

# United States of America

Emissions	Climate Commitment Status
<p><b>11.8%</b> of global emissions<sup>1</sup></p>  <p>Agriculture = 628.6 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2019<sup>2</sup> or 10% of total emissions excluding LULUCF            ↑ +13% since 1990</p> <p><b>-789.2</b> MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq LULUCF emissions in 2019<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Net sink of emissions</p>	<p><b>NDC update submitted<sup>4</sup></b> ✓</p> <p><b>LTS submitted in 2016<sup>5</sup></b> ✓</p> <p><b>CAT rating<sup>6</sup></b> <b>INSUFFICIENT</b></p> <p><b>Net zero commitment:</b> Economy-wide target to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 (Source: <a href="#">Updated First NDC</a> and <a href="#">Executive Order</a> on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad) to be achieved domestically</p> <p><b>Net zero details:</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> 2050</p> <p><b>Legal status:</b> In policy document, not yet in law</p> <p><b>Gases covered:</b> all GHGs (as described in the NDC, unspecified in the Executive Order)</p> <p><b>Credits allowed:</b> Uncertain. International credits are allowed in the NDC: “the United States intends to make corresponding adjustments for any internationally transferred mitigation outcomes that the United States Government authorises for use towards NDCs, and for mitigation outcomes that the United States authorises for other international mitigation purposes”</p>
How action-oriented are the NDCs in the food and land sector?	
Criteria	NDC Assessment
<p><b>Specific policy priorities or actions for agriculture and food:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture is mentioned explicitly throughout the NDC. In developing the NDC, the United States considered sector-by-sector emissions reduction pathways, including for agriculture and lands.</li> <li>• Specific actions mentioned include scaling of climate smart agricultural practices, reforestation, rotational grazing, and nutrient management practices.</li> <li>• The NDC mentions programmes and incentives to improve agricultural productivity through practices and technologies that also reduce agricultural methane and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, such as improved manure management and improved cropland nutrient management.</li> <li>• Regarding adaptation, the NDC describes nature-based coastal resilience projects and government investments in forest protection and management.</li> </ul>	<p>▲▲</p> <p><b>High:</b> NDC provides <b>indications of specific orientations</b> pursued by the Party in different agricultural and food sub-sectors</p>
<p><b>Specific policy priorities or actions for LULUCF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and forests are mentioned throughout the NDC, including a specific section on agriculture and land when describing the 2030 pathways</li> <li>• In the elaboration of the NDC, the National Climate Task Force conducted a whole-of-government process including land sector pathways</li> <li>• The NDC indicates that all IPCC sectors are covered including all carbon pools, without explicitly mentioning LULUCF</li> <li>• The NDC provides detailed background information related to the land sector, noting that approximately 60 percent of land in the United States is privately owned, 28 percent owned and managed by the federal government, 8 percent by state and local governments, and 3 percent is held in trust for Native Americans by the Bureau of Indian Affairs</li> <li>• It also specifies existing land sink capacities, with approximately a net sequestration from LULUCF of 800 million metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019, which offset approximately 12 percent of total United States greenhouse gas emissions; sequestration was primarily the result of carbon uptake by standing United States forests, forest management, increased tree cover in urban areas, storage in harvested wood products, and the management of agricultural soils</li> <li>• The NDC outlines specific orientations, including the reduction emissions from forests and agriculture and enhance carbon sinks through a range of programmes and measures for ecosystems ranging from forests and agricultural soils to rivers and coasts</li> <li>• Specific actions include reforestation and investment in forest protection and forest management</li> <li>• On adaptation, the NDC outlines intensive efforts to reduce the scope and intensity of catastrophic wildfires, and to restore fire-damaged forest lands</li> </ul>	<p>▲</p> <p><b>Medium:</b> NDC provides detail focus areas of technological development needs or plans related to agriculture, food or LULUCF</p>
<p><b>Key policies in the NDC supporting priorities:</b></p> <p><b>Agriculture and food:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act mentioned for reducing HFC emissions – could be linked to food chain but not explicitly mentioned</li> </ul> <p><b>LULUCF:</b></p>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not list any <b>sectoral</b> policy related to agriculture, food or LULUCF</p>

