

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Climate Framework Should Focus on Clean Energy

Washington, DC – Senators John Kerry, Lindsey Graham, and Joe Lieberman today released a framework for Senate legislation on energy and global warming. Environment America Federal Global Warming Program Director Emily Figdor released the following statement in response:

“Global warming is the problem of our generation. We must act quickly and boldly to stave off the worst effects of global warming, such as massive sea level rise that inundates coastal areas. Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy, such as wind and solar power, are the solutions to global warming, plus they can rebuild our economy with new industries and millions of local jobs.

“We look forward to working with the Senate to craft a bill that solves the climate crisis while rebuilding our economy with clean energy. We applaud Senators Kerry, Graham, and Lieberman for working to address this urgent problem. The framework starts to commit the United States to meaningful limits on global warming pollution and also promotes investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

“However, we have concerns with the framework. To really deliver on the promise of a clean energy economy, we must protect our treasured coasts from oil drilling, stop new investments in conventional coal plants and require existing coal plants to meet modern pollution standards, and not squander all-too-scarce federal dollars on expensive nuclear power plants that will set us back in the race to solve global warming. On the heels of [new research by Environment America](#) showing that state-led action on energy and global warming will cut pollution by more than 535 million metric tons by 2020 – which is more than the annual emissions from all but eight of the world’s countries – it is imperative that states retain the freedom to continue to innovate.”

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Environment America is a federation of 28 state environmental groups working for a greener, healthier future. www.environmentamerica.org