

Energy Bill 2007 Toolkit



ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK

Energy Bill 2007 Toolkit

Table of Contents

- Introduction2
- The Energy Bill3
- Take Action!4
- Guides and Sample Materials6
- Targets.....12

Introduction

On Monday, November 5th, three thousand youth engaged in the largest lobby day on global warming in American history and rallied around bold goals for how to stabilize the climate with Congressional champions. However, before the week was out, our leaders not only failed to heed our call but went so far as to strip some of the most important language from the national Energy Bill, which was the greenest Energy Bill in years.

This is a test and an opportunity.

Our response determines not only how much of a success Power Shift really was but how important our *movement* is in generating real solutions to global warming at the national level.

Your Representative and Senators will be in district from now until **November 30th**, which means that we can build on the momentum of Power Shift through follow up meetings in their home districts and show them that we, their constituents, demand a strong Energy Bill.

We have a fleeting window of opportunity to invigorate and inspire the thousands strong national network coming out of Power Shift to take action on this and to bring about the passage of strong legislation putting us on track to achieve what we need by 2009.



The Energy Bill

Over the summer, the U.S. House and Senate passed strong pieces of energy legislation, both of which were filled with landmark energy and vehicle efficiency provisions designed to reduce global warming pollution. Congress now has an opportunity to spur investment in the clean energy economy that will create jobs, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. However, combining the best elements of both bills would, by 2030, get us only **one fifth** of the way toward making the long term reductions in global warming pollution that we need, according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), so a strong energy bill this year will be a first step towards solving the climate crisis.

Unfortunately, as voting on a final bill quickly approaches, some of the best provisions of the bill are under attack by polluting industries and weak-willed politicians. Taking action over the next two weeks could mean the difference between a national energy bill that continues to support dirty energy and one that sets us on a path towards affordable, available clean energy and green jobs.

When you talk to your elected officials remind them that they work for you and what you want (and what America needs) is a strong energy bill.

A strong energy bill DOES:

Raise fuel economy standards

CAFÉ standard increases to 35 MPG per gallon by 2020 for all vehicles.

Make real renewable energy affordable and widely available

15% of our electricity must be generated by renewable sources like wind, solar and geothermal by 2020. The RES should remain truly renewable—no nukes, “clean coal,” waste incineration, landfill gas or other extraneous fuels should be included.

Create hundreds of thousands of green jobs

Raising fuel economy and implementing and the RES alone would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, but we also need at least \$125 million for green jobs training programs to help bring people out of poverty.

A strong energy bill does NOT:

Support nuclear energy

Cut out the \$50 billion in loan guarantees for new nuclear reactors. Cut out all other support for nuclear power (including Price-Anderson liability limitations), and don't try to sneak the loans into the Farm Bill! Wall Street won't invest in nukes, so why should we?



This money would go much further to reduce global warming pollution by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Support the coal industry

Cut out the \$1.7 billion for the "carbon capture and storage research, development and demonstration program" which includes 7 large-volume carbon sequestration tests. Producing energy from coal will always introduce mercury, global warming pollution, and other toxic pollutants into our water, air and/or soil, and carbon capture and sequestration is a risky, unproven technology not worthy of additional subsidies

Details on the Energy Bill: <http://globalwarming.house.gov/legislation?id=0002>.

More information about different energy sources: www.energyjustice.net/energybill

Energy Action's guiding principles for policy decisions: <http://future5000.com/campaigns>

Take Action

There are plenty of ways to take action to let Congress know that we demand a strong Energy Bill. Below is a list of recommended actions, but feel free to come up with your own ideas. Email Jessy and Ragini at jessy@energyaction.net and ragini@energyaction.net to let us know what you plan on doing, so we can support you!

➤ **National Call-In Day**

On November 28th, youth around the country will call in to their Congressmen's offices, urging them to support a strong Energy Bill. This builds on the 3,000+ person lobby day at Power Shift, and will show Congress that our movement will continue to watch their decisions, even when we are not all in Washington, D.C. One way to do this on your campus is to set up a table in a central location on campus with background information, talking points and a list of phone numbers and ask students to call on their cell phones. You'll want to advertise this beforehand for higher turnout. Dorm-storming (going door to door through the dorms or housing on-campus) is another way to reach students and get them to call. You can also phone bank (aka, call through) members of your organization and other ally organizations on campus and get them to commit to take action and to recruit additional folks to take action.

While this will be a national call-in day, don't feel restricted to this date. Feel free to have multiple days, or a call-in day some other time during the week of November 26th-30th, if the 28th doesn't work for you. Check out the target list at the end of the toolkit.

