

we can harness it to build a climate-smart economy of the future. Moving toward a climate-smart economy will improve the air we breathe, the soil we farm, and the water we drink. In doing so, we can create jobs and opportunity for millions of Americans by building the climate solutions the world needs.

The President has been focused on this challenge since his first inaugural address, when he committed this Nation to combating climate change and protecting the planet for future generations, and tremendous progress has been made. The United States has led by example, with historic investments in growing industries like wind, solar, and biofuels, creating a new and steady stream of middle-class jobs. We have set the first-ever nationwide standards to limit the amount of carbon pollution power plants can dump into the air. America is on track to double the distance cars can go on a gallon of gas. We are also making investments in communities smarter—to avoid future risks of flooding and sea level rise by establishing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. From Alaska to the Gulf Coast to the Great Plains, the Administration has partnered with local leaders who are working to help their communities protect themselves from some of the most immediate impacts of a changing climate.

The recent global climate agreement of 195 countries reached in Paris is a tribute to this U.S. leadership. The Paris Agreement is ambitious, with every nation committing to putting forward successive, ambitious, nationally determined climate targets in five-year intervals. It establishes strong and binding transparency requirements, including periodic reviews and independent assessments, to help hold every country accountable for meeting its commitments.

As we have made significant progress addressing climate change, the economy has continued to grow, evidence against the tired claims that we must choose between these critically important priorities. Economic output has reached all-time highs while carbon pollution has dropped to its lowest level in nearly two decades.

Yet we must do more domestically and internationally. Building on the historic Paris Agreement, the Budget makes critical investments in creating a climate-smart economy, one that lays the foundation to transform the Nation's transportation system, grows American leadership in clean energy, accelerates clean water innovation, helps communities prepare for the effects of climate change and become more resilient, protects the Nation's most treasured natural resources, and demonstrates America's global leadership in helping other countries reduce their carbon emissions and accelerate their transition to low-carbon economic growth.

21st Century Clean Transportation Plan

The Nation's transportation system was built around President Eisenhower's vision of interstate highways connecting 20th Century America. That vision enabled economic expansion and prosperity, fostered a new era for automobiles, and supported the growth of the Nation's metropolitan areas. Unfortunately, today the remains of that system—the crumbling highways, bridges, and passenger rail system—are not ready to meet the challenges of a growing 21st Century economy. Due to underinvestment, American infrastructure that was once the envy of the world is now ranked 19th behind countries such as Poland, Hungary, and Spain.

As we look to the future, we must invest in a new, sustainable transportation system that speeds goods to market, expands Americans' transportation options, builds resilient and connected communities, and integrates new technologies like autonomous vehicles into our infrastructure system. Furthermore, to address the challenges of the 21st Century, the Nation needs a transportation system that reduces reliance on oil, cuts carbon pollution, and strengthens our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

There have been important infrastructure investments to advance these priorities. Through the Recovery Act, the Administration invested over \$48 billion for transportation, spurring more than 14,600 needed highway, transit,