

Joe Biden's climate measures are just a start

An editorial in the Financial Times states that Joe Biden has “taken admirably little time” to address climate change and that “within days of taking office” he began “redressing the four years of climate inaction that are among the unhappiest legacies of the Trump administration”. However, it also notes “conspicuous omissions that underline the vast political effort that will be required to turn policy into reality”. These include the order to pause new oil and gas leases that apply to federal land only, and his “failure to set out a detailed national plan for pricing carbon”, according to the editorial. It notes that Biden emphasises employment as well as emissions cuts – an approach that is “welcome” amongst trade unions and climate campaigners. It ends by stating that Biden is “appointing a team of senior climate experts and embedding climate policy across his administration” and that this could “allow him to turn his ambitious climate plans into **reality.**”

The [Washington Post](#) runs an opinion piece by Dan Becker and James Gerstenzang – director and editorial director, respectively, of the Center for Biological Diversity's Safe Climate Transport Campaign. They note that a 5% annual improvement in emissions and gas mileage was required of automakers under the Obama administration and state that Biden should set a 7% annual improvement to “make up for lost time”. They also stress that Biden needs to “set strong standards under the Clean Air Act”. A comment in the [Guardian](#) by former director and science advisor, respectively, of the US National Park Service, Jonathan B Jarvis and Gary Machlis, states that Trump's “four-year assault” on environmental protection and conservation is over and that “the work of restoration must begin”.

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