

# Carbon Pricing: Signs of Bipartisanship

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**PART 2: Citizens Climate Lobby, Climate Solutions  
Caucus, Federal Legislative Update and State Action  
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# Citizens' Climate Lobby

# Purpose

**To build political will for a  
livable climate**

# Citizens' Climate Lobby: Who We Are

- **International organization** – grassroots; non-profit; non-partisan
- **Small staff and Advisory Board** – National policymakers and scientists
- **Volunteer force** - - 90,000 volunteers; 425 U S chapters (12-CO)
- **Focused mission**- - Passage of national carbon-pricing legislation to address climate crisis
- **Strategy**- - Lobby federal officials; educate public; work with media

# Citizens Climate Lobby, U.S. Chapters, Dec 2017

Blue, active; Yellow, in progress



# Citizens Climate Lobby – Colorado Chapters

## Active

Aspen  
Boulder  
Colorado Springs  
Denver Central  
Denver North  
Denver South Metro  
Durango  
Fort Collins  
Golden  
Grand Junction  
Longmont  
Montrose

## In Progress

Erie  
Greeley  
Parker  
Pueblo  
Carbondale  
Vail  
Woodland  
Park

# Lobbying: 2016

## Tools: Preparation, Respect, Gratitude



# Meeting Legislators



# Educating the Public



# Publishing Letters (Denver Post)

In 1969, I lived in Ohio, when the Cuyahoga River, filled with pollutants and devoid of fish, caught fire. It became a national “joke” — but not really. In 2013, it must have felt the same in Beijing, when a massive toxic smog settled over the city for weeks, along with the realization that fossil-fuel-driven air pollution was contributing to the deaths of tens of thousands of Chinese citizens each year, as well as to global warming. Fair or not, neither China nor other nations can continue to base economic growth on fossil fuels, especially coal. Many ordinary people throughout the world understand these connections. They are also taking concrete actions to address the climate crisis. One can only hope that world leaders (especially U.S. and Chinese leaders) returning from the Paris climate talks and the convictions they expressed there do too.

Robert Beck, *Denver*

# Obtaining CCL Policy Endorsements: Threatened by climate change, ski industry responds

by backing CCL policy

By Alex Counts, 14 May 2016

Most recently, the National Ski Areas Association has endorsed Citizen's Climate Lobby's call for a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend and is actively working to bring this essential policy into reality.

Thirty mountain resorts have gone one step further, according to Inside Climate News, and signed on to the Association's Climate Challenge that calls on them to reduce CO2 emissions and their overall environmental footprint.



Snow makers will be doing the work of Mother Nature on ski slopes more and more unless climate change is brought under control.

## 2017 CCL Achievements

- 72,721 Letters to Congress
- 4,093 Letters to Editors/Opinion Pieces
- 1,653 Lobby Meetings

# **CCL National Policy Proposal: Carbon Fee and Dividend**

**A revenue-neutral carbon tax**

## Three Caveats

- Carbon pricing is one of many tools needed to address climate crisis
- CFD is described in terms of a specific fee and rate of increase; however, we hope the legislation will have a higher fee and more significant rate of increase
- What is important: Its focus and structure

# Our “Tax” Proposal: Carbon Fee and Dividend

## 1. Fee on fossil fuels

- Based on greenhouse gas emissions
- Assessed at point of extraction or import
- Low initial fee with gradual, predictable increase

