



Advisory Question on the Carbon Fee

The following advisory question appears on the ballots of Niles Township voters for the consolidated general election on April 6, 2021:

“Shall the U.S. Congress pass legislation to place a carbon fee on fossil fuel producers, where the collected revenue is given equitably to American households, incentivizing businesses and consumers to reduce climate disrupting emissions, transition to clean energy, and protect our economic well-being?”

An advisory question is a type of ballot measure in which citizens vote on a non-binding question. The difference between an advisory vote and any other type of ballot measure is that the outcome of the ballot question will not result in a new, changed, or rejected law or constitutional amendment. Rather, the advisory question symbolically makes heard the general opinion of voters with regard to the issue at hand. ([Ballotpedia](#))

Learn more about carbon fee legislation with these resources.

Past Proposed Legislation and Analysis

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R.763, 116th Congress. (2019).

- Bill: <https://bit.ly/3eJ6Rf5>
- Analysis from the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs: <https://bit.ly/2P09gHq>

America's Clean Future Fund Act, S.4484, 116th Congress. (2020).

- Bill: <https://bit.ly/3lIW6AF>
- Note: A revised version of this bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) on March 10, 2021. The revised bill is “S.685 - A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a carbon fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.” <https://bit.ly/3vEyMmv>





Further Reading

“Carbon Tax” by Julia Kagan for *Investopedia*

<https://bit.ly/3qSjvuR>

This finance and economics website provides an overview of a carbon tax, including this definition: “A carbon tax is paid by businesses and industries that produce carbon dioxide through their operations. The tax is designed to reduce the output of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide, a colorless and odorless incombustible gas, into the atmosphere. The tax is imposed with the goal of environmental protection.”

The Citizens’ Climate Lobby

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

This grassroots nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization is a prominent proponent of carbon fee and dividend legislation, and has information on their website about climate change legislation, as well as their group's work. They administer a site with more information on the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (<https://energyinnovationact.org/>).

The Climate Leadership Council

<https://clcouncil.org/>

This policy institute includes an international roster of business and environmental leaders and thinkers with a mission to “promote a carbon dividends framework.” They have a variety of resources, research, and reports available on their website.

“Wall Street watchdog calls for carbon pricing, better prep for climate change” by Rebecca Beitsch for *The Hill*

<https://bit.ly/3cDJ11E>

This 2020 news article covers a report from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission that calls for a carbon fee.

