



Institute for  
**Policy Integrity**

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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## **NEW GUIDANCE IMPROVES CLIMATE CONSIDERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS**

*Updated National Environmental Policy Act guidance will finally ensure that climate impacts are carefully assessed when federal agencies review actions and projects*

Today, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) [released](#) new guidance on how federal agencies should assess climate impacts when reviewing new actions or projects. This interim guidance on the consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in reviews conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will modernize the federal environmental review process and better ensure that agencies assess climate effects more comprehensively, including by using the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gas metrics to quantify and monetize climate impacts. The Institute for Policy Integrity has long advocated for such updates, and several of our publications are cited in the new guidance.

**Max Sarinsky, Senior Attorney at the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law, issued the following statement:**

*“Today’s guidance will help ensure that federal agencies meaningfully account for climate-change impacts in environmental reviews. Agencies have all too often disregarded or minimized climate impacts, particularly when evaluating fossil-fuel infrastructure and extraction projects that could severely exacerbate the climate crisis. This new guidance advises agencies not only to quantify and monetize all reasonably foreseeable greenhouse gas emissions in their environmental reviews, but also to consider avenues to mitigate those emissions. The guidance also calls for more robust consideration of environmental-justice concerns and improved analysis of how climate change will affect proposed actions and the surrounding local environment, using up-to-date scientific projections. This guidance will allow policymakers to better understand their potential actions and make decisions that benefit the public.”*

Sarinsky and others who work on this issue are available for interviews on this topic.

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