

Approach #1

1. We need decisive local, national and international action to prevent and minimize the worst consequences of climate change.

What's most needed now is strong government action to dramatically cut the production of greenhouse gases, slow down global warming, and prevent, as much as possible, the damage it would otherwise do.

Therefore we should do things like:

Increase conservation and fuel efficiency by:

- Requiring car makers to produce more fuel efficient cars, and discouraging consumers from buying gas-guzzlers through a heavy sales tax on those vehicles.
- Taxing carbon emissions to encourage the industrial sector to curb their emissions.
- Putting construction codes in place that require new buildings to be highly energy efficient.
- Investing in energy-saving public transportation.

Increase federal funding for scientific research into:

- Clean, renewable sources of energy (such as solar, wind, and safe forms of nuclear energy).
- Technologies that “capture” greenhouse gases from smokestacks and “store” them in ways that render them relatively harmless to the environment.

Take a leading role in international efforts to:

- Reduce greenhouse gases through policies that put strict limits on the amount of carbon emissions a country can release into the atmosphere.
- Provide aid to developing countries in the form of know-how and resources that help them industrialize with clean energy.

The Role of Government

Our government must play a major role in addressing climate change at home and leading the way abroad. This is precisely the kind of long-term, complex issue that governments should do. Private businesses, focused as they are on the bottom line, have little incentive to address this on their own.

The Role of Business

With strong governmental regulations, business and industry must begin to make necessary changes to reduce emissions.

The Role of Citizens

In addition to voting for candidates who support the above policies, citizens can do things like:

- Recycle and use energy in the home and at work more efficiently, and encourage others to do the same.
- Buy local food and merchandise, because they require less transportation to reach us, and are therefore responsible for less greenhouse gas emissions.

Approach #2

2. We need to make sure our most vulnerable communities adapt to the inevitable changes global warming will cause.

Given how far global warming has already advanced, and given how little willingness and ability the world has shown to face up to it, the wisest course of action is to figure out how to help our most vulnerable communities adapt to the serious problems climate change will inevitably cause.

Therefore we should do things like:

Adapt society to harsher weather conditions by:

- Enacting new building codes to make our cities more weather- and flood-proof.
- Giving aid to farmers to help them switch to crops and methods that can survive climate disruptions.
- Developing new dams and water control systems to minimize the impact on cities likely to be affected by higher sea levels.

Discourage people from living in areas that are likely to be hard-hit by floods and wildfires by:

- Ending federal flood insurance.
- Providing tax incentives that encourage them to move to less vulnerable regions.
- Focusing business development in regions of the country least likely to be affected by severe weather and flooding.

Increase federal funding for scientific research into such areas as:

- Developing local food crops that can adapt to harsh weather conditions.
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The Role of Government

State and local government, with the federal government's support, should lead local communities in developing ways to cope with the problems and challenges that climate change is likely to create.

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Approach #3

3. We should trust the free market to lead the way in the search for solutions.

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Therefore we should do things like:

Cut back on regulation and red tape that might inhibit business from responding to new opportunities in alternative energy by:

- Easing patent and other regulatory processes so that businesses can bring new, “green” technologies to the market much more quickly.
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Encouraging private sector research by:

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- Work with schools, hospitals, and the city council to develop evacuation plans and other emergency procedures to keep people safe during dangerous weather.

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3. We should trust the free market to lead the way in the search for solutions.

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Our government must play a major role in addressing climate change at home and leading the way abroad. This is precisely the kind of long-term, complex issue that governments should do. Private businesses, focused as they are on the bottom line, have little incentive to address this on their own.

The Role of Business

With strong governmental regulations, business and industry must begin to make necessary changes to reduce emissions.

The Role of Citizens

In addition to voting for candidates who support the above policies, citizens can do things like:

- Recycle and use energy in the home and at work more efficiently, and encourage others to do the same.
- Buy local food and merchandise, because they require less transportation to reach us, and are therefore responsible for less greenhouse gas emissions.

Approach #2

2. We need to make sure our most vulnerable communities adapt to the inevitable changes global warming will cause.

Given how far global warming has already advanced, and given how little willingness and ability the world has shown to face up to it, the wisest course of action is to figure out how to help our most vulnerable communities adapt to the serious problems climate change will inevitably cause.

