Climate and Clean Energy: Winning Issues in 2020

Key findings from a national survey of Democratic primary voters and a survey of general election voters across 2020 battleground states

Conducted June 2019
Methodology

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS SURVEY**

- 1,000 registered voters nationally who are likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary election or caucus in 2020
- Conducted online June 1 to 6, 2019
- Includes 230 Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI), 300 African American, and 300 Hispanic/Latinx voters
- Results weighted to reflect the number of pledged delegates per state

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS SURVEY**

- 1,201 registered voters in 2020 battleground states (AZ, CO, FL, GA, IA, MI, MN, NV, NH, NC, OH, PA, VA, WI)
- Conducted online June 3 to 10, 2019
- Includes 213 African Americans and 202 Hispanic/Latinx voters
Sample Profiles

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS**
- **Men:** 43%
- **Women:** 56%
- **Age Distribution:**
  - 18 to 34: 22%
  - 35 to 49: 23%
  - 50 to 64: 31%
  - 65/older: 24%
- **Ethnicity Distribution:**
  - White: 62%
  - Afr Amer/Black: 20%
  - Latinx/Hisp: 15%
  - AAPI: 6%
  - Other: 2%

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**
- **Men:** 47%
- **Women:** 53%
- **Age Distribution:**
  - 18 to 34: 24%
  - 35 to 49: 24%
  - 50 to 64: 26%
  - 65/older: 26%
- **Ethnicity Distribution:**
  - White: 78%
  - Afr Amer/Black: 13%
  - Latinx/Hisp: 7%
  - AAPI: 1%
  - Other: 1%

**PARTY ID**
- 41% Democrats
- 19% Independents
- 40% Republicans

**2016 PRESIDENTIAL**
- 49% Trump
- 46% Clinton

Winning on Climate and Clean Energy in 2020 – June 2019
Key Takeaways

- Democratic primary voters expect and demand that candidates offer clear and effective plans for addressing climate change and moving the country to 100% clean energy. They want candidates to offer plans that do what scientists say is necessary to address the climate challenge, and they want candidates to take on fossil fuel special interests.

- Climate policy and clean energy can be important assets for the Democratic nominee in the general election. A large majority of voters disapprove of Trump’s handling of these issues. They reject Trump’s dismissal of climate science and his record of putting oil, gas, and coal company CEOs in charge of the country’s climate and environmental policies.

- General election voters support moving America to 100% clean energy and believe this will create jobs. It is important for Democratic candidates to communicate their commitment to climate and energy policies that work for working families and promote a growing economy.

- The most powerful messages about the need for strong policies to address climate change focus on current and near-term costs, including economic costs; loss of life from climate-related disasters; and health and environmental impacts on clean air, clean water, and extinction of species.
Defining the Problem: Several proof points on climate resonate with both primary and general election voters.

Climate-related natural disasters have cost the country more than $450 billion in the past three years and could **cost $54 trillion worldwide by 2040.**

The U.S. economy could shrink by as much as 10% or upward of $500 billion a year in crop damage, lost labor, and extreme weather damages. This is almost double the economic blow of the Great Recession of 2009.

In the past two years, more than **3,000 Americans** died in climate-related disasters. *(especially among general election voters).*

Scientists report that more than **one million species** are on the verge of extinction because of climate change and human activity.

Public health experts say **climate change threatens the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.**

Please see the Appendix for the full wording of messages.
Climate and Clean Energy in 2020
Climate change and clean energy are top-tier issues for primary voters.

Importance of Presidential Candidates’ Positions on Selected Issues in My Democratic Primary Vote

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS: Most important/very important issue**

- **Woman’s right to choose**: 11% single most important issue, 78%
- **Stronger gun policies**: 9% single most important issue, 74%
- **Universal healthcare**: 14% single most important issue, 73%
- **Wages/incomes for working families**: 5% single most important issue, 72%
- **Climate change/clean energy economy**: 11% single most important issue, 71%
- **Racism/racial justice**: 5% single most important issue, 71%
- **Voting rights**: 67%
- **Replace oil/coal with renewables**: 66%
- **Big money/campaign finance reform**: 66%
- **Income inequality**: 66%
- **More affordable college**: 62%
- **Housing/rent prices**: 54%
Climate and clean energy are priorities across key segments of the Democratic primary electorate.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS:** Most important/very important issue

- **Climate change/clean energy economy**
  - All Democratic primary voters: 71%
  - White liberals: 84%
  - White moderates/conservatives: 58%
  - African Americans: 63%
  - AAPI: 63%
  - Hispanics/Latinx: 71%
A majority of general election voters say climate change is a crisis or a very serious problem.

**DEMOOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS**

- Already feeling effects of climate change: 48%
- Not feeling effects yet but worry about climate change: 42%
- Doubts/not a concern: 10%

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

- 55% say climate change is a crisis/very serious problem
- 24% say climate change is a somewhat serious problem
- 21% say climate change is less/not a problem

### Aligned with Climate Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Already feeling</th>
<th>Not yet/worry</th>
<th>Doubts/not a concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPI</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Crisis/serious problem

- Democrats: 79%
- Independents: 57%
- Republicans: 30%
- White non-college grads: 48%
- White college grads: 59%
- African Americans: 63%
- Hispanics: 68%
Climate Policies
What Democratic primary voters most want is a plan that is feasible and will help beat Trump.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

Essential/very important element in a Democratic plan to address climate change

- Helps the candidate **defeat Trump**
  - Essential element: 47%
  - Essential/important: 71%
- **Realistic**, can actually be turned into law
  - Essential element: 42%
  - Essential/important: 79%
- **Meets scientists’ recommendation** to limit global warming to 1.5°C, requires cutting global greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030/100% by 2050
  - Essential element: 32%
  - Essential/important: 74%
- **Inspires a new generation** of voters to demand action on climate change
  - Essential element: 31%
  - Essential/important: 73%
- Transforms U.S. economy with **scope, scale, speed to avoid worst effects of climate change**
  - Essential element: 30%
  - Essential/important: 76%
- Is able to attract **bipartisan support** in Congress
  - Essential element: 30%
  - Essential/important: 71%
- Creates millions of **good-paying jobs**
  - Essential element: 29%
  - Essential/important: 73%
- Effectively eliminates greenhouse gas pollution by **no later than 2050**
  - Essential element: 27%
  - Essential/important: 69%
- Prioritizes pollution reductions **first in communities with worst air quality**, particularly communities of color
  - Essential element: 26%
  - Essential/important: 71%
- Ensures **workers in fossil fuel industry** meaningful work opportunities in green economy
  - Essential element: 25%
  - Essential/important: 72%
- Is **broadly popular** with the American people
  - Essential element: 18%
  - Essential/important: 59%
Several progressive approaches to climate and clean energy appeal to Democratic primary voters.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS**

Likelihood of supporting a Democratic presidential candidate with the following issue positions

- **Has plan to address climate change in time to avoid worst effects**
  - Would ONLY vote for candidate like this: 25%
  - More likely to support: 85%

- **Supports moving U.S. to 100% clean energy economy by 2050**
  - (same results if year is 2030)
  - Would ONLY vote for candidate like this: 20%
  - More likely to support: 83%

- **Supports moving from oil/gas to renewable energy**
  - Would ONLY vote for candidate like this: 21%
  - More likely to support: 81%
There’s initial support for a Green New Deal among Democrats – but many do not know about it. “100% clean energy” is more broadly popular.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS**

Feelings toward the Green New Deal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feelings</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very favorable</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfavorable</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know what this is</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would be more likely to vote for a candidate who...

- Supports plan to move U.S. to 100% clean energy economy: 38%
- Supports the Green New Deal: 7%
- Both equally: 39%
- Neither: 16%
At the same time, there are clear pitfalls where candidates’ policies can fall short in voters’ eyes.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS**

- Supporting a plan that falls short of addressing the established science on climate change (*Democratic primary voters are clear that this issue is important, and it is already affecting many of them. 54% would be LESS likely to support a candidate who backs a plan that falls short of what scientists say is needed.*)

- Taking $$ from the fossil fuel industry (*59% would be LESS likely to support a candidate who does so.*)

- Talking about the issue without mentioning how it will lift up workers and create jobs (*By 17 points, Democratic primary voters prefer a candidate who says we need a clean energy economy but it has to be worker-led, as compared to one whose plan does not address workers/jobs.*)
For the general, Democrats have a clear advantage relative to Trump/GOP on climate change and the environment, but are weaker on jobs and the economy.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net: Trust Democrats minus trust Trump</th>
<th>Net: Trust Democrats minus trust Republicans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address climate change</td>
<td>Address climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean air/water</td>
<td>Clean air/water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect public lands/natural places</td>
<td>Protect public lands/natural places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move to clean energy</td>
<td>Move to clean energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulate corporate polluters</td>
<td>Regulate corporate polluters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-14 Create new jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-14 Prevent overregulation of businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-15 Strong economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+24</td>
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<td>+19</td>
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<td>+23</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On all issues, between 14% and 27% say they don’t trust either.
It is important to connect climate and clean energy policy to the interests of working people and a commitment to good jobs.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

