

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We, as companies and organizations committed to the clean energy transition, believe that the federal government can accelerate the creation of a carbon-free electricity sector by adopting strong targets for federal facilities to procure around-the-clock clean energy. We urge the adoption of “higher-impact carbon-free federal electricity procurement” that aligns with your Administration’s objective of “[u]sing the Federal government procurement system – which spends \$500 billion every year – to drive towards 100% clean energy.”¹

On January 27, 2021, you signed a new “Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,”² which includes directives to develop a comprehensive plan that will “use all available procurement authorities to achieve or facilitate...carbon pollution-free electricity sector no later than 2035”³ and directs the heads of agencies to “identify opportunities for Federal funding to spur innovation, commercialization, and deployment of clean energy technologies and infrastructure”.⁴

Higher-impact carbon-free electricity procurement focuses on purchasing new clean resources to secure a round-the-clock clean energy supply to decarbonize electricity consumption in each hour and on each regional grid where electricity consumption occurs. By contrast, traditional clean electricity procurement approaches have relied on purchasing electricity or environmental attributes from renewable energy projects located far away from consumption and whose generation does not coincide with the time at which electricity is consumed.

Higher-impact procurement is an improvement over the traditional approach in a number of key ways. First, higher-impact procurement can reduce reliance on fossil generation when adequate variable renewable generation is not available, and spur innovation, commercialization, and deployment of the broad portfolio of carbon-free energy technologies that are needed to fully decarbonize the electricity system, including energy storage and dispatchable carbon-free resources.

Second, by embracing round-the-clock clean electricity, the federal government can send a powerful market signal that will drive deployment of new clean energy resources. Indeed, such an approach will serve as a catalyst for investment, unlocking capital and creating tens of thousands of new American jobs across the clean energy sector, as well as associated U.S. manufacturing supply chains. The policy will thus help facilitate your objective to have the U.S. government “procure goods, products, materials,

¹ <https://joebiden.com/climate-plan/#>

² “[Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#),” (Jan. 27, 2021).

³ *Id.* section 205.

⁴ *Id.* section 210.

and services from sources that will help American businesses compete in strategic industries and help America's workers thrive."⁵ Furthermore, adopting higher-impact carbon-free electricity procurement goals will demonstrate federal government leadership and create opportunities to partner with leading private and public sector clean energy buyers to stimulate needed additional investment in clean energy infrastructure.

Finally, the focus on regional clean electricity procurement will create greater opportunities to reduce pollution in disadvantaged communities and ensure that the benefits of clean energy deployment are brought to communities and industries that have historically not benefited from the clean energy economy. Higher-impact procurement can thus help facilitate your Administration's efforts to "secure environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution"⁶

In line with the January 27th Executive Order and the effort underway to develop a comprehensive plan to revitalize the Federal Government's sustainability efforts, we urge your team to develop a strategy that maximizes the power of federal carbon-free electricity procurement and sets targets for federal facilities to procure round-the-clock clean energy. This can be done through implementation guidance or additional Executive Orders, as appropriate. The strategy should:

- Direct agencies to set targets for time- and location-based procurement of new clean electricity resources so that federal facilities achieve 100% carbon-free electricity consumption on an hourly basis as soon as possible;
- Establish a process for the adoption of interim targets and guidance on implementation methodologies;
- Permit phased-in implementation with gradually increasing stringency, including related to recognizing existing carbon-free resources in the regional grid mix; location and time-based electric generation, emissions, and electricity use data limitations; with allowances for exemption of facilities with relatively little electricity demand located in poorly-connected regions;
- Use accounting and tracking mechanisms that ensure the economic and public health benefits associated with clean energy deployment are realized equitably by all regions and communities across the country;
- Acknowledge and, where possible mitigate, risk and cost of procurement from new technology deployments; and,
- Hold federal agencies accountable for meeting the targets and reporting progress on an annual basis.

⁵ ["Executive Order on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers,"](#) (Jan. 25, 2021).

⁶ ["Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,"](#) section 219, (Jan. 27, 2021).

The appended memorandum provides more detail about the significant benefits of this approach and recommendations for implementation.

We are at your disposal to discuss this proposal in greater detail, and stand ready to support the Administration's efforts to use the power of federal procurement to accelerate the transition to a carbon-free electricity future.

Sincerely,

Adobe Inc.
AES Corporation
Bipartisan Policy Center
Breakthrough Institute
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Clean Air Task Force
Digital Climate Alliance
Environmental Defense Fund
Evergreen Action
FirstLight Power
Good Energy Collective
Google
Hannon Armstrong
Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
Intersect Power
National Hydropower Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nuclear Innovation Alliance
Smart Electric Power Alliance
The Nature Conservancy
Third Way
Trane Technologies
U.S. Energy Storage Association

CC:

Gina McCarthy
Brian Deese
Jennifer Granholm
Shalanda Young