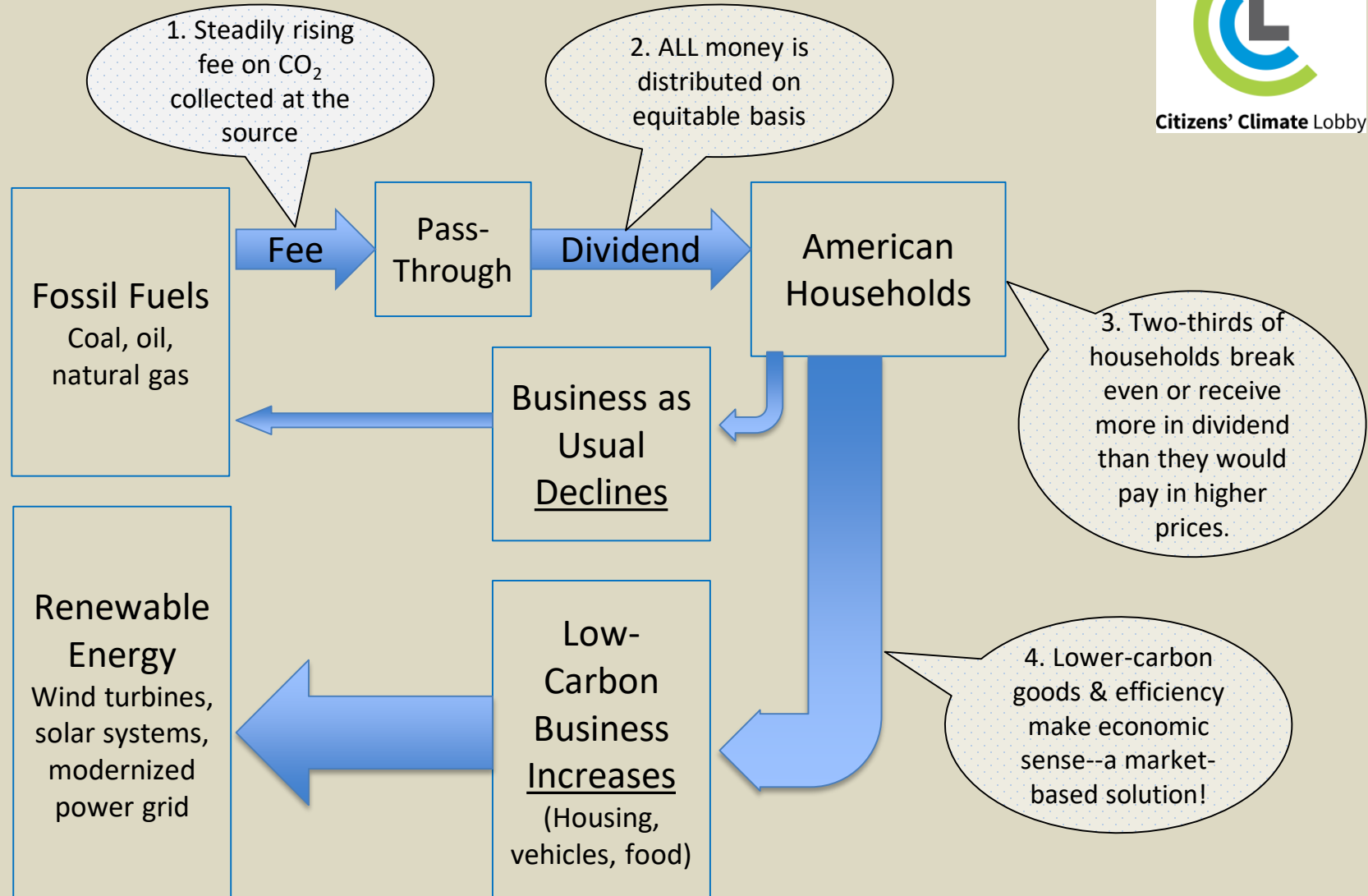
## 2. Dividend

- Return all revenue from fee promptly and equitably to all households

## 3. Border adjustments

- Tax carbon-intensive imports from countries that do not price carbon

# Carbon Fee and Dividend



## BENEFITS (20 years):

CO<sub>2</sub> ↓ 52%

GDP + \$ 1.375 trillion

✚ Lives Saved 227,000

Jobs ↑ 2.8 million

# Recent Successes

Partnered with California state legislature to pass a [resolution](#) calling on the federal government to enact Carbon Fee and Dividend nationwide.

Instrumental in establishing the [House Climate Solutions Caucus](#), a bipartisan group in the US House of Representatives

Recruited co-sponsors of the [Republican Climate Resolution](#), a Republican-led resolution that recognizes the impact of climate change and calls for action



# California legislature to Congress: Tax carbon and give revenue to households August, 2016



# Climate Solutions Caucus

February 2018= 70 Members

“The Caucus will serve as an organization to educate members on economically-viable options to reduce climate risk and protect our nation’s economy, security, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply and public safety,” according to documents filed with the Committee on House Administration.

# Caucus Aims to Propel Congress Forward: Has it Translated into Meaningful Action? (Reps. Deutch and Curbelo at Work)



## The CSC has:

Led effort to block repeal of rule to curb emissions of methane (repeal passed)

Successfully opposed Amendment to Department of Defense Study that blocked a study of effects of climate change on national security

Extended tax credits for renewable energy technologies – added to 2018 Budget Bill

# Sample Legislation Proposed: 6 of 12 Bills

- Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act
- Technologies for Energy Security Act
- Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act
- Carbon Capture Act
- Climate Solutions Commission
- Methane Emissions Mitigation

## Republican Climate Resolution

- The Resolution (H.Res.195) was introduced by a group of 20 Republican House Members led by Reps. Elise Stefanik, Carlos Curbelo, and Ryan Costello. The resolution invokes the conservative principle “to protect, conserve, and be good stewards of our environment, responsibly plan for all market factors, and base our policy decisions in science and quantifiable facts on the ground.’ March 2017

While CCL focuses on federal legislation, CCL also supports state efforts to increase pressure on the federal government to act.



