



Dropping American Energy-Sector CO₂ Emissions

Policy Brief: Problem, Background, and Possible Solutions

How can the United States drop energy sector CO₂ emissions quickly enough to help avoid the worst effects of climate change?

1.5 °

IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

The Problem

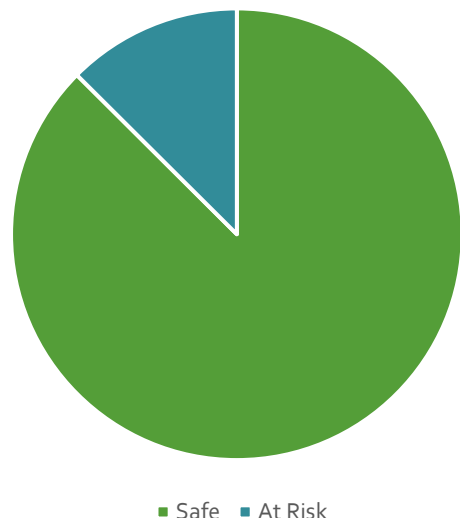
Anthropogenic climate change, also known as global warming, presents a host of catastrophic risks to the United States. These risks will be extremely difficult to predict and will vary by region. They will affect every sphere of American life – from national security, to the economy, to basic food security. Steep energy sector emissions cuts would help the ship around. *But we have to act now.*

The Background

The United States cannot afford to ignore climate change any longer – scientists predict that catastrophic effects

will begin within twenty years (Tollefson 2018). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommends that the industrialized world limit worldwide temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial average by the year 2020, which would limit

US Population Flood Risk



12.5% of the population, or 41 million people, are at risk for extreme flooding (Wing et al 2018)

Citations

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