

Biden-Harris Administration Actions on Climate Resilience

**Where a reference is indicated, language describing each action item has been lifted directly from the cited source.*

Executive Orders

14008: **Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad**: The Administration's initial roadmap for climate action tackles both climate adaptation and resilience. The resilience specific pieces ensure that climate resilience is a key objective, the U.S. will move quickly to build resilience, the government will address resilience of the financial system, and climate resilience is considered in every aspect of government.

14030: **Executive Order on Climate-Related Financial Risk**: This EO has the goal to help the American people better understand how climate change can impact their financial security. It will strengthen the U.S. financial system. And it will inform concrete decisions that the federal government can take to mitigate the risks of climate change. [2]

Reports

A roadmap to build a climate resilient economy: A comprehensive, government-wide strategy to measure, disclose, manage and mitigate the systemic risks climate change poses to American families, businesses, and the economy [1].

Agency resilience plans: As directed by President Biden's January 28, 2021, Executive Order 14008, major Federal agencies are required to develop an adaptation and resilience plan to address their most significant climate risks and vulnerabilities. As part of these efforts, agencies will embed adaptation and resilience planning and implementation throughout their operations and programs and will continually update their adaptation plans [13]. The plans reflect President Biden's whole-of-government approach to confronting the climate crisis as agencies integrate climate-readiness across their missions and programs and strengthen the resilience of federal assets from the accelerating impacts of climate change [1].

Opportunities for Expanding and Improving Climate Information and Services to the Public: The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP), NOAA, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) led a report on holistically expanding and improving climate information and services for the public. The report charts a course for expanding accessibility and use of the federal government's climate information to support all communities, including those who have been historically underserved, on climate planning and resilience activities [3].

Advancing the Nation's Geospatial Capabilities to Promote Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Climate Planning and Resilience: Developed by the member agencies of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, focuses on opportunities to enhance geospatial data and mapping tools to inform climate planning. The report focuses on the role the federal government plays in providing geospatial data and mapping tools, and the potential for a collaborative federal mapping service to make climate data more accessible [3].

Data/ Tools

[Redesigned climate.gov site](#): to better connect Americans to climate explainers, data dashboards, and classroom-ready teaching resources [1], and to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the accessibility of accurate and timely climate information [3]. The site's redesigned [Global Climate Dashboard](#) gives a data-driven readout on the state of the climate system with public-friendly explainers and answers to [frequently asked questions](#). Climate.gov also provides access to commonly requested [climate data and tools](#) hosted by NOAA's [National Centers for Environmental Information](#) and Regional Climate Centers [3].

[Department of Defense \(DOD\) Climate Assessment Tool](#): DoD has committed to using climate intelligence, including from its recently-released DoD Climate Assessment Tool, to inform and educate military planners and other key decision makers on where and how military installations are at risk from climate change hazards [4].

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Heat and Health Tracker](#): Provides real-time heat data paired with local vulnerability data for state and local emergency and public health planners to better prepare for and respond to extreme heat events [4].

Agency Action, Rules, Processes

Department of Labor new proposed rule to safeguard life savings and pensions from climate risk [1, 12].

The Treasury Department's Federal Insurance Office has launched a process to address climate-related risks in the insurance sector, with a focus on assessing the availability and affordability of insurance coverage in high-risk areas for traditionally underserved communities [1, 10].

OMB, federal agencies, and the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board are taking steps to develop robust climate-related risk assessments and disclosure requirements for federal agencies [1].

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Treasury Department are each working to enhance their federal underwriting and lending program standards to better address the climate-related financial risks to their loan portfolios, while ensuring the safety and security of communities most impacted by climate change [1].

HUD is working to meet the challenges that climate change poses to American homes, beginning by identifying options to incorporate climate-related considerations into the origination of single-family mortgages [1].

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began the process of updating its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards to help communities align their construction and land use practices with the latest data on flood risk reduction. Through a new Request for Information, FEMA will gather stakeholder input to make communities more resilient and save lives, homes, and money through potential revisions to standards that have not been formally updated since 1976 [1]. Specifically, FEMA is seeking input from the public on the floodplain management standards that communities should adopt to result in safer, stronger, and more resilient communities [7].

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is issuing a Request for Information to receive input from the public on transforming the Community Rating System (CRS) under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to better align with the current understanding of flood risk and flood risk approaches and to incentivize communities to not only manage but also lower their flood risk through floodplain management initiatives [11].

New Federal Building Performance Standards: CEQ is launching an interagency Federal sustainability effort with GSA, DOE, and EPA to develop the first-ever building performance standards (BPS) for the federal government. The BPS will establish metrics, targets, and tracking methods to reach federal carbon emissions goals. The performance standards will identify progressive performance milestones as well as the resources that agencies need to meet them [6].

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is seeking input on how the agency can best use its resources to help build the healthcare system's resilience to climate threats, reduce the healthcare industry's contribution to climate change while increasing sustainability, and address environmental justice issues in healthcare [8].

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff convened a technical conference to discuss issues surrounding the threat to electric system reliability posed by climate change and extreme weather events [9].

[Task forces and working groups](#)

[National Climate Task Force](#): the Task Force is chaired by the National Climate Advisor and includes Cabinet-level leaders from 21 federal agencies and senior White House officials to mobilize the Biden-Harris Administration's implementation of a whole-of-government approach [5] to climate change.

Interagency working groups on [drought](#), [extreme heat, fire](#), [flood resilience](#), and [coastal resilience](#)

References:

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