

President Obama: Step up for climate justice

A step-by-step emergency action kit to move Obama to act on climate change before a climate denier takes office.

Donald Trump plans to do everything he can to reverse progress on climate change. His policies threaten disaster for people and the planet.

But there's one thing President Obama can do before he leaves office that Trump cannot undo.

The U.S. has promised to pay \$3 billion into a fund that will help people in Global South countries dealing with the effects of climate change right now. If Obama releases that money before he leaves office, it will have a huge impact on the lives of billions of people around the world -- and Trump won't be able to touch it.

Donald Trump has made clear he plans to end funding for climate progress. But Obama can release the money the U.S. has pledged right now -- and send a strong message to the rest of the world that progress on climate change must continue, no matter who is in the White House.

Let's tell Obama: Money is a critical component of securing global climate justice. Make good on your pledge before the climate denier takes the White House!

To win this, it's going to take a huge movement of people in the next few weeks organizing like crazy to make sure people know about this campaign. So here are the...

Top five easy actions you and your friends can take:

1. Sign the petition: <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/GCFpetition>
2. Recruit organizations (both small/local and large/international) to sign the organizational sign-on letter: <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/GCForletter>
3. Write a letter to the editor
4. Host a small house party/potluck/gathering to organize your friends to take these actions

Please tell us about your actions!

Report any organizational sign-ons, phone-calls made or generated, LTEs submitted and/or printed, or parties held to our lead powerbuilding volunteer, Paige, as soon as possible. If you'd like to host a letter-writing or calling party, contact Paige and she can provide you with our house party guide and answer any other questions.

Paige Kirstein
pkirstein@stopcorporateabuse.org
617.695.2525

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Petition text

Available online at <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/GCFpetition>

Dear President Obama,

As president, your leadership on climate change has inspired hope for a safer future for our planet. Donald Trump's statements on climate change indicate that he has every intention of reversing all you have worked hard to achieve, threatening your climate legacy. His promise to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement would be disastrous for global climate policy, and his presumed appointee to head the Environmental Protection Agency will sound a death knell for sane environmental policy at home.

The world cannot afford Donald Trump's steps backward on climate. Right now, people around the world are mobilizing to counter Trump's anticipated actions. You can help us protect your climate legacy by fulfilling your pledge to contribute \$3 billion toward the international Green Climate Fund, funding climate justice measures all over the Global South.

Money is key to ensuring climate justice: The U.S. and other wealthy countries have pledged billions of dollars to support Global South countries' progress on climate. This money will make a tangible difference in the lives of people who are facing the effects of climate change right now. Globally, just as in the U.S., communities of color and low-income communities are the ones bearing the brunt of climate change's effects, and have done the least to create the problem. Fulfilling the U.S.' commitment to the Green Climate Fund will help advance climate justice globally. It will fund ways for small island nations to protect themselves against the rising oceans and catastrophic storms, finance renewable energy infrastructure to catalyze sustainable development, and more. And it's one huge step forward on climate change that Donald Trump cannot undo.

What's more, without the money pledged to the Green Climate Fund, the historic Paris Agreement is in danger of falling apart. Fulfilling your pledge will have a huge impact in propelling forward climate progress internationally -- whether or not Trump pulls out of climate talks -- and spur other countries around the world to fulfill their pledges.

I urge you to stand up for climate justice and cement your legacy by completing the remaining \$2.5 billion of our \$3 billion contribution to the Green Climate Fund.



**CORPORATE
ACCOUNTABILITY
INTERNATIONAL**

CHALLENGING ABUSE, PROTECTING PEOPLE

formerly **Infact**

Campaign Headquarters
10 Milk Street Suite 610
Boston, MA 02108

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Petition available online at <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/GCFpetition>.

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

**Yes, I want to do more to block the expansion of corporate power under a Trump administration.
Please let me know of other actions I can take.**

Organizational sign-on letter

Available online at <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/GCForGletter>

Dear President Obama,

As environmental, social, faith-based, and community organizations representing the voices of hundreds of thousands of people across the United States, we are deeply concerned about the future of our planet following the election of Donald J. Trump as president. And we are especially concerned about our nation's direction on climate change under a Trump presidency.