Therefore we should do things like:

Adapt society to harsher weather conditions by:

- Enacting new building codes to make our cities more weather- and flood-proof.
- Giving aid to farmers to help them switch to crops and methods that can survive climate disruptions.
- Developing new dams and water control systems to minimize the impact on cities likely to be affected by higher sea levels.

Discourage people from living in areas that are likely to be hard-hit by floods and wildfires by:

- Ending federal flood insurance.
- Providing tax incentives that encourage them to move to less vulnerable regions.
- Focusing business development in regions of the country least likely to be affected by severe weather and flooding.

Increase federal funding for scientific research into such areas as:

- Developing local food crops that can adapt to harsh weather conditions.
- Control of tropical diseases and pests.

The Role of Government

State and local government, with the federal government's support, should lead local communities in developing ways to cope with the problems and challenges that climate change is likely to create.

The Role of Business

Instead of asking businesses to reduce greenhouse emissions, they should be required to donate a meaningful percentage of their profits to fund local programs that help communities adapt to climate change.

The Role of Citizens

In addition to voting for candidates who support the above policies, citizens can do things like:

- Learn about the impact climate change could have in your area (e.g., rising sea levels, droughts, heat waves) and work with your neighbors and local officials to adapt your homes and community to deal with them.
- Work with schools, hospitals, and the city council to develop evacuation plans and other emergency procedures to keep people safe during dangerous weather.

Approach #3

3. We should trust the free market to lead the way in the search for solutions.

The most important thing we can do to address the challenges of global warming is to make sure businesses have the information, freedom, and incentives that allow them to respond to new opportunities. When it is profitable to “go green” or develop strategies that help communities adapt to climate change, creative entrepreneurs will seize the opportunity.

Therefore we should do things like:

Cut back on regulation and red tape that might inhibit business from responding to new opportunities in alternative energy by:

- Easing patent and other regulatory processes so that businesses can bring new, “green” technologies to the market much more quickly.
- Making it as easy to build and operate nuclear power plants in America as it is in many other countries.
- Creating incentives for businesses to “go green,” such as tax breaks and national recognition awards.

Encouraging private sector research by:

- Providing tax breaks for businesses that are exploring new forms of clean energy.
- Supporting business-university partnerships to develop practical technologies for businesses to implement.
- Giving business interests a stronger hand and greater say in advising Congress on new environmental policies.

Work toward international agreements that:

- Offer trade incentives to companies that reduce greenhouse gases.
- Encourage international banks and multinational corporations to invest in “green” technologies for the developing world so more nations can industrialize without contributing to global warming.

The Role of Government

The main role of government is to create an economic environment that helps businesses seize new market opportunities.

The Role of Business

Businesses should be free to pursue what is good for their prosperity with minimum interference from government so that the free market can dictate which solutions should be pursued and when.

The Role of Citizens

In addition to voting for candidates who support the above policies, citizens can do things like:

- Support organizations that advocate for low-tax, low-regulation policies that allow businesses more freedom to innovate.
- Use their dollars to reward companies that produce energy-efficient goods.

Approach #1

1. We need decisive local, national and international action to prevent and minimize the worst consequences of climate change.

What's most needed now is strong government action to dramatically cut the production of greenhouse gases, slow down global warming, and prevent, as much as possible, the damage it would otherwise do.

Therefore we should do things like:

Increase conservation and fuel efficiency by:

- Requiring car makers to produce more fuel efficient cars, and discouraging consumers from buying gas-guzzlers through a heavy sales tax on those vehicles.
- Taxing carbon emissions to encourage the industrial sector to curb their emissions.
- Putting construction codes in place that require new buildings to be highly energy efficient.
- Investing in energy-saving public transportation.

Increase federal funding for scientific research into:

- Clean, renewable sources of energy (such as solar, wind, and safe forms of nuclear energy).
- Technologies that “capture” greenhouse gases from smokestacks and “store” them in ways that render them relatively harmless to the environment.

Take a leading role in international efforts to:

- Reduce greenhouse gases through policies that put strict limits on the amount of carbon emissions a country can release into the atmosphere.
- Provide aid to developing countries in the form of know-how and resources that help them industrialize with clean energy.

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