



WNDC PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

2020 POSITIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

WNDC believes that all human beings have a right to clean air, clean water, and healthy surroundings. Racial minorities experience unequally severe impacts on their health and economic well-being from air and water pollution, and from natural disasters resulting from climate instability. We believe that the climate emergency is a human-caused threat to all life on Earth, and that it disproportionately affects poorer nations and communities.

Therefore, WNDC calls for national lawmakers to:

- Combat the racial injustice inherent in the industrial and agricultural practices feeding climate change, and the pollution of air, water, and soil that most severely affects communities of color.
- Provide adequate funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal environmental agencies, including for R&D in clean energy, and re-staffing these agencies with peer-recognized scientists.
- Support the 2015 Paris Climate Accords and restoration of US leadership on climate change. We support international cooperation to reduce air and water pollution, increase sustainable farming methods, increase water conservation, protect biodiversity, and assist poorer countries in mitigating the harmful effects of climate destabilization.
- Enforce strong standards for reducing carbon emissions, including transitioning from natural gas to clean electricity for all energy needs.
- Support green energy alternatives, like solar and wind, with the goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy sources by 2040, or sooner for electric power and transportation. We support pressing for diversity in the green energy workforce.
- Collaborate with communities of color in the fight for a healthy environment and for robust measures to counter the climate crisis.
- Improve energy efficiency in private and public buildings, appliances, and the transformation of American manufacturing to be the cleanest and most efficient in the world.
- Enact a new regulatory framework that includes strong safeguards on hydraulic fracturing, strengthened safe drinking water and clean air legislation and regulations, and updated fuel economy standards for all vehicles. We support transitioning to electrically-powered vehicles.
- Invest in energy-producing communities to help create new jobs for a diverse workforce, as reliance on fossil fuels is reduced.