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Environmentalists Call For Climate Policy Coordinator In Next White House

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The environmental think tank, Clean Air-Cool Planet, has issued a series of 25 “early action” recommendations to the next president on climate change, including a call for the creation of a National Energy and Climate Council within the White House to coordinate climate policy.

The call for the White House entity echoes recent recommendations from a number of observers, as reported by Carbon Control News, for an energy and climate “czar” to help raise the profile of energy and climate issues and minimize conflicts between federal agencies on the issue ([see related story](#)).

Under the proposal, creation of the White House entity would be the first of several steps toward developing a “core team” on climate change, including the establishment of a climate change transition team to capture “early action” opportunities on the issue immediately after the election, and the creation of a “special envoy” to undertake initial high-level international discussions on climate change.

In addition to recommending various organizational steps for the new administration, Clean Air-Cool Planet makes several policy recommendations covering areas such as reallocation of budget priorities, legislation for economy wide emission-reductions, research and development for adaptation to climate change impacts, efficiency and conservation, and re-engagement with other countries on climate change. The proposals are contained in the group’s report, [Building a Foundation for Success: Recommendations for Early Action on Climate Change for the 44th President of the United States](#), and an accompanying [executive summary](#).

On budget issues, the group calls for a “climate change rebate” of \$80 billion annually over 10 years, to be taken from future carbon auction revenues. Overall, the group recommends returning 80 percent of auction revenues to the public. The group’s recommendations also call for the next president to “articulate principles” for congressional action to reduce global emissions reductions 50 percent by 2050.

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