As president, your leadership in some aspects of climate change has inspired hope for a safer future for our planet. Trump's statements on climate change indicate that he has every intention of reversing all you have worked hard to achieve, threatening your climate legacy. His promise to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement would be disastrous for global climate policy, and his presumed appointee to head the Environmental Protection Agency will sound a death knell for sane environmental policy at home.

The world cannot afford Donald Trump's steps backward on climate. Right now, people around the world are mobilizing to counter Trump's anticipated actions. You can help us protect your climate legacy by fulfilling your pledge to contribute \$3 billion to fund climate justice measures in the Global South.

Climate justice is a matter of racial and economic justice, as well. Globally, just as in the U.S., indigenous people, women, LGBTQI people, children, migrants, workers, communities of color and low-income communities are the ones bearing the brunt of climate change's effects, and have done the least to create the problem. Entire countries are drowning under rising seas; people are losing their homes and livelihoods; communities are facing severe food shortages, drought, and extreme weather. Fulfilling the U.S.' commitment to the Green Climate Fund will help advance climate justice globally.

As the nation with the greatest historical responsibility for carbon emissions and the resultant damage wrought by climate change, the U.S. has a moral imperative to support countries dealing with these impacts, and to ensure that the international negotiations do not fail. Parties to the Paris Agreement, which you helped secure, recognize the pivotal role of funding in addressing climate change. The Green Climate Fund is a primary vehicle for that funding: Governments around the world—including the U.S.—pledged billions of dollars for funding climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in the Global South. Making good on this pledge will spur other countries around the world to fulfill their pledges. Simply put, money is the key to climate justice. And the U.S. must take the lead in making good on its commitment.

Fulfilling your pledge will have a huge impact on climate justice and in propelling forward climate progress internationally. And it's one huge step forward on climate change that Donald Trump cannot undo.

We therefore strongly urge you to cement your legacy by completing the remaining \$2.5 billion of our nation's \$3 billion contribution to fund climate justice through the Green Climate Fund.



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Sign-on form available online at <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/GCForletter>.

Yes! We sign on to this call to President Obama to release the remaining \$2.5 billion for climate justice.

Organization:

Contact person:

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

Yes, we want to do more to block the expansion of corporate power under a Trump administration. Please let us know of other actions we can take.

Writing a letter to the editor

Letters to the editor of your local newspaper are a great way to raise the visibility of critical issues and educate members of your own community. They're also important to local elected officials, who monitor them to see what issues their community members are concerned about.

Instructions:

- 1) Find out how to submit letters to the editor to your local paper.
 - Usually it's via a simple form on the paper's webpage or an email to the editor.
- 2) Keep it short (150-175 words maximum).
- 3) Make one point, and one point only.
 - See outline below for ideas and inspiration.
- 4) Personalize it.
 - For instance, mention your role as a parent or teacher, your role in your community, or simply why you care about the issue.
- 5) If applicable, respond explicitly to a previously published article (for instance, you could cite a recent story about climate change or Donald Trump's transition).
- 6) End your letter with a call to action.
- 7) Include your name, address, email address, and phone number below the letter.
- 8) Call the paper to confirm that they received your letter, asking when it's likely to be printed (best done one day after you submit your letter).
- 9) Monitor your news outlet until your letter is printed, and [email a copy of it to us](#) at Corporate Accountability International: info@stopcorporateabuse.org.

Sample outline for a letter to the editor about climate justice funding

- Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. We need urgent action now to avoid its most catastrophic consequences. And when it comes to action, funding is where the rubber hits the road.
- Personalize. For example:
 - As a parent, I can't think of a more important issue affecting future generations.
 - As a business owner, I worry about our economy's stability if we don't make more progress on this issue.
 - As a doctor, I know this is one of the most important public health issues we face.
 - As a regular person, I worry that it's 55 degrees in Boston on December 1st.
- The Obama administration has committed \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, which funds clean energy and climate justice projects around the world. Climate finance is the lynchpin of the recent Paris climate agreement. However, only \$500 million has been transferred so far.
- President Obama can -- and must -- release the remaining \$2.5 billion before Donald Trump takes office in a matter of weeks.
- Fulfilling our Green Climate Fund commitment is one of the most important actions that President Obama can take for the planet before leaving office.