➤ **In district meetings**

Meet with your representatives in their district offices while they are home for the holiday. This is another chance to do face-to-face lobbying with your Congressperson, or at least with their staff. This is by far the most direct way of influencing your



Congressperson's position on the Energy Bill. **We need Congress to step up and take bold and comprehensive action against climate change, but how will they know what we want if we don't tell them?** See the Guides and Sample Materials section for how to set up a district meeting and what to do while you're there.

➤ **Bring Congress to campus**

Another great way to directly reach your member of Congress is to organize a "town hall"-style meeting on campus and invite the Representative or Senator to come. This is different than a traditional lobby visit: while one-on-one lobby meetings allow you to outline your concerns and ideas in a more detailed fashion, town hall meetings give you power in numbers. The greatness of democracy is the ability to have the voice of the plurality heard by those who cast a vote on their behalf. There is a guide for bringing Congress to campus in the Guides and Sample Materials section.

➤ **Demonstrations outside of Congressional offices**

Whether or not you are able to schedule a meeting with your Senator, Representative or their staff, you can still hold a demonstration outside of the district office. The mood of your demonstration will depend on your Congressman's position on the Energy Bill (for example, if he or she is a champion, be encouraging, yet firm and challenge them to help build support for a strong Energy Bill). There are plenty of creative and visible actions that will attract attention from your Congressperson and from the media.

- Stage a tug-of-war (or tug-of-Energy Bill) on the rep's lawn over the energy bill. Have some people dress as reps of the coal, auto, oil, and nuclear on one sides and have a lot more folks just regularly dressed (or with costumes that symbolize green jobs and renewable energy) on the other side. If your Representative is around, invite him or her to join the tug of war and ask which side they're going to be on: old, dirty polluting energy or young people, the future, renewables etc? Of course at the end of the game the young people and the future win out, and we need our politicians to help make that a reality.
- Play off the holiday themes in costumes, messaging, etc.

➤ **Letters To the Editor (LTEs)**

While your Representatives and Senators are at home, they will be paying closer attention to the local newspapers. Get students to write LTEs and send them in to multiple local newspapers. Once a newspaper receives 4 or 5 letters about the same topic, they are likely to print at least one. There are a couple of sample LTEs attached, but please feel free to modify them and make them your own. Once the LTE gets published, send it to your Congress people to make sure they see it.



ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK



5



CALPIRG



➤ **Photo Petitions**

Show your Congressperson the numbers of youth who are paying attention through a photo petition. When you talk to students about writing an LTE or making a phone call, ask them to take a picture with a sign urging the Congressperson to support an energy bill with both RES and CAFE provisions. Deliver the petitions to your Congressperson at an in-district meeting, campus visit, or to their office if you can't schedule a meeting.



ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK



6



Guides and Sample Materials

➤ How to Set up an In-District meeting

Every Congressional session, Representatives are sent home to their districts to set up in-district meetings, talk to their constituents and work on in-district projects. Your Representative should be in your district from **Nov 19-30th**, while Congress is on recess, providing you a great opportunity set up a meeting and urge them to support a strong Energy Bill. Here's how to get started setting up a meeting with your Congressperson.

1) Email, fax or mail a scheduling request to your official's district office.

- Call the district office and ask for the email address (or fax number) of the Appointment Secretary or Scheduler.
- Fax or send the letter (below) as fast as you can! (Note – if you're sending an email, just paste the request into it; don't send it as an attachment.)

2) Follow up your letter with a phone call.

The next business day after you email or fax your request, give the office a call. Ask for the scheduler and request to set up the meeting. Be prepared to answer any questions they may have.

Here are some helpful tips for making this phone call:

- The key is to be friendly and firm – hold your ground, but be respectful. Saying things like, "Thank you so much," or "I understand you're busy and I really appreciate your help" can get you a long way.
- Remember to build a relationship with the person on the phone – ask them how they're doing, try to shoot the breeze a little.
- Don't be afraid to stress that you are a constituent, and that the students that the Representative will meet with are constituents as well.
- Be reasonable and explain your position clearly. No one's reaction is personal toward you and you can only control yourself, not the person on the other end!

3) Confirm the with your Rep's district office.

One day before the meeting, call to confirm that the meeting is still good to go.

4) Have an amazing meeting!

Pack the room with students, tell your stories, and ask the Congressperson tough questions. Remember: frame the debate! If you get them to commit to something get it in writing or on tape!

