

Comparing the Proposed Climate Bills

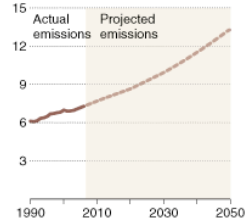
Three Senate bills addressing global climate change have been announced this year, with more on the way. Here is an analysis by the World Resources Institute of the bills' projected impact.

CHARTS SHOW UNITED STATES EMISSIONS OF ALL GREENHOUSE GASES expressed as billions of tons of carbon dioxide

If nothing is done

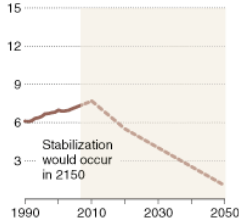
'Business as usual'

The "baseline" case, which projects emissions without any changes to current policy.



One outlook for the U.S.

Stabilization at 450 parts per million Emission level, as part of a global plan, to stabilize temperature 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.*

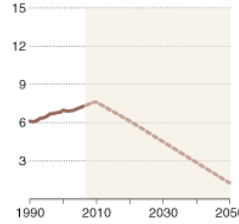


What has been proposed

Some bills include "safety valve" provisions that could ease limits if their impact on the economy were deemed too severe.

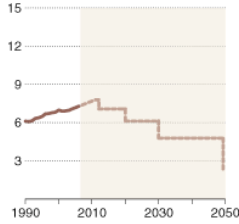
Sanders-Boxer

This proposal comes closest to achieving stabilization of greenhouse gases at 450 parts per million.



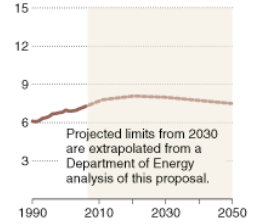
Lieberman-McCain

This proposal steps emission limits down over time but is less restrictive than Sanders-Boxer.



Bingaman (discussion draft)

Limits in this proposal are flexible and are based on projections of emissions and gross domestic product.



*Stabilization trajectories for global greenhouse gas concentrations assume full adoption of binding emission reduction limits by all industrialized countries by 2012, with developing countries gradually taking on increasingly stringent commitments over the next several decades with limits based on their contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions and wealth.

The New York Times

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