- It will provide Global South communities with the resources to adapt to the realities of climate change as well as make real progress on clean, renewable energy, while building momentum for other countries to take concrete steps forward on climate and to fulfill their pledges, too.
- This is one action President Obama can take that cannot be reversed by the next administration. While many executive actions can be rolled back, once the money has changed hands, it cannot be retrieved.
- But for this to happen, we have to demand it. Join me in calling on Obama to release the money the U.S. has promised to pay for climate justice. The President's number is _____. [LOCAL GOVERNOR/U.S. REP/SENATOR] should be demanding this, too.

Sample phone call outreach rap

Hello, is this _____? Hi _____, this is _____ and I'm a volunteer with Corporate Accountability International's action league. How are you? (*Listen, respond. If you know them, have a friendly chat to catch up*).

I'm so glad I reached you. I'm calling today because we need your help to make sure President Obama takes one final action on climate change that Trump can't undo. What have you been hearing since the election around climate change? (*Listen, respond*)

The U.S. has committed \$3 billion dollars to help people around the world deal with the effects of climate change right now, but only \$500 million has been released so far. If Obama releases the rest of that money before he leaves office, it will have a huge impact on people's lives and spur other countries to fulfill their pledges too – and the Trump administration won't be able to touch it. How does that sound? (*Listen, respond*)

We know from allies in the Global South -- from Nigeria to the Philippines -- that this is one of the most important steps the US can take to strengthen the global climate treaty, and address climate change most quickly. We must act now to disburse these funds.

That's why in the next few weeks we're mobilizing massive numbers of people to give Obama the support he needs to make this happen before inauguration day, and we need your help. **Can you sign our petition calling on Obama to release the money the U.S. has promised to pay for climate justice?**

If yes:

That's great -- thank you so much! I can send the link to you right now. [What's your email address?] We need as many people as possible to sign on, so please ask everyone in your network to sign too. And the stakes have never been higher, so in addition to signing the petition, we're also asking for help recruiting organizations onto a sign-on letter, writing letters-to-the-editor, and helping out with outreach to more people. I have the simple instructions and language you'd need -- can you help by taking any of those other actions?

If yes: Fantastic! I'll include those in my email.

If no: Okay, I understand. It sounds like you're with us on this, right? [*If no, skip to closing*].

Financial support:

Before I hang up, you should know that Corporate Accountability International is the group that's leading this. Can you make a donation to support this big push? [*If yes, provide website www.stopcorporateabuse.org/give*].

Closing:

It's been great to chat with you. Thanks so much for your time and have a great rest of your day!

Sample outreach email

Dear _____,

My name is _____ and I'm a volunteer with Corporate Accountability International's action league. *[If you know the recipient, adjust this introduction to be the appropriate tone to your relationship with them.]*

I'm emailing because we need your help to make sure President Obama takes one final action on climate change that Trump can't undo. The U.S. has committed \$3 billion dollars to help people deal with the effects of climate change right now, but only \$500 million has been released so far. If Obama releases the rest of that money before he leaves office, it will have a huge impact on people's lives around the world and spur other countries to fulfill their pledges too – and the Trump administration won't be able to touch it.

We know from allies around the globe (from Nigeria to the Philippines) that this is one of the most important steps the US can take to strengthen the global climate treaty, and address climate change most quickly. We must act now to disburse these funds. That's why in the next few weeks we're mobilizing massive numbers of people and organizations to give Obama the push he needs to make this happen, and we need your help.

Can you [CHOOSE ONE] sign our petition [LINK]/sign your organization onto our letter [LINK] calling on Obama to release the money the U.S. has promised to pay for climate justice?

Let me know if you have questions. The stakes have never been higher, so please spread the word about this action to your networks. If you know of specific people or organizations I should also reach out to, can you let me know?

Thanks so much -- hope to hear from you soon.