5) Tell us how it went!



Please let us know what happened! Also, we'd love to see any press hits, photos, etc. that come out of the event. Send updates to Jessy and Ragini at Jessy@energyaction.net and Ragini@energyaction.net.

➤ Tips for Grassroots Lobbying (from Wellstone Action)

1) Know your goals and roles going in. What do you want to get out of the meeting? Who starts the meeting off? Who will speak and when? Assign different people to speak on different issues or talking points. Be prepared to answer questions.

2) Who you are matters. Tell your story. Why do you care and why are you moved to act?

3) Deliver a clear message. Your message on climate change shouldn't just be a list of bulleted policy points, but should address why the member of Congress or staff should care and act.

4) Demonstrate your power. The Millennial Generation is 50 million strong. We're 1/4 of the potential electorate right now and will be 1/3 by 2015. We're more active and more aware than any generation since the baby boomers. We're not going away. And we vote.

5) Politely control the conversation. Remember what you came for. Politicians/staff often control conversations with small talk, talking about things other than the issue at hand, or asking questions they know you can't answer. Stay focused on your goal and diplomatically move the conversation where you want it to go.

- Try to start and end meeting on a positive note. Start by thanking them for something--even if they are not good on this issue, yet, thank them for spending time discussing/debating these issues, or meeting with you at Power Shift.
- Make a hard ask. "Will you support a strong Energy Bill that includes a Renewable Electricity Standard, raises average fuel economy to 35 mpg, includes the House Green Jobs Act of 2007 and removes subsidies from dirty energy?"
- Shut up and listen. Have a conversation with them. If you don't make them respond, you'll never know where they stand.
- Be strategic in your response: Thank supporters and help turn them into champions. If you can, give undecideds the information they need to become supporters or commit to get them something if you don't know it. Neutralize the opposition if possible, but don't waste too much time trying to argue with them.

6) Thank them for taking the time to meet, regardless of their position.



ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK

General Grassroots Lobbying Tips

- 1) **Do:** stay positive, talk in the public interest, view this as an educational process, and take the long view (no permanent enemies, no permanent friends).
- 2) **Don't:** whine, threaten, bluff, misrepresent the facts, malign the opposition, personalize differences of opinion, or burn bridges.
- 3) **Saying "I don't know" is not a crime.** It's always OK to say that you don't know but will follow up with the answer they're looking for. You don't have to be a policy expert to be effective.
- 4) **Remember:** Rome wasn't built in a day. You may not get everything you want out of this meeting. It's the beginning of a critical relationship that will ultimately move them over time.
- 5) **Follow up** Continue to build your relationship with your Senator/Representative and let them know you won't go away! Send a thank you note for meeting with you and follow up on points/questions that they brought up. Try to keep sending them something once a month or so.

➤ How to Bring Congress to Campus

Follow the steps from the How to Set up an In-District Meeting guide above.

- 1) **Email, fax or mail a scheduling request to your official's district office.**
- 2) **Follow up your letter with a phone call.**
- 3) **Reserve a room ASAP!**
Depending on how hard it is to reserve a room at your school, you might want to reserve a few different dates, just to be safe.
- 4) **Once your meeting is scheduled, let us know about it.**
Email Jessy and Ragini at jessy@energyaction.net and ragini@energyaction.net so that we know what your plans are and can support you in them.
- 5) **Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!**
 - Once you've got the meeting set, advertise it far and wide on campus! Send a release to the campus paper, hang posters, etc.
 - Be sure to approach other organizations about the meeting, including the student government, College Democrats and Republicans, and other active groups on campus.
 - You should also be sure to contact departments that might be interested (like, say, Political Science) so that faculty can spread the word to students in their classes.



- To ensure a large turnout, you might also consider tabling and doing in-class presentations to spread the word. Collect contact info so that you can make reminder calls.
- Call everyone you know or have contact info in the days before the meeting to remind them to come!

6) Confirm the with your Rep's district office.

One day before the meeting, call to confirm and to ask whether there are any specific things that the Representative needs (a podium, water, whatever). Confirm the arrival time of the Rep. Make sure to give REALLY clear directions!

7) Have an amazing meeting!

Pack the room with students, give everyone an opportunity to take action at the event, get media coverage, and ask the Congressperson tough questions. Remember: frame the debate! If you get them to commit to something get it in writing or on tape!

8) Tell us how it went!

Please send a report on your meeting to us so that we know what happened! Also, we want to see any press hits, photos, etc. that come out of the event. You should also consider blogging about your experience on It's Getting Hot In Here, the official blog of the youth climate movement – itsgettinghotinhere.org.

