
The Climate, It Is A-Changing's: Necessary Consumer Protections in Climate Legislation

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Advancing Fairness
in the Marketplace for All

The National Consumer Law Center

Since 1969, the National Consumer Law Center has functioned as a lawyer's lawyer for legal services and consumer law attorneys. NCLC helps advocates and policy makers use the powerful and complex tools of consumer law for just and fair treatment in the economic marketplace.

Why do national consumer groups care about climate change policy?



National climate change policy:

- Will directly and indirectly increase costs to consumers, and low-income consumers will be hardest hit.
- Will not affect consumers in different regions of the country in the same way.

However, there are also costs to delay and/or to doing nothing.

FAIR CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY:

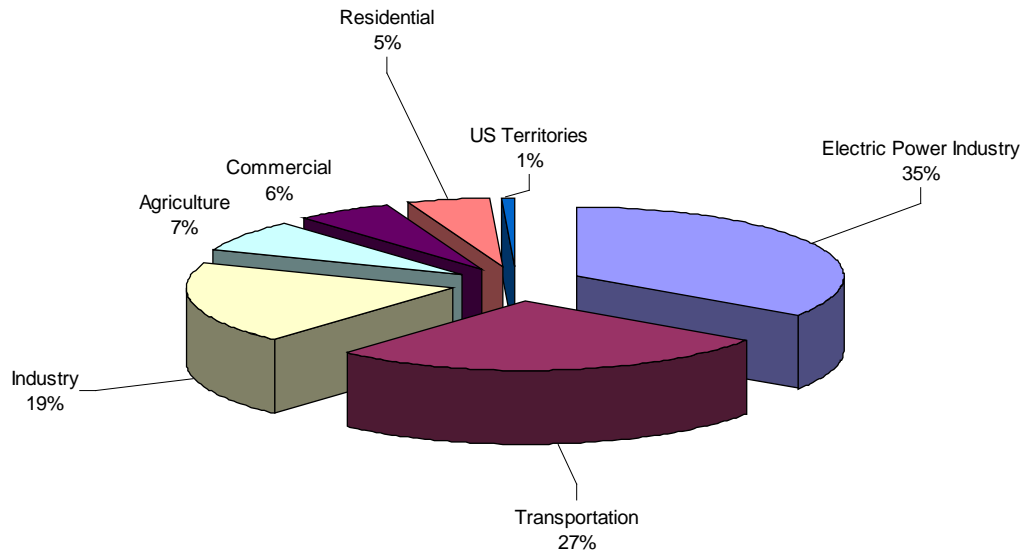
Principles for Protecting Low- and Moderate- Income Consumers from the Costs of Climate Change Policy and for Re-building Their Communities

- The design of any climate change mitigation policy that raises the costs of energy and other essential goods must be fair.
- The implementation of programs, policies and investments to mitigate the harm must be adequate in size, distributed in a manner proportionate to the cost impacts, and be made available to low and moderate income families in a timely and efficient manner.
- The governance of climate change regulation and policy must be fair and responsive to emerging conditions.

The Fair Climate Change Principles are available at www.nclc.org.

US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector for 2008

Source: US EPA Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2008, Table ES-7