# Key Elements of State Carbon Pricing Legislation: Some Examples

- Massachusetts
- Vermont
- Utah
- Washington

## Jan 18: Carbon Costs Coalition Formed

- Nine states agree to coordinate efforts to reduce carbon emissions, ensure equity in policy proposals, develop market-based solutions, create resilient local and regional economies, and improve public health

Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington

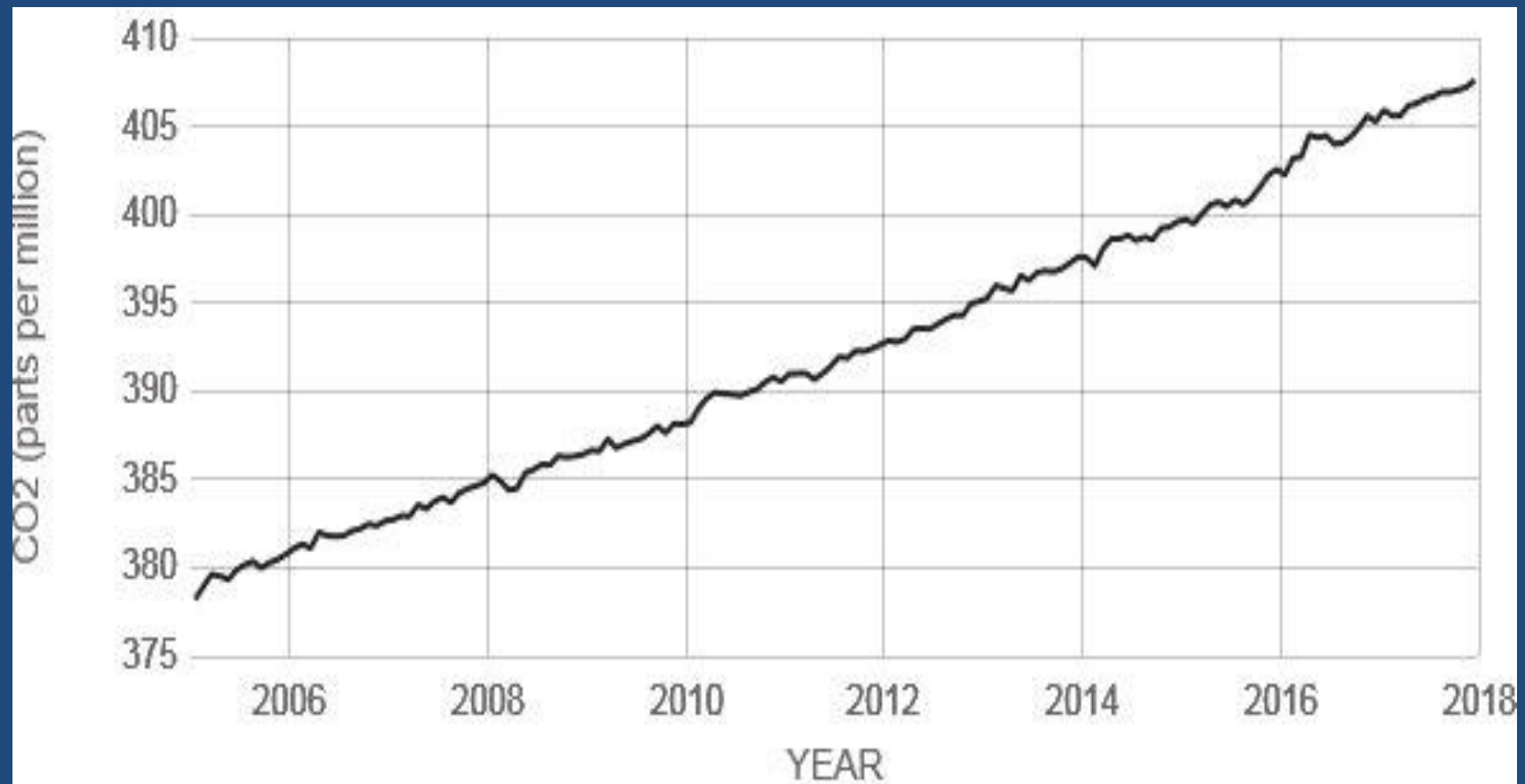
## **January 30: Legislation Introduced**

- Sen. Van Hollen (D-MD) Introduced Carbon Cap and Dividend Bill in Congress (first stage of legislative process)

### **“Healthy Climate and Family Security Act of 2018” (S.2352)**

- CCL: “The bill is not only the strongest federal climate bill introduced so far in 2018, but it’s also the first legislation... [to] return all the revenue to American families through a dividend.”

# Encouraging bill, yet action is urgent



Source: [climate.nasa.gov](https://climate.nasa.gov)

# The Most Important Things to Do Now

## 1. Contact your U.S. representatives

Advocate for comprehensive national climate action

Visit > Call > Write > Email > *Repeat*

## 2. Engage at all levels of government

## 3. Talk with others

## 4. Join a climate advocacy group

# Make Friends for Support and Seek Allies to Promote Action