➤ Sample Campus Visit/In-District Meeting Scheduling Phone Script

Hi, my name is XXX and I'm a student with XXX ORGANIZATION at XXX University.

May I please speak with Senator/Representative XXX's Scheduler? Thanks.

Hi XXX. My name is XXX and I'm calling on behalf of with XXX Organization at XXX University. How are you?

Well, I'm calling to follow up on a letter I sent inviting Senator/Representative XXX to an event on campus. I am a student and part of the generation that will be most affected by global warming.

Our ability to prevent global warming from escalating into a major disaster depends in large part by the decisions of the U.S. Congress and the White House to implement a national plan to reduce our global warming pollution. This will be a major challenge, but we can do it, and we need a strong Energy Bill as a national first step.

XXX Organization at XXXX University is working to reduce our schools global warming pollution by educating our fellow students about solutions to the problem and by reducing our own personal global warming impact.



ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK

We now want to discuss with Senator/Representative XXX his/her position on the Energy Bill.

[TOWN HALL/CAMPUS MEETING:] Therefore, I would like to invite Senator/Representative XXX to attend a town hall meeting while he/she is here in the district. The dates that work best for us are between November 26th and 30th, although we can be flexible.

[DISTRICT MEETING:] Therefore, I would like to set up a meeting between Senator/Representative XXX and our group. The dates that work best for us are between November 26th and 30th, although we can be flexible.

Will the Congressman/woman be able to attend? What time would be best?

If yes: Great, who should I stay in contact with about the event/meeting?

Set up the logistics and a very clear follow-up plan!!

If no: OK, is there someone from the staff who will be able to attend? (You should push to get the Congressman/woman, but if you can't, you should at least get a staffer!)

If still no: OK, can I stay in touch with you if the Representative's schedule opens up? Great, thank you for your time.

➤ **Sample Letter to Invite Congress to Campus**

Representative/Senator _____:

I would like to invite you to meet with a large group of your constituents, the students of _____ (your school). It would be an honor for you to visit our campus and take questions from your student constituents, particularly on the topics of global Warming, energy, and the Energy Bill. We will be the generation most affected by climate change, and as voters, we would like to meet with you to discuss the impact the upcoming vote will have on our future. Because you will be in district from Nov. 19th to 30th I would like to extend an invitation for you to join us on _____'s campus one of those weekday evenings for a town hall forum with your constituents..

As a part of _____ (your club/organization) and a member of the larger youth climate movement it is important to me and my fellow students to know where you stand on these issues, and for you to know where we stand. As a member of a group of constituents often forgotten by politicians – youth -- it would be an opportunity for you to show us, and the rest of your constituents, that you appreciate hearing about the concerns of our generation.

The greatness of democracy is the ability to have the voice of the plurality heard by those who cast a vote on their behalf. The youth vote has been on a steady increase since the 2000 election, and we intend to stay active.



ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK

With that in mind, I look forward to hearing from you as to a date and time during your in-district visit that you will be able to attend a town hall at _____ (university). Please let me know at your earliest convenience so that we can begin planning the event in more detail.

Sincerely,
(name, university, grad year)
(contact information)

➤ Sample Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

The challenge of stopping global warming is great – but so are the opportunities to create a thriving new energy economy, while protecting the health of our environment, families and future generations. With the Energy Bill, Congress has the opportunity to build this new national energy economy, but House and the Senate versions are at risk of being extremely weak.

I am a student at [campus name] and part of the youth movement to fight global warming. In our campuses, cities and states, students around the country are already fighting global warming and building a cleaner energy future. However, in order to build the future we want to see, we need a strong national commitment - we need Congress to pass an Energy Bill that will fight global warming, create new jobs and reduce pollution.

[Your Representative or Senator name] needs to support an Energy Bill that both raises fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020 and requires 15 percent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2020, includes the Green Jobs Act and does not include subsidies for nuclear, coal or other dirty energy sources. According to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, this Energy Bill would, by 2030, get us one fifth of the way toward making the long term reductions in global warming pollution that we need.

I am fighting global warming on my campus, in [your city/state] to protect my future. [Your Representative or Senator name], I need your help to do this.

➤ Call-in Day Phone Script

Hello, My name is XXX from XXX and I am calling regarding the Energy Bill.