Onward,
[NAME]

Volunteer, Corporate Accountability Action League

[Corporate Accountability International](#)

Twitter: [@StopCorpAbuse](#)

Facebook: [/stopcorporateabuse](#)

[Donate today to challenge corporate abuse](#)

Additional talking points and FAQs

As you're talking about the campaign with your friends and acquaintances, people will likely have questions for you. Use the talking points below, and feel free to contact us at any time with questions you're having trouble answering!

What's happening?

- On the heels of Donald Trump's election, we are organizing to ensure that Obama fully funds a critical climate justice financing mechanism before Trump takes office.
- **We are calling on Obama to disburse the remaining \$2.5 billion of the U.S.' \$3 billion pledge to finance the Green Climate Fund (GCF)**—an important mechanism for advancing climate justice now and in years to come.
- We are organizing thousands of people and organizations to join the call through a petition and sign-on letter to Obama, and to organize in their local communities to move the Obama administration to advance climate justice before inauguration day.

How is this related to Trump's election?

- Donald Trump's climate denialism and his plans to pull the U.S. out of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement pose a grave threat to the future of the planet.
- Obama can fulfill the U.S.' \$3 billion pledge to the GCF before inauguration day, leading other governments to fund it as well and setting the Paris Agreement up for success—even if Donald Trump walks away from it.
- **This is one action on climate that Trump cannot undo.**
- **Trump made clear on the campaign trail that he wanted to end all U.S. funding for these types of climate justice measures. This means it's now or never.**

This sounds pretty wonky. Why does this matter for climate change?

- **This money is a critical component of securing global climate justice: it will help countries dealing with the effects of climate change right now—countries that have done little to create climate change.**
 - Parties to the Paris Agreement recognize the pivotal role of funding in addressing climate change. The Green Climate Fund is a primary vehicle for that funding: Governments around the world—including the U.S.—pledged billions of dollars for funding climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in the Global South.
 - The U.S. is the country with the most historical greenhouse gas emissions so it is only right that its fair share and financial contribution to support Global South countries in addressing and preparing for a crisis they had no part in creating is a huge portion of the money pledged to the GCF. Without the U.S. fulfilling its \$3 billion pledge, other donor governments may walk away. And without climate finance, the Paris Agreement and other international climate obligations can't be implemented.

- U.S. funding for the GCF will help ensure other countries don't back down from their financial obligations and will signal to the world that progress on climate still can and must move forward.

Do we really think Obama can do this?

- Yes. In Paris in December 2015, the Obama administration pledged to contribute this money to the GCF by 2018. And since the election, U.S. climate negotiators have said that they still intend to fulfill the pledge.
- As his time in the White House comes to a close, Obama is thinking about his legacy. He wants to be seen as a champion for the climate -- this is one of the few things he can do on climate that Trump cannot undo.
- Obama has the positional power to find and move some of this money without Congressional approval, and even more political power to ensure Congress comes through with the rest. He just needs to feel like he has the imperative to do so. And he already has moved ⅓ of it: He disbursed \$500 million through a State Department fund earlier this year.
- There's a lot of opposition to this from Donald Trump and others. But if we can organize enough public support and pressure before inauguration day, Obama can follow through on his pledge and move the remaining \$2.5 billion to the GCF.

Are other people and groups on board with this?

- **For our government and NGO allies in the Global South, securing GCF funding from the U.S. is one of their top concerns following the U.S. elections. In fact, after the election, top government delegates and civil society allies at the global climate talks were quoted in the media saying this is among their very top concerns.**
 - As a U.S.-based NGO, Corporate Accountability International is committed to following the leadership of our Global South allies most affected by climate change.
 - These countries did the least to cause climate change and are at the front lines of the havoc it is already wreaking. The GCF will fund projects to protect small island nations against the rising oceans and catastrophic storms, renewable energy infrastructure to catalyze sustainable development, and more.
- A number of our U.S.-based allies have also joined our campaign, including the League of Conservation Voters, Daily Kos, NextGen Climate, Presente.org, and People Demanding Action. More groups are joining the call every day! Please contact us for the latest updates.