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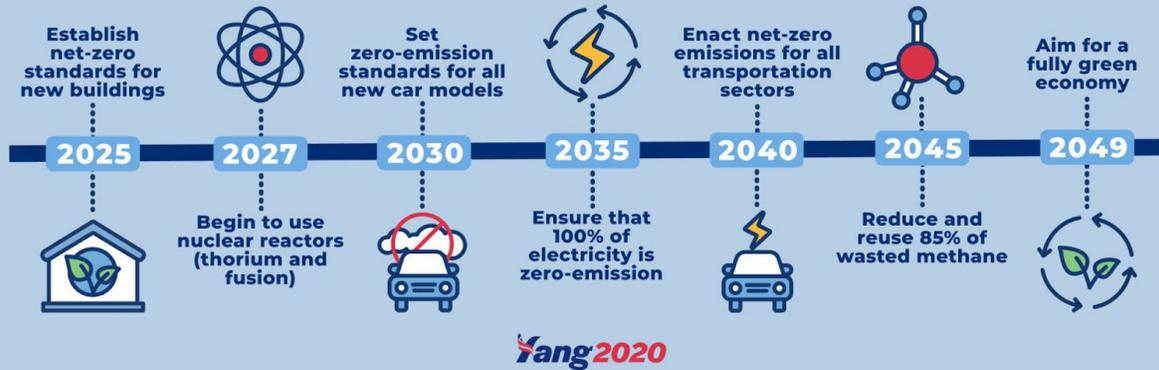
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Andrew Yang

The 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang proposes a bold energy plan designed to help America achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. He will implement a carbon fee-and-dividend system in which he will impose a tax of \$40 a ton initially. The money raised through this system will be returned to citizens as dividends. He also mentions the influence of lobbyists and oil executives. In the book called Don't Even Think About It: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Ignore Climate Change, author George Marshall describes how the problem with fossil fuel emissions begins at the “wellhead,” which is defined as the exploration, development, and production of fossil fuels. Marshall claims that no international negotiations have attempted to limit wellhead production because it was never discussed. This explains why Yang’s plan to incentivize divestment in oil companies can be an effective strategy. Instead of putting the cap on fossil fuels, put a cap on the oil and gas at the wellhead. Furthermore, Yang will refuse to hire anyone who has formerly worked as a lobbyist for oil, gas, or coal company. Last but not least, the primary reason why Yang’s campaign stands out is his idea of Universal Basic Income. Yang’s Freedom Dividend guarantees \$1,000 per month, or \$12,000 per year, to all U.S. citizens over the age of 18, no questions asked. In my family, my parents often hesitate to purchase environment-friendly products due to their high prices. For example, my mom refused to switch to solar panels because we were not able to afford the cost. In another instance, my family originally wanted to switch to artificial lawns in order to save water, especially since we live in a drought area. After finding out that it costs more than \$10,000, we decided to stay with our current lawn. In these cases and more, the freedom dividend would provide a huge benefit to our family in that it can encourage us to afford sustainable lifestyles.

HOW WE ACHIEVE NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050



Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders, the other 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, proposes a \$16.3 trillion plan to tackle climate change, an amount greater than that of other candidates. Sanders puts the Green New Deal, a recent legislation aimed to address climate change and economic inequality, as the center of his climate change campaign. In addition to the Green New Deal, Sanders plans to invest \$200 billion in the United Nation's Green Climate Fund for developing countries and generate a \$40 billion Climate Justice Resiliency fund. His vision includes creating 20 million new jobs in the clean energy industry, which would stimulate economic growth while shifting to a more sustainable economy. Along with bold visions for economic growth, Sanders plans to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and raise money through increasing penalties for carbon emissions. According to the most recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, 6.5 percent of global GDP was spent on fossil fuel subsidies in 2017. Furthermore, fossil fuels account for 85 percent of all global subsidies. It is no wonder that oil and gas industries continue to exploit natural resources. Removing these subsidies will mobilize the shift from the fossil fuel economy to renewable energy sources. His advocacy for banning fracking and new fossil fuel infrastructures are another huge plus to his campaign. Overall, his comprehensive plan to

promote a solid clean energy transition while focusing on economic development is one of the reasons why I am more likely to vote for him.

If I were to run for office...

I would implement a plan dedicated to achieving 100% renewable energy for all major cities by 2035. My campaign will raise money from the taxes generated through a carbon fee and dividend system. The money will be funneled to urban cities to fund rooftop solar installations on public properties, electric car charging stations, and solar-powered bike-sharing stations throughout the city. By modeling cities like St. Petersburg, Florida which are already taking concrete steps to reach 100% renewable energy, the nation can create millions of new jobs and a whole new economy. My energy campaign would also advocate for the use of different renewable energy sources across new infrastructures, including biomass, geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, wind, and perhaps nuclear.



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If I am running for office, I would implement a comprehensive plan dedicated to not only build a sustainable, green economy but also tackle the climate crisis.
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