

WNDC PUBLIC POLICY AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Positions on the Environment and the Climate Crisis

The Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC) asserts that every person has the fundamental right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment. The worsening climate crisis—largely driven by human activity—continues to inflict severe health, economic, and ecological harm across the globe, with the most devastating effects disproportionately burdening vulnerable communities and poorer nations. We recognize that urgent and decisive action is needed at every level to mitigate climate change, reduce pollution, protect biodiversity, and ensure environmental justice. The climate emergency is not a distant threat—it is here, now, and worsening. Only through bold policies, sustained commitment, and collective advocacy can we safeguard our planet for future generations.

The WNDC Public Policy and Political Action Committee commits to advocating for the following positions and urges policymakers to:

Take Action To Reduce Pollution and Toxic Chemical Exposure

- Enact stringent regulations to eliminate industrial introduction of toxins into food and water, including the widespread use of carcinogenic pesticides.
- Provide incentives for the agriculture industry to transition from chemical fertilizers to sustainable, environmentally safe fertilization methods.
- Strengthen regulatory oversight of storage ponds containing coal ash residue from coal-fired power plants to prevent leakage into water supplies; conduct frequent inspections by independent, federally qualified regulators.
- Establish strict limits on the leakage of toxic chemicals from fracking operations, oil and gas pipelines, and other industrial activities, with mandatory monitoring and swift remediation protocols in the event of spills.

Continue Efforts To Transition To Clean Energy and Sustainable Infrastructure

- Pressure utilities to expedite the closure of coal-fired power plants and reinstate previously abandoned regulations on methane emissions from drilling and fracking operations.
- Enact aggressive legislation to curb air pollution from fossil fuel combustion, including mandatory shifts from gas-powered appliances to clean energy alternatives such as heat pumps.
- Provide financial support to enable middle- and low-income households to adopt electric power solutions.
- Expand incentives for the adoption of electric vehicles, including subsidies for consumers and investments in improved charging infrastructure and battery storage technology.

Combat Corporate Misinformation and Environmental Injustice

- Actively counter political and corporate misinformation campaigns that obscure the dangers of fossil fuels, toxic chemicals, and nonbiodegradable plastics.
- Hold corporations accountable for environmental harm through legislation, stricter penalties, and enforcement of existing regulations.
- Reduce the production and use of nonbiodegradable plastics by incentivizing sustainable alternatives and implementing bans on single-use plastic where feasible.

Publicize the Climate Crisis To Protect Communities

- Strengthen public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the catastrophic effects of rising carbon levels, shifting atmospheric patterns, and increasing ocean temperatures.
- Advocate for climate adaptation strategies, including conservation initiatives to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- Address the intensification of extreme weather events—such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, wildfires, and soil degradation—by funding research, preparedness programs, and resilient infrastructure.
- Incentivize local and state governments to develop comprehensive recovery and resilience plans following extreme climate events.

Empower Citizens and Future Generations

- Encourage civic engagement and activism by urging citizens to support candidates for office who endorse strong environmental policies.
- Expand environmental science education at all levels, from K-12 classrooms to higher education institutions and community advocacy groups.
- Mobilize public-private partnerships, nonprofit organizations, and activists to reduce carbon emissions, accelerate the transition to renewable energy, and pressure industries to reduce their environmental footprint.