



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Declaring a National Energy Emergency

Executive Order #14156

Date Issued: January 20, 2025

Topic: Environmental Justice, Transportation

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This order declares a national energy emergency by highlighting the United States' critically inadequate domestic energy supply and infrastructure, which have driven up energy costs and weakened national security.
- The order directs federal agencies to employ all available emergency and statutory authorities—including those under the Defense Production Act, eminent domain, and emergency permitting provisions—to accelerate the identification, leasing, production, transportation, refining, and generation of domestic energy resources, thereby securing an affordable and reliable energy supply for economic, industrial, and defense needs.
- The order calls for expedited reviews under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act to facilitate energy projects and mandates coordinated efforts among agencies to assess and address vulnerabilities in energy infrastructure, with targeted reports and periodic status updates.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- Enforcement of this order will occur through a coordinated interagency effort where the heads of executive departments and agencies are required to identify and utilize all lawful emergency authorities to expedite energy infrastructure projects. Specific measures include:
 - The use of emergency permitting provisions under the Clean Water Act and associated statutes, with agencies required to provide summary and status reports within 30 days and every subsequent 30 days thereafter.
 - The consultation and expedited processing of applications under the Endangered Species Act, including quarterly reviews of exemption requests.
 - An assessment by the Department of Defense within 60 days to identify vulnerabilities in energy acquisition and transportation, with recommendations for utilizing statutory construction authorities (including those under the National Emergencies Act and Defense Production Act).
 - Emergency fuel waivers by the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to address temporary gasoline supply shortfalls. These coordinated actions, reports, and consultations, along with the invocation of eminent domain and other statutory powers, if necessary, will ensure that the goals of securing a reliable and affordable energy supply are met swiftly.





HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The Trump administration's executive orders on energy have significant and multifaceted implications for Black communities. On one hand, the expansion of domestic fossil fuel production and energy infrastructure could potentially lower energy costs and create jobs, which may offer some relief to low-income and fixed-income households, including many Black families. Energy affordability, especially in marginalized communities, is a critical concern, and the administration's focus on increasing energy supply could help reduce financial burdens in some respects.
- However, the long-term effects of these policies raise serious concerns. The expedited permitting processes and invocation of emergency authorities allow energy projects to move forward with fewer environmental reviews, potentially increasing the risk of pollution and environmental degradation. Black communities, which have historically been situated near hazardous sites, such as industrial facilities and fossil fuel infrastructure, are disproportionately exposed to the adverse effects of pollution, including air and water contamination. These environmental risks exacerbate existing public health disparities in Black neighborhoods, where respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, and other climate-related illnesses are already prevalent.
- Moreover, the Trump administration's emphasis on fossil fuels—without a corresponding focus on renewable energy—undermines progress toward a clean energy economy, which could have provided both environmental and economic benefits. The rollback of key environmental protections and the exclusion of environmental justice from energy policies diminish the potential for [Black communities to benefit from green jobs and investments in clean energy infrastructure](#). The lack of climate finance for low-income countries and the discontinuation of support for renewable energy development further hinder efforts to transition to a more sustainable energy system that could address both economic and environmental inequities.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- [The American Association of Blacks in Energy \(AABE\)](#) has expressed concern over the administration's approach, urging a balanced strategy that includes both energy security and environmental justice. The organization recognizes the importance of energy independence but stresses the need for policies that protect vulnerable communities from the harmful effects of environmental degradation. Without these safeguards, Black communities will likely continue to face higher risks from pollution, extreme weather, and the health impacts associated with climate change.
- [Oxfam](#), in its condemnation of the national energy emergency declaration, further emphasizes the disproportionate impact of these policies on vulnerable communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, and low-income populations. By prioritizing fossil fuel development and cutting climate finance, the administration accelerates climate change and deepens existing inequalities. Oxfam advocates for stronger climate commitments, investments in renewable energy, and local leadership to counteract the harmful effects of federal policies. In this context, Black communities are at risk of being left behind, facing the brunt of environmental and health consequences without the economic benefits of a transitioning energy economy.
- Ultimately, the policies set forth by the Trump administration create a scenario where Black communities face heightened environmental and health risks, limited access to clean energy jobs, and a lack of comprehensive solutions to mitigate climate impacts. A more equitable approach, one that balances energy production with robust environmental safeguards and investments in renewable energy, is necessary to ensure a sustainable and just future for Black communities and other marginalized groups.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has led the fight for environmental justice in Congress for over 40 years.
- The environmental justice objectives in the [CBC agenda](#) for the 118th Congress were to “ensure equitable implementation of the Infrastructure Act and Inflation Reduction Act while also advocating for increased funding to create efficient energy projects and other prophylactic measures to remediate historical environmental injustices.” This order does not discuss clean energy or acknowledge the disproportionate impact of pollution on Black communities, two of the CBC’s key priorities.
- To read more about the CBC’s legacy on environmental justice issues, visit [Avoice](#), our virtual library.