I am really concerned about the energy bill going through Congress. It MUST include a renewable energy standard to ensure we use at least 15% renewable electricity by 2020, and waste incineration should not be allowed as renewable. It must include a



ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK

CAFE standard that raises the average fuel efficiency of cars and trucks to 35 MPG. The Energy Bill must also include \$125 million for a green jobs training program as laid out in the House Green Jobs Act. Lastly the subsidies for nuclear, coal, and other dirty energy sources need to be removed from the Energy Bill.

Please tell Representative/Senator XXX to encourage Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi to push for a STRONG energy bill that does all these things.

Thank you.

Targets

The lists below represent the priority votes that will make or break whether a good or bad energy bill is passed. However, if you don't see your representative below, your involvement is still very important! Whether your congressperson is already voting the right way, or unlikely to ever vote the right way, hearing from you can help elevate the issues, push the debate, pressure political leaders at the very top, and add to a nation-wide week of action that demonstrates the power of young people in politics. Wherever you are, and whoever your representatives are, your involvement matters!

Senator	State	Party			
Murkowski, Lisa	AK	R	Costa, Jim	CA	D
Stevens, Ted	AK	R	Becerra, Xavier	CA	D
Sessions, Jeff	AL	R	Udall, Mark	CO	D
McCaskill, Claire	MO	D	Salazar, John	CO	D
Gregg, Judd	NH	R	Perlmutter, Ed	CO	D
Sununu, John	NH	R	Castor, Kathy	FL	D
Craig, Larry	ID	R	Wasserman-Shulz, Debbie	FL	D
Crapo, Mike	ID	R	Wexler, Robert	FL	D
Cochran, Thad	MS	R	Klein, Ron	FL	D
Warner, John	VA	R	Meek, Kendrick	FL	D
Feingold, Russ	WI	D	Mahoney, Tim	FL	D
Roberts, Pat	KS	R	Diaz-Balart, Lincoln	FL	R
Alexander, Lamar	TN	R	Diaz-Balart, Mario	FL	R
Hagel, Chuck	NE	R	Buchanan, Vern	FL	R
Pryor, Mark	AR	R	Bilirakis, Gus	FL	R
Bayh, Evan	IN	D	Boyd, Allen	FL	D
			Emanuel, Rahm	IL	D
Representative	State	Party			
Berry, Marion	AR	D	Kirk, Mark	IL	R
Ross, Michael	AR	D	Bean, Melissa	IL	D
Snyder, Vic	AR	D	LaHood, Ray	IL	R
Baca, Joe	CA	D	Biggert, Judy	IL	D
Bono, Mary	CA	R	Davis, Danny	IL	D
Bilbray, Brian	CA	R	Rush, Bobby	IL	D
Solis, Hilda	CA	D	Weller, Jerry	IL	R
Waxman, Henry	CA	D	Costello, Jerry	IL	D
McNerney, Gerald	CA	D	Johnson, Timothy	IL	R
Miller, George	CA	D	Hare, Phil	IL	D
Pelosi, Nancy	CA	D	Hoyer, Steny	MD	
			VanHollen, Chris	MD	



Gilchrest, Wayne	MD		LaTourette, Steven	OH	D
Sarbanes, John	MD		Kaptur, Marcy	OH	D
Oberstar, James	MN	D	Wilson, Charlie	OH	D
Peterson, Collin	MN	D	Ryan, Tim	OH	D
Ellison, Keith	MN	D	Sestak, Joe	PA	D
Walz, Tim	MN	D	Platts, Todd	PA	R
Heller, Dean	NV	R	Altmire, Jason	PA	D
Porter, Jon	NV	R	Doyle, Mike	PA	D
Shea-Porter, Carol	NH	D	Murtha, John	PA	D
Hodes, Paul	NH	D	Dent, Charlie	PA	R
Ferguson, Michael	NJ	R	Brady, Robert	PA	D
Lobiondo, Frank	NJ	R	Holden, Tim	PA	D
Saxton, Jim	NJ	R	Kanjorski, Paul	PA	D
Smith, Chris	NJ	R	Murphy, Patrick	PA	D
Pallone, Frank	NJ	D	Carney, Chris	PA	D
Sires, Albio	NJ	D	Davis, Lincoln	TN	D
Frelinghuysen, Rodney	NJ	R	Gordon, Bart	TN	D
Udall, Tom	NM	D	Cohen, Stephen	TN	D
Wilson, Heather	NM	R	Scott, Bobby	VA	D
Space, Zack	OH	D	Davis, Tom	VA	R
Sutton, Betty	OH	D	Wolf, Frank	VA	R
Tubbs-Jones, Stephanie	OH	D	Reichert, David	WA	R

