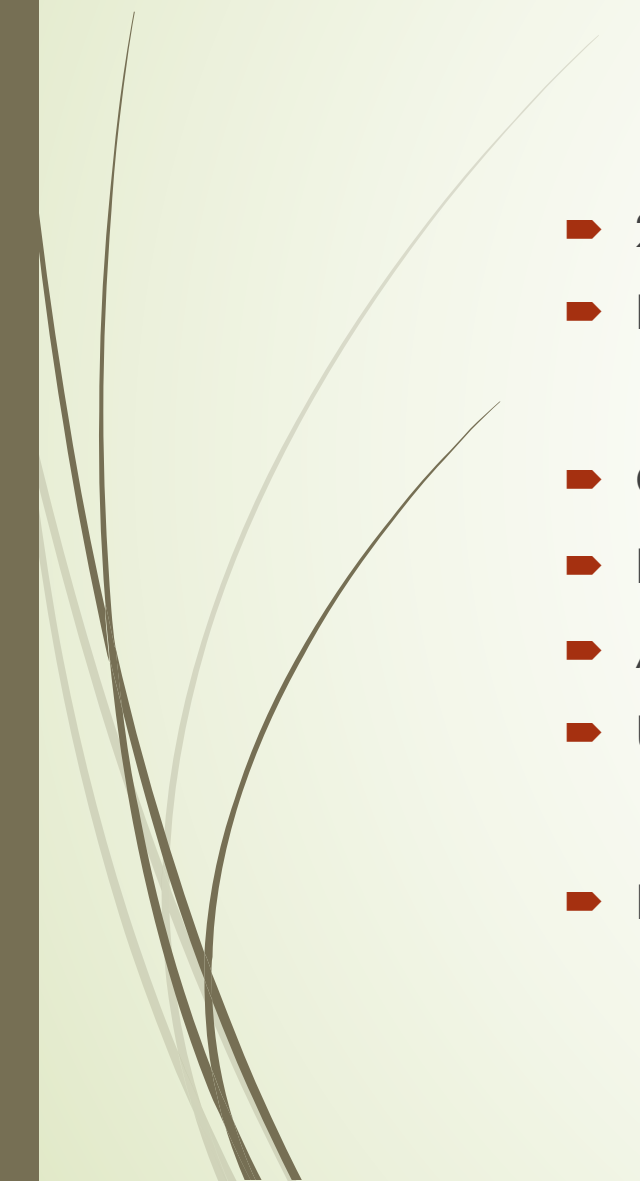


118th Congress

- ▶ January 3, 2023 – January 2, 2025
- ▶ Senate: 48 Democrats, 49 Republicans, 3 Independents
- ▶ House of Representatives: 212 Democrats, 222 Republicans
- ▶ Investigations
- ▶ House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis



2023 Climate Policy: Farm Bill

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- 2018 Farm Bill will be updated this year
 - Full of opportunities for climate advocacy
 - Cutting methane emissions
 - Food waste reform through composting and food pantry systems
 - Agriculture system reform
 - USDA conservation programs
 - Regenerative and organic farming: bipartisan support




National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act

- ▶ Whole-of government strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the U.S. federal government
- ▶ First outline of each executive, legislative, and judicial department putting together climate adaptation and resiliency plans
- ▶ Bipartisan support



Environmental Justice for All Act

- Establishes several environmental justice requirements, advisory bodies, and programs
 - Addresses the disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effects of federal laws or programs on communities of color, low-income communities, or tribal and indigenous communities.
 - Has not yet had bipartisan support, but expect to see it held up as a prophetic measure by House Democrats
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International Climate Finance

- ▶ To be included in Appropriations bills
- ▶ President Biden at COP 27:
 - ▶ Doubling the U.S. pledge to the Adaptation Fund to \$100 million and announcing over \$150 million in new support to accelerate the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) efforts across Africa.
- ▶ Debt swap and IMF/World Bank reform



Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

- ▶ Introduced in the House of Representatives in 2021
- ▶ Never made it out of committee
- ▶ Expect CCL advocates to continue lifting this up in the new Congress
- ▶ Energy perhaps better spent opposing an early 2023 package:
 - ▶ Likely a domestic fossil fuel production and critical mineral mining package of legislation by House Republican leadership



Next Steps: Encounter for Our Common Home

- ▶ 2022: Inflation Reduction Act, Texting for Creation
- ▶ 2023: Monthly coalition calls for Catholic Climate Advocacy
 - ▶ Everyone is welcome!
 - ▶ Last Friday of each month
 - ▶ Meetings will include updates from staff, feedback and open-floor discussion, and action items
- ▶ First call: Friday, January 27th, 3-4pm ET