How action-oriented are the NDCs in the food and land sector?		
Criteria		NDC Assessment
<b>Dedicated financial resources associated with policies or action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDC indicates that climate goals can be achieved by investing in climate smart agriculture and forestry, among other sectors, though no further information on public spending to this end is provided</li> <li>Federal and state governments will invest in forest protection and forest management, and engage in intensive efforts to reduce the scope and intensity of catastrophic wildfires and to restore fire-damaged forest lands</li> </ul>		 <p><b>Medium:</b> NDC provides a <b>general indication</b> on existing or planned public funding to finance mitigation policies and actions in <b>either agriculture and food or LULUCF</b></p>
<b>Spatial information for mitigation provided in the NDC:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>		 <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not provide any information on spatial planning to support adaptation or mitigation actions in the food and land sectors in the form of maps or indications of spatial data</p>
<b>Technology details provided in the NDC:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDC indicates that climate goals can be achieved by investing in climate smart agriculture and forestry, among other sectors</li> <li>The United States will offer programmes and incentives to improve agricultural productivity through practices and technologies that also reduce agricultural methane and N2O emissions, such as improved manure management and improved cropland nutrient management</li> </ul>		 <p><b>High:</b> NDC provides detail focus areas of technological development needs or plans <b>related to agriculture, food or LULUCF</b></p>
What specific policy measures are included in the NDCs regarding critical food and land transitions?		
Critical transition	Details	NDC Assessment
Healthy diets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Productive and regenerative agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>America's vast lands provide opportunities to both reduce emissions and sequester more carbon dioxide</li> <li>The United States will support scaling of climate smart agricultural practices (including, for example, cover crops), reforestation, rotational grazing, and nutrient management practices</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
Protecting and restoring nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal and state governments will invest in forest protection and forest management, reforestation, and engage in intensive efforts to reduce the scope and intensity of catastrophic wildfires, and to restore fire-damaged forest lands</li> <li>Local biodiversity of the country, the United States will support nature-based coastal resilience projects including pre-disaster planning as well as efforts to increase sequestration in waterways and oceans by pursuing "blue carbon"</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
A healthy and productive ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The United States also notes the importance of natural climate solutions, terrestrial and marine, in climate ambition and resilience</li> <li>It further recognises the role of the broader suite of ocean-based climate solutions, including scaling-up offshore renewable energy and reducing emissions from shipping and ports, in increasing climate ambition and creating jobs</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC provides inexplicit or unclear information on the critical transition (topic is mentioned, but not as a policy action)</p>
Diversifying protein supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Reducing food loss and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Local loops and linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	 <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>

What specific policy measures are included in the NDCs regarding critical food and land transitions?		
Critical transition	Details	NDC Assessment
<b>Digital revolution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>America will offer programmes and incentives to improve agricultural productivity through practices and technologies that also reduce agricultural methane and N2O emissions, such as improved manure management and improved cropland nutrient management</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC provides inexplicit or unclear information on the critical transition (topic is mentioned, but not as a policy action)</p>
<b>Stronger rural livelihoods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These analyses show that the United States can deliver on its NDC, including by investing in efficiency, beneficial electrification, clean energy, plugging methane leaks, addressing direct greenhouse gas emissions from industrial processes, climate smart agriculture and forestry, innovation, and other priorities; these actions will also create good jobs, improve public health, and help to advance equity and achieve environmental justice priorities</li> <li>The United States is committed to standing with the workers and communities too often left behind – people and places that have suffered as a result of economic and energy shifts – and creating well-paid employment in the low carbon economy</li> <li>The United States reaffirms its commitment to the creation of decent work and quality jobs as an integral part of its efforts to combat climate change</li> <li>Acknowledging that the worst impacts of climate change have hit historically disadvantaged communities hardest, the United States is committed to environmental justice and to prioritizing investment that benefits these communities</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
<b>Gender and demography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
What specific institutional arrangements for climate have countries put in place?		
<p><b>Dedicated body in place:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Climate Task Force</li> </ul> <p><b>Consultation processes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Climate Advisor and the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy ran an interagency process across the federal government and consulted a range of other stakeholders, including groups representing tens of millions of advocates, activists, youth, trade, scientists, governmental leaders including governors, mayors, and tribal leaders, businesses, schools and institutions of higher education, and specialised researchers</li> </ul>		
SUMMARY		
<p><b>Summary of the NDC analysis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDC provides some detail on specific actions to be undertaken in the food and land sector, including specific orientations for the reduction of emissions in the agricultural sector. More general orientations are provided for the LULUCF sector, where few specific subsectors planned actions are mentioned.</li> <li>The NDC does not list any policies that are directly linked to actions in the food and land sector. It does list the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act, aiming to phase down the use of HFCs, which could be linked to refrigeration and food, but this link is not made explicit.</li> <li>While the NDC indicates that climate goals can be achieved by investing in climate smart agriculture and forestry, it provides no information on funding for these priorities. The need for or use of spatial information is not addressed.</li> <li>The NDC mentions some specific technologies to be used in the agricultural sector to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, albeit with no detail on development or financing needs for implementing these technologies.</li> <li>The USA addresses the critical transitions in the sector fairly well, with strong commitments particularly in “protecting and restoring nature” and “stronger rural livelihoods”. It references government investments in forest protection and management, and reforestation. In the transition on “stronger rural livelihoods” in particular, the NDC addresses a just transition as an essential action, but it does not specifically address rural communities.</li> <li>The NDC addresses programmes and incentives to improve agricultural productivity through practices and technologies to reduce agricultural methane and N<sub>2</sub>O. This is a good example, but it still lacks the monitoring and verification aspect.</li> </ul>		
REFERENCES		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Source: ClimateWatch, accessed 30 August 2021. <a href="https://www.climatewatchdata.org/compare-all-targets?">https://www.climatewatchdata.org/compare-all-targets?</a></li> <li>Source: UNFCCC, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, accessed 30 August 2021. <a href="https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party">https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party</a></li> <li>Source: UNFCCC, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, accessed 30 August 2021. <a href="https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party">https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party</a></li> <li>Submitted 22 April 2021. Source: UNFCCC. <a href="https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%20States%20of%20America%20First/United%20States%20NDC%20April%2021%202021%20Final.pdf">https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%20States%20of%20America%20First/United%20States%20NDC%20April%2021%202021%20Final.pdf</a></li> <li>Submitted 16 November 2016. Source: UNFCCC. <a href="https://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/mid_century_strategy_report-final_red.pdf">https://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/mid_century_strategy_report-final_red.pdf</a></li> <li>Climate Action Tracker, accessed 15 September 2021. <a href="https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/usa/">https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/usa/</a></li> </ol>		