

TALKING POINTS: CLIMATE CHANGE

Topline Messaging Points:

- **Global climate change is one of the greatest challenges confronting our country and our world today.** John McCain believes we must act now to meet this challenge.
- **There is overwhelming consensus that global climate change is real, that man is contributing to the buildup of greenhouse gases and the consequences of this threat cannot be ignored.**
- **John McCain proposes meeting this challenge through a MARKET-BASED system to curb greenhouse gas emissions, develop new technologies and strengthen our economy.**
- **The cap-and-trade system sets responsible greenhouse gas reduction goals while providing economic incentives for entrepreneurs, innovators and the business community to achieve them.**
- **We are compelled to act to address climate change.** Climate change is closely aligned with national challenges such as increasing energy independence, and keeping our lead in the innovation of new technologies.
- **John McCain has been a leader on the issue of climate change with the courage to call the nation to action.**
- **John McCain has a proud record as a conservationist in the tradition of Theodore Roosevelt.**
- **John McCain believes we can safeguard the environment while strengthening our economy.**
- **In the coming weeks and months, John McCain will continue discussing his strategy for safeguarding our environment and becoming more energy independent.**

John McCain's Climate Change Policy:

- **The centerpiece of John McCain's climate change policy is a cap-and-trade system that utilizes scientifically-sound, mandatory emission reduction targets.**
- **His policy minimizes costs, safeguards the economy, spurs the development of advanced technologies and facilitates international cooperation.**

The Cap-And-Trade System:

- **The cap-and-trade system will set limits on greenhouse gas emissions while encouraging the development of low-cost ways for businesses to comply.**
- **This system would allow entities to buy and sell rights to emit.** Under this system, entities will have an incentive to invent, improve or acquire ways to reduce their emissions because they can sell their extra permits for cash.
- **The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.**

- **This system supports rapid economic growth by permitting companies to initially purchase "offsets" to cover up to 100 percent of their required reductions, exempting small businesses from the cap-and-trade system, and building broad trading markets.**

John McCain Will Promote Innovating, Developing and Deploying Advanced Technologies

- **At the same-time as implementing a cap-and-trade system, John McCain will reform federal government research funding and infrastructure to develop new technologies to facilitate the reduction of emissions.**

John McCain Will Foster Rapid And Clean Economic Growth

- **McCain believes that an effective climate policy can also support rapid economic growth.** Under John McCain's cap-and-trade system, businesses will be safeguarded against the impact of economic downturns. The cap-and trade system will allow for the trading, banking and borrowing of emission permits to either accelerate reductions or defer them until a better economic time.

John McCain Will Provide Leadership For Effective International Efforts:

- **John McCain believes that there must be a global solution to global climate change but that solution must include India and China.**

John McCain's Record Of Protecting The Environment:

- **CLIMATE CHANGE:** John McCain sponsored the first Senate bill calling for mandatory greenhouse-gas reductions, the 2003 McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act. John McCain has been a leader in fighting for action to combat global climate change.
- **CONSERVATION:** John McCain has authored and supported legislation to protect millions of acres of pristine wilderness land. John McCain is a recognized leader in protecting wilderness resources in the West. He supported the passage of the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act (P.L. 98-406) and later was instrumental in congressional negotiations that led to the passage of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-628).
- **GRAND CANYON:** John McCain has been a champion of protecting the Grand Canyon.