



The Civilian Climate Corps is a Reality



- **The necessary funding is available.** A CCC can be accomplished with funding included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
- **Millions of young Americans want to work.** They want opportunities to serve and to prepare for meaningful careers with family-sustaining wages and upward mobility. Many of these opportunities would come with employers who have existing partnerships with unions.
- **The infrastructure exists.** The existing network of Service and Conservation Corps can be scaled to serve thousands of additional young adults and support underserved communities.

The Vision: On January 27, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008 calling to, within existing appropriations, create a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) to [prepare and] mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers...to conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience...and address the changing climate.

The Funding: The House-passed Build Back Better Act included \$20 billion for CCC participants (\$15 billion for AmeriCorps and \$5 billion for DOL), as well as \$10 billion for CCC projects (for federal land and water management agencies). Because the Senate could not pass a budget reconciliation package with any funding for social services, the \$20 billion for CCC participants was stripped from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). However, the \$10 billion for CCC projects was included. In fact, between the IRA and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and across multiple federal departments and agencies, there is more than \$20 billion for climate resilience, conservation, and green infrastructure projects. A fraction of this funding could be designated to establish and support a Civilian Climate Corps.

	IIJA	IRA	Program/Purpose
DOE	\$3.5 b	\$200 m	Energy Efficiency Training and Weatherization Assistance Program
DOI	\$2.5 b	\$1.2 b	Land and Water Conservation, Ecosystem Restoration, and Wildfire Management (including set-asides for Tribal programs)
DOT	\$1 b	\$1.9 b	Alternative Transportation, Invasive Species Removal, Culvert Restoration, and Neighborhood Access Grants
EPA	\$2.7 b	\$2.8 b	Brownfields Program and Environmental Justice Block Grants
NOAA		\$2.6 b	Coastal and Marine Management
USFS	\$1.5 b	\$1.8 b	Wildfire Management, Healthy Forests, and Trail Remediation

The Infrastructure: There is a network of more than 150 Service and Conservation Corps operating in communities across the country, including many low-income and environmental justice communities. These Corps, which are the legacy of the original CCC of the 1930s, collectively engage more than 22,000 young adults (ages 16-30) and recent veterans (up to age 35) annually. Corpsmembers represent diverse backgrounds: approximately 45% identify as female, more than 40% identify as persons of color, and nearly 50% come from low-income families.

Corpsmembers complete much-needed climate resilience, conservation, and green infrastructure projects on public lands and in communities. In return for their service, Corpsmembers obtain workforce development and hands-on work experience, earn a living allowance/stipend/wage, and often receive an AmeriCorps Education Award. Current Corpsmembers could be designated as Civilian Climate Corps members. Funding included in the IJA and the IRA could be utilized to grow existing Corps to engage thousands of additional Corpsmembers, and to establish new Corps in underserved communities.

The Benefits:

A Civilian Climate Corps would help our country...

- **Develop a globally competitive workforce** trained in skills for emerging careers in renewable energy, green building, environmental restoration, and other climate resilience fields.
- **Address environmental injustice** by engaging young people from historically under-resourced communities in completing projects focused on infrastructure improvement and pollution mitigation.
- **Become more resilient** by engaging people in helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of climate change.
- **Transition to a cleaner, more sustainable economy** by helping develop the industry around climate resilience work.
- **Stimulate the economy** by creating good jobs, particularly in low-income communities that have experienced disinvestment.
- **Provide purpose to our young people.** Rates of depression and anxiety have increased dramatically in teens and young adults in recent years, driven by the isolation caused by the pandemic. An alarming number of young people report feeling overwhelmed and hopeless about the future. A CCC can give youth an outlet to test their abilities, see their value, and make a tangible impact in the fight against climate change.
- **Bridge divides** by creating a space for those of different lived experiences, cultures, religions, and political beliefs to unite for a common goal.

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1275 K Street, NW - Suite 1050 Washington, DC 20005 | corpsnetwork.org
Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President & CEO, msprenkel@corpsnetwork.org, 202-737-6272 x 108