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By [Ella Nilsen](#), CNN

Biden announces new environmental justice initiatives

Д. Байден анонсує нові ініціативи щодо екологічного права

Президент США Джо Байден оголосив про нові ініціативи щодо екологічного права, включаючи виконавчий наказ, що, за словами Білого дому, зробить екологічне право центральною місією федеральних відомств.

Згідно з цим наказом, екологічна справедливість стане відповідальністю кожного окремого федерального агентства, – пообіцяв Д. Байден на церемонії підписання наказу безпосередньо перед Днем Землі.

Виконавчий наказ, що повинні виконувати всі агентства, передбачає створення нового Управління екологічної юстиції в Раді Білого дому з питань якості навколишнього середовища.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/04/21/politics/environmental-justice-biden/index.html>



President Joe Biden speaks about his economic agenda in Accokeek, Maryland, on April 19, 2023.

Patrick Semansky/AP

CNN —

[President Joe Biden](#) announced new environmental justice actions on Friday, including an executive order that the White House says will make environmental justice a central mission of federal agencies.

“Under this order, environmental justice will become the responsibility of every single federal agency – I mean, every single federal agency,” Biden pledged at a White House Rose Garden signing ceremony surrounded by climate and environmental justice advocates just before Earth Day.

He continued, “Every federal agency must take into account environmental health impacts on communities and work to prevent those negative impacts. Environmental justice will be the mission of the entire government woven directly into how we work with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.”

The executive order, which will still be up to agencies to implement, will create a new Office of Environmental Justice inside the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Friday’s move comes as as many environmental justice groups have been frustrated at the administration’s recent [approval of a major Alaska oil project](#). [CNN also reported Friday](#) that the Biden administration is planning to roll out aggressive new rules to regulate planet-warming pollution from natural gas power plants – a move that could face fierce legal challenges.

Friday's move also took place as Biden is preparing to announce his reelection bid as soon as next week, [CNN reported](#) Thursday. During his last presidential campaign, he worked hard to court environmental justice activist groups.

Biden's new order directs agencies to work more closely with impacted communities and improve "gaps" in scientific data to try to better tackle the impacts of pollution on people's health, a White House official said. If toxic substances were released from a federal facility in the future, the order requires federal agencies to notify nearby communities.

The order comes a few years after Biden announced his signature "Justice40" initiative, vowing to direct 40% of federal climate and clean funding from new legislation to disadvantaged communities. On Friday, three additional agencies – the Department of Commerce, the National Science Foundation and NASA – will also join the initiative.

Biden also took a swipe at Republicans in his speech, contrasting his action on environmental justice with the GOP's policies.

During his remarks on Friday, the president detailed how he's spent much of his tenure in office surveying damage from extreme weather events, calling the threat of climate change "an existential threat to our nation" and criticizing congressional Republicans for attempting to block his legislative priorities focused on climate.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, recently unveiled provisions in [his debt limit proposal](#) that would overturn clean energy tax credits passed in the Inflation Reduction Act last year. The proposal also includes HR 1 – the GOP's version of an energy permitting bill. Republicans, Biden argued, would "rather threaten to default on the US economy, or get rid of some \$30 billion in taxpayer subsidies ... than getting rid of \$30 billion in taxpayer subsidies to an oil industry that made \$200 billion last year."

"Imagine seeing all this happen – the wildfires, the storms, the floods – and doing nothing about it," he continued. "Imagine taking all these clean energy jobs away from working class folks all across America. Imagine turning your back on all those moms and dads living in towns poisoned by pollution and telling them, 'Sorry, you're on your own.' We can't let that happen."

This story and headline have been updated with additional developments.

CNN's Maegan Vazquez and Donald Judd contributed to this report.