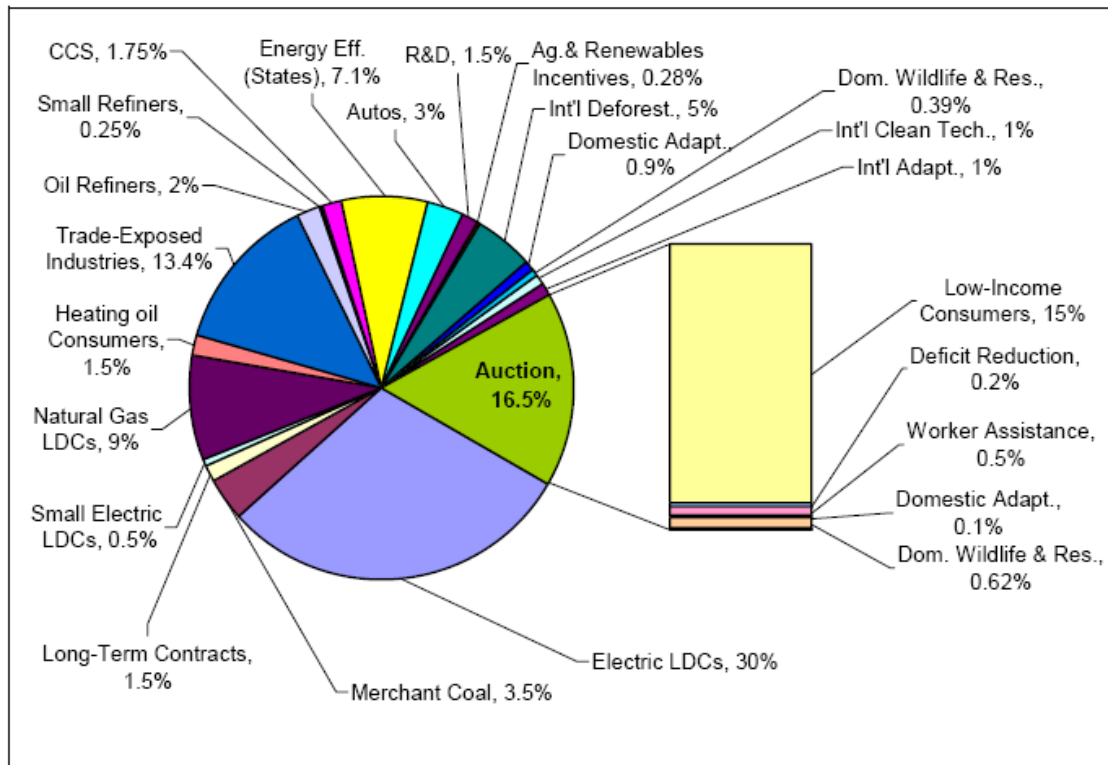
Recent Developments

- The ongoing drilling disaster in the Gulf of Mexico
- Kerry-Lieberman (no Graham) bill
- Cantwell-Collins, cap and dividend bipartisan bill
- Senator Luger's Practical Energy and Climate Plan, S.3464 has drawn Republican co-sponsors (Senators Lindsey Graham and Lisa Murkowski)
 - No caps on emissions
 - Promotion of nuclear power
 - Renewable (15% - 50% of electricity from renewable; ramps up b/n 2015 – 2050)
 - Vehicle fuel efficiency standards
 - Building and appliance efficiency
- Senator Murkowski's attempted resolution disapproving of EPA's regulation of GHGs under the Clean Air Act.
- The American Clean Energy and Leadership Act of 2009 (ACELA), which passed out of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year.

CRS Graphic on EA Allocations from, *Climate Change: Costs and Benefits of the Cap-and-Trade Provisions of H.R. 2454* (September 14, 2009), page 6.

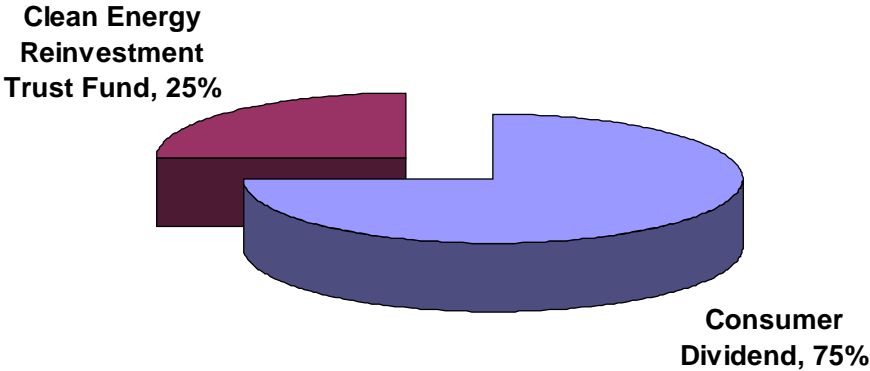
Climate Change: Costs and Benefits of the Cap-and-Trade Provisions of H.R. 2454

Figure I. Simplified Emission Allowance Distribution—2016



Source: Prepared by CRS

Cantwell-Collins



For more information:

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