Reaction to Democratic presidential candidate with the following positions on climate change

- We need to address climate change and build a clean energy economy, in a way that works for working people/focuses on good jobs:
  - Favorable: 67%
  - Neutral: 20%
  - Unfavorable: 13%
  - Uncommitted/favorable: 69%

- Has detailed/specific plan to move to 100% clean energy by 2050, with clear benchmarks to make sure we stay on track:
  - Favorable: 64%
  - Neutral: 20%
  - Unfavorable: 16%
  - Uncommitted/favorable: 63%

- Climate change is a major threat to our future; we need immediate action to prevent a true climate crisis:
  - Favorable: 58%
  - Neutral: 19%
  - Unfavorable: 23%
  - Uncommitted/favorable: 54%
General election voters see moving to clean/renewable energy as a job generator.

Moving the country to clean and renewable energy sources like wind and solar power:

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

- **Will COST** jobs: 18%
- **Won’t affect** jobs: 27%
- **Will CREATE** jobs: 55%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Will create jobs</th>
<th>Will cost jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbelt</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitted</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adding the phrase “and away from fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas” yields: 50% create jobs, 22% cost jobs.
Trump’s Vulnerabilities on Climate
Voters approve of Trump on the economy, but he is weak on the environment and climate change.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

*How would you rate how much you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump’s handling of this issue?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Strongly approve</th>
<th>Somewhat approve</th>
<th>Somewhat disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly disapprove</th>
<th>Net approve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The economy</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>+16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The environment</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Democrats’ trust advantage on climate includes independents; many grassroots Republicans don’t side with Trump on this.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

**Addressing climate change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Trust Democrats more</th>
<th>Trust Trump more</th>
<th>Trust neither</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitteds</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Moving country to clean energy sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Trust Democrats more</th>
<th>Trust Trump more</th>
<th>Trust neither</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitteds</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Winning on Climate and Clean Energy in 2020 – June 2019
General election voters need context to see Trump as most to blame on climate, but not much.

**Who do you blame most for blocking policies to address climate change?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The fossil fuel industry, like oil, gas, coal companies, and their lobbyists</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump, who denies the science of climate change and is rolling back policies that address climate change</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians in Congress who take money from the fossil fuel industry and vote their way on climate change</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fossil fuel industry, like oil, gas, and coal companies that spend millions to stop action on climate change</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians in Congress</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Democrats vs. Trump: Criticisms of Trump on climate are more concerning than criticisms of Democrats.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

Proportions rating each as a highly concerning* criticism of Democrats/Trump

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criticisms of Democrats</th>
<th>Criticisms of Trump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REGULATIONS/JOBS LOST</td>
<td>PAY TO PLAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GND: SOCIALISM</td>
<td>SIDES WITH POLLUTERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COST</td>
<td>CLIMATE DENIER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on ratings on a 0-to-10 scale, 10 = extremely concerning, 8-10 = highly concerning
General election voters are concerned about Trump’s climate denialism and his alliance with oil interests.

