



# Federal Buy Clean Initiative

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## Federal Sustainability Plan

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## About the Federal Buy Clean Initiative

The Federal Government is the largest purchaser in the world, with annual purchasing power of over \$630 billion. To harness that procurement power while making historic investments in the nation's infrastructure, President's Biden charged his Administration through his December 2021 [Federal Sustainability Plan](#) and [Executive Order 14057](#) to launch a Buy Clean Task Force and initiative to promote use of low-carbon, made in America construction materials. Through Buy Clean, the Federal Government is for the first time prioritizing the use of American-made, lower-carbon construction materials in Federal procurement and Federally-funded projects. This is advancing America's industrial capacity to supply the goods and materials of the future while growing good jobs for American workers.

Learn more about the Federal Buy Clean Initiative under the Biden-Harris Administration: [Progress and Path Forward on the Federal Buy Clean Initiative](#).

Net-Zero  
Emissions  
Operations

Climate Resilient  
Infrastructure and  
Operations

Develop a Climate-  
Focused  
Workforce

Advance  
Environmental  
Justice and Equity

Accelerate  
Progress through  
Partnerships

# About the Buy Clean Task Force

Established under Executive Order (E.O.) 14057 on Federal Sustainability, the Buy Clean Task Force is co-chaired by the [Federal Chief Sustainability Officer](#) and the [White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy](#). The Task Force includes representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Interior, State and Transportation; the Environmental Protection Agency; the General Services Administration; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the Veterans Administration; the White House Domestic Climate Policy Office, Council on Environmental Quality, Infrastructure Implementation Team, Office on Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, and Office of Management and Budget. Together, the Task Force agencies account for 90% of all federally-financed and purchased construction materials.

The Buy Clean Task Force is charged with developing recommendations on policies and procedures to expand consideration of [embodied emissions](#) in Federal procurement and federally funded projects, which includes:

- Identifying construction materials and products with the highest embodied carbon concerns—such as steel, cement/concrete, asphalt and flat glass—to prioritize for lower embodied carbon consideration in Federal procurement and federally-funded projects;
- Increasing the transparency of embodied emissions through supplier reporting of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), including incentives and technical assistance to help domestic manufacturers better report and reduce embodied emissions; and,
- Launching pilot programs to boost Federal procurement of cleaner construction materials and learn more about their performance in real-world applications.

## About the Federal-State Buy Clean Partnership

In March 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced the launch](#) of the [Federal-State Buy Clean Partnership](#) with 12 leading states—California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts,

Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington—and later welcomed Minnesota into the partnership. These states have committed to prioritize efforts that support the procurement of lower-carbon infrastructure materials in state-funded projects, and to collaborate with the Federal government and one another to send a harmonized demand signal to the marketplace. Alongside this announcement, the U.S. Climate Alliance announced the availability of policy, technical, and analytical assistance to help participating members advance their state-level Buy Clean efforts.

## Buy Clean News and Announcements

2023	2022	2021
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Date	News Item
December 12, 2023	The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced <a href="#">IRA Low Embodied Carbon material requirements</a> that will be applied to <a href="#">150 Federal Inflation Reduction Act projects</a> involving \$2B in IRA low-carbon materials. A <a href="#">GSA blog</a> shared lessons learned, market research, and engagement with manufacturers and trade associations related to a six-month pilot of eleven projects.
December 11, 2023	The Governments of the United States and Canada released a <a href="#">Joint Statement on Renewed United States-Canada Commitment on Climate and Nature Ambition</a> at the end of the UN Climate Change Conference, COP28. The statement includes a commitment to "advance a 'Buy Clean' ambition to leverage national government procurement to promote the use of low-carbon construction materials and design."
December 5, 2023	The Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (IDDI) <a href="#">issued a communique</a> during COP28 highlighting progress on IDDI's Green Public Procurement Pledge. The U.S. joined Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom in committing to helping drive the global decarbonization of heavy industries through public procurement. Austria, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates also announced their endorsement of the <a href="#">GPP Statement of Intent</a> . <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
November 29, 2023	The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a memorandum titled " <a href="#">Advancing Climate Resilience through Climate-Smart Infrastructure Investments and Implementation Guidance for the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act</a> " to provide guidance to Federal agencies on addressing the risks that natural hazards and climate change pose to the Federal government's facilities. The M-Memo encourages Federal agencies to use low embodied carbon materials aligned with the Federal Buy Clean Initiative.
November 6, 2023	GSA announced \$2 billion in IRA funding for over 150 federal building projects eligible for low-embodied carbon (LEC) materials in support of the Federal Buy Clean Initiative. The funding will support Federal construction and modernization projects across 39 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto

	Rico and will catalyze the market for American-made substantially lower carbon asphalt, concrete, glass and steel. GSA released the <a href="#">full list and map of more than 150 projects</a> and a <a href="#">fact sheet</a> on the plan. GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan and Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation John Podesta made the announcement during a visit to the Frank Carlson Federal Building and Courthouse in Topeka, Kansas, as part of the Investing in Rural America Event Series. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> and watch <a href="#">GSA's video</a> .
September 28, 2023	EPA announced the <a href="#">availability of \$100 million in IRA-funded grants</a> to help businesses develop robust Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) which disclose environmental impacts across the life of a product. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
September 22, 2023	DOT's Federal Highway Administration released a <a href="#">fact sheet</a> outlining the scope of the forthcoming \$2 billion IRA-funded <a href="#">Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Grants Program</a> .
September 20, 2023	GSA awarded the <a href="#">first IRA-funded procurement</a> for substantially lower embodied carbon materials, and the first prioritization of embodied carbon for flat glass.
August 17, 2023	GSA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a nearly \$288-million investment of IRA funds to make DHS's new headquarters a model for sustainability at the St. Elizabeths campus in Washington, DC. The project will prioritize the procurement of low-embodied carbon concrete, steel, and asphalt for new construction. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
August 15, 2023	GSA announced an \$11 million investment of IRA funds to repair, modernize, and enhance the sustainability of the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House in New York City with the procurement of American-made, substantially lower embodied carbon concrete, steel, and asphalt. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
July 24, 2023	DOE announced <a href="#">\$100 million for Carbon Utilization Procurement (UP) Grants</a> to support states, local governments, and public utilities in purchasing products—such as building products—derived from converted carbon emissions.
July 22, 2023	The Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (IDDI) <a href="#">issued a communique</a> during the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) in Goa, India, highlighting U.S. ambition on green public procurement alongside the governments of Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom.
June 15, 2023	DOE announced <a href="#">\$135 million to reduce emissions across America's industrial sector</a> including 10 projects to decarbonize iron and steel, 5 projects decarbonizing cement and concrete, and 7 additional cross-cutting decarbonization technologies such as industrial heat pump technologies.
June 9, 2023	GSA announced the expansion of its Green Proving Ground program which evaluates emerging and sustainable technologies in real-world settings in Federal facilities to now include low-embodied carbon materials. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
May 16, 2023	GSA announced its pilot of IRA Buy Clean specifications for procurement of \$2.15 billion of substantially lower embodied carbon construction materials for Federal projects. The six-month pilot will apply <a href="#">GSA's Interim IRA Low Embodied Carbon Material Requirements</a> into procurement for <a href="#">11 GSA construction and modernization projects</a> . GSA's interim requirements are based on

	<a href="#">EPA's Interim Determination</a> and set global warming potential (GWP) limits for IRA-funded asphalt, concrete, glass, and steel. Read the <a href="#">announcement</a> and <a href="#">what stakeholders are saying</a> .
May 11, 2023	HUD announced the Inflation Reduction Act's Green and Resilient Retrofit Program for multifamily properties serving low-income residents will include funding to purchase low embodied carbon materials as part of green retrofits. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
March 28, 2023	FEMA announced that based on expanded IRA authority they will make grant funds available to communities for low-carbon materials used in disaster recovery and climate resilience projects. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
March 8, 2023	DOE announced \$6 billion in funding to accelerate decarbonization projects in energy-intensive industries and provide American manufacturers a competitive advantage in the emerging global clean energy economy. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
March 3, 2023	The White House and DOE convened industrial executives and national labor leaders at the White House for a roundtable discussion on how to grow American competitiveness, expand manufacturing jobs, and decarbonize the industrial sector. The executives in the meeting represented over 125,000 jobs and nearly 30% of emissions in the industrial sector.
January 19, 2023	EPA announced the first opportunities for public input on new grant and technical assistance programs focused on lower carbon construction materials made possible by a \$350 million investment from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. <a href="#">Read the announcement</a> .
January 19, 2023	EPA published an interim determination under Inflation Reduction Act Sections 60503 and 60506 that was provided in December 2022 to the Department of Transportation and the General Services Administration on their Inflation Reduction Act funded procurement of construction materials and products with substantially lower embodied greenhouse gas emissions. <a href="#">Read the determination</a> .

## Frequently Asked Questions

[What are embodied emissions?](#)

[What is Buy Clean?](#)

[Why Buy Clean?](#)

[How are materials and products determined to be "lower embodied emissions"?](#)

[How does Buy Clean integrate with Federal climate smart infrastructure goals?](#)



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