

# Fighting for our Future

## Growing our economies and protecting our communities through climate leadership

*The bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance formed in response to the President's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. Over the course of its first year, we have grown to 17 states and territories, representing a wide diversity of people, places, and economic activity. We are home to 40 percent of the U.S. population and account for nearly \$9 trillion in combined economic activity – enough to be the world's third largest country.*

The U.S. Climate Alliance remains committed to the Paris Agreement and to meeting our share of the U.S. Nationally Determined Contribution – a 26–28 percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below 2005 levels by 2025 – while continuing to grow our economies. The climate challenge demands an urgent and ambitious response. We call on other states and territories to join us, on local and business leaders to work with us, and on the community of nations to take every measure necessary to meet and strive to exceed their Nationally Determined Contributions.

### How Far We Have Come

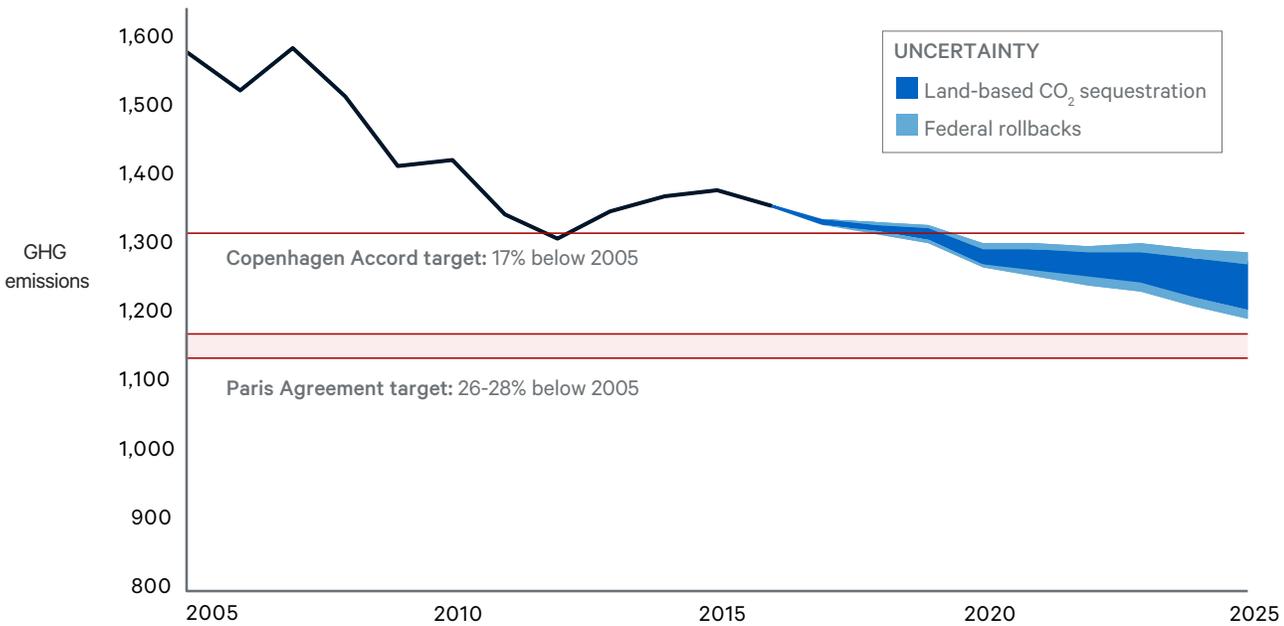
As the federal government weakens common-sense climate policies aimed at protecting the health of our communities, creating opportunities for innovation, and expanding the economy and access to good jobs, we are doubling down on our commitment to meeting our share of the U.S. emissions reduction target. We are already more than halfway towards this goal, reducing our GHG emissions by 14 percent below 2005 levels. We have achieved this while growing our economies faster than the rest of the country – outpacing all other states across every sector. We are putting more zero-emission vehicles on the road and helping to reduce our nation's dependence on oil. We are generating more renewable energy and generating billions of dollars in public health benefits.

We are restoring, maintaining, and sustainably managing our forests while sequestering carbon to offset GHG emissions. Altogether, the clean energy and climate policies we have in place are leading to more clean energy jobs, lower energy bills, a healthier environment, and more resilient communities.

### Continuing to Lead On Climate

Independent analysis finds that Alliance states will continue to lead the nation in reducing GHG emissions in the years ahead. Based on climate and clean energy policies already in place across Alliance states, we are projected to achieve a combined 18–25 percent reduction in GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2025 (Figure ES-1). This range reflects a higher projection of our future GHG emissions from last year, with a significant portion being the direct result of attempts to dismantle federal climate policies. Since the release of our report last year, the Clean Power Plan has been repealed, and many other federal policies are now in jeopardy. This includes rules that would phase-down emissions of super-pollutants used in air-conditioning and refrigeration, fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles, and methane standards for oil and gas activities and landfills. Despite Alliance states advancing our clean energy and climate policies, the scale of proposed federal rollbacks is threatening state efforts to meet our share of the U.S. climate target for 2025. At the same time, U.S. Climate Alliance membership has grown, both in diversity

**FIGURE ES-1 U.S. Climate Alliance progress under today’s policies sets the stage for accelerated action**  
 Net GHG emissions from Alliance states, million metric tons carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent



**SOURCE:** Rhodium Group’s U.S. Climate Service **NOTES:** GHG emissions estimates reflect emissions from power generated within state boundaries. Uncertainty in CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration from forests and other lands are derived from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates. Federal rollbacks include federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, EPA and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) methane standards for oil & gas activities and landfills, and EPA’s Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Rule 20 and the Kigali Amendment for phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). For more information see the Technical Appendix. Emissions from Puerto Rico include only CO<sub>2</sub> associated with fossil fuel consumption.

and the share of national emissions the Alliance is working to drive down. We also continue to make methodological updates to improve the accuracy and transparency of our efforts, which has uncovered even steeper growth in hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emissions and less carbon sequestration from land use and forests than previous national estimates, shedding light on the need to prioritize immediate action in these sectors. With these findings, we now are even more resolved to accelerate our efforts to help fill the federal gap on climate leadership.

### Setting the Stage for Accelerated Action

We know there is more to be done. That is why the U.S. Climate Alliance states commit to taking additional actions, independently and with one another, to:

- Drive down emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, namely methane, HFCs, and black carbon,
- Increase carbon sequestration on natural and working lands,

- Deeply decarbonize our transportation sector, including investing billions of dollars in zero emission vehicle infrastructure and vehicle deployment, and working together to increase emissions-free mobility options,
- Coordinate on the adoption of product energy efficiency standards,
- Help lessen the impacts of the federal solar import tariffs,
- Identify innovative alternatives to traditional utility investments like distributed solar resources and storage to modernize and decarbonize our electric grid, and
- Help states and communities become more resilient to climate impacts and extreme weather events.

To deliver on these commitments, we will continue working together and through strategic partnerships to ensure that we are taking smart, coordinated action to grow our clean energy economies and continue to reduce our GHG emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. We will share our experiences, successes, and lesson learned to encourage other states to take similar actions.