**PAY TO PLAY**
After oil, gas, and coal companies poured millions of dollars into Trump’s campaign, Donald Trump let former lobbyists for the fossil fuel industry take over key positions in the Trump administration that oversee corporate polluters. Now these former oil and coal lobbyists are rewriting laws to weaken environmental protections and have opened up the nation’s public lands and coastal areas to drilling and mining.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High concern</th>
<th>Core swing states</th>
<th>54%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uncommitted</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SIDES WITH POLLUTERS**
Donald Trump promised to look out for everyday people and hold special interests accountable. But as president, Trump has repeatedly sided with big oil companies and other corporate polluters, giving them billions in new tax cuts. While oil companies have gotten richer, everyone else is left with dirtier air and more health risks like asthma and polluted water.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High concern</th>
<th>Core swing states</th>
<th>54%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uncommitted</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CLIMATE DENIER**
Donald Trump continues to deny the overwhelming scientific evidence of climate change—-he calls it a hoax—-while putting interests of polluters ahead of the environment and public health. While scientists say that unless we take action to address carbon emissions, the worst consequences of climate change will be unavoidable, Trump named a climate change denier to head the climate scientist committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High concern</th>
<th>Core swing states</th>
<th>52%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uncommitted</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on ratings on a 0-to-10 scale, 10 = extremely concerning, 8-10 = high concern
The most potent criticisms against Democrats relate to the economic consequences of their policies.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COST</th>
<th>REGULATIONS/JOBS</th>
<th>GND: SOCIALISM</th>
<th>CHINA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big government climate change proposals would be <strong>fiscally and economically catastrophic</strong> for American families and businesses. Restricting the use of conventional energy sources will <strong>hit regular consumers hardest</strong>, with higher energy prices and increases in costs for almost all the goods and services people depend on. The result will be <strong>fewer opportunities for American workers, lower incomes, and less economic growth.</strong></td>
<td>Unnecessary <strong>environmental laws have already hurt job growth</strong> in areas of the country that need it most and have taken a significant toll on American manufacturing across the nation. According to some estimates, the Green New Deal could result in <strong>1.4 million more jobs lost.</strong></td>
<td>The Green New Deal is less about addressing climate change and more of a <strong>blueprint for turning America into a socialist state.</strong> It is a massive tax-and-spend proposal that would ultimately result in <strong>giving the government unprecedented power</strong> over people’s lives and our entire economy. This will change what we eat, how we travel, and even what cars we are allowed to drive.</td>
<td>Liberal environmentalists are pushing their agenda based on unproven theories about climate change. Their policies <strong>put us at an economic disadvantage and won’t even stop the climate from changing.</strong> Countries such as China and India continue to increase their use of coal and other fossil fuels. In fact, <strong>China is the world’s largest emitter of pollution.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High concern</th>
<th>High concern</th>
<th>High concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All voters 42%</td>
<td>Uncommitted 36%</td>
<td>All voters 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitted 37%</td>
<td>High concern</td>
<td>Uncommitted 38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on ratings on a 0-to-10 scale, 10 = extremely concerning, 8-10 = high concern
After messaging, key swing groups are more concerned by Trump’s backward policies on climate than by an economic argument against the Democrats.

**GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS**

I worry more about Donald Trump because he denies the science of climate change, lets the fossil fuel industry dictate its climate policies, and has pushed an agenda that has made climate change worse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Worry about Trump</th>
<th>Worry about Dems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbelt</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core swing states</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitted</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I worry more about the Democratic candidates who are proposing policies that will result in higher energy costs, fewer jobs, higher prices for consumers, and more government control of the economy.

45%
Appendix:
Full Text of Climate Messages
Effective Messages with Both Primary and General Voters

**ECONOMIC/WALLET:** Climate change has **real consequences for Americans’ wallets**—**food prices** increasing because droughts hurt crop yields, home and business **insurance rates** increasing because of stronger and more frequent storms, **more than $1 trillion of property** and structures are at risk of flooding from rising sea levels. **Unless we take action to reduce climate change, these problems will only worsen**, costing us more money every year.

**DEADLY/WEATHER:** Extreme weather is already taking a deadly toll on communities across the country and it’s expected to get worse. **In the past two years, more than 3,000 Americans died in climate-related disasters.** Scientists expect that extreme heat will lead to an additional 2,000 premature deaths a year in the Midwest alone. Once-rare events like “500-year floods” and the California wildfires are happening more frequently and getting more dangerous.

**WILDLIFE:** A growing number of the world’s animal and plant species are being pushed to the brink of extinction—from polar bears and Bengal tigers to sea turtles and whales. **Scientists report that more than one million species are on the verge of extinction because of climate change and human activity.**

**CLEAN AIR/CLEAN WATER:** Public health experts say **climate change threatens the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.** High temperatures raise the amount of harmful pollutants in the air and can trap smog and smoke from wildfires. Safe drinking water is also at risk as rising temperatures increase the amount of bacteria and other pathogens in fresh water supplies, while runoff from floods and powerful storms contaminate waterways.

**HEALTH:** Climate change is a public health emergency: releasing toxic chemicals that increase the risk of asthma attacks and heart disease nationwide each year, impacts that **especially affect people of color.** Doctors and public health experts say that **infectious diseases like West Nile, Lyme disease, the Zika virus**, and other life-threatening diseases will become more and more common with rising temperatures.