

*** The ***

ESCAPE Plan

How to help your company **LEAVE**
the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
and **LEAD** on climate

If you're reading this, we're hoping you're an employee interested in getting your company to lead on climate policy. How? By helping them escape the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This powerful trade association has spent years — and millions of dollars — lobbying against climate progress. **These actions obstruct climate policy and undermine your company's reputation as a climate leader.**

When employees speak, companies listen. Raise your voice to help your company **Leave the Chamber of Commerce and Lead on Climate Policy!**

THE ESCAPE PLAN STARTS HERE

The first step is figuring out if your company is a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Because the Chamber does not disclose its membership this might take some sleuthing. Many corporations list trade association memberships in sustainability reports, policy documents, or on the company website under government affairs.

If you can't find this information the next step is to ask someone who works on the U.S. government affairs or sustainability team. Companies pay annual dues to be a member of the Chamber so you are trying to figure out who "owns" that relationship.

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO? YOUR COMPANY'S DECISION MAKERS

While different companies are organized differently, senior leaders in government affairs or finance typically work with trade associations on policy matters. Once you identify the right executives at your company you can "influence the influencers" by taking the actions below. The following roles are a place to start.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

GENERAL COUNSEL

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

PUBLIC POLICY LEADER

CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER (CSO)

TAKE ACTION NOW: INFLUENCE THE INFLUENCERS

01. RAISE YOUR VOICE

- **Sign the petition** urging member companies to **Leave** the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and **Lead** on Climate Policy.
- **Share** the petition with your teammates and colleagues.. The more employees who sign on, the more seriously leadership will take this request.

02. GET ORGANIZED

- **Recruit** friends and colleagues to join the Escape the Chamber campaign, or become a mentor to others to keep the pressure on. Make this issue and your company's opportunity to lead a topic of water cooler conversation
- **Become** an active and visible contributor to the Escape the Chamber campaign inside your company and within any relevant communities like green teams or corporate sustainability groups. Your help is crucial in building a larger movement.

03. SPREAD THE WORD

- **Share** this campaign broadly on internal channels like Yammer to keep up consistent employee chatter. Keep posting, keep emailing. Repetition is key.
- **Raise** questions like: “Why are we undermining all of our amazing climate commitments by being a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce?” Ask this at a small team meeting or a large town hall. The goal is to get leaders to pay attention.
- **Express** your desire to see your company live up to their values on climate. Email your team, your boss, or any executives who are responsible for sustainability or public policy. Here’s some food for thought to get started and feel free to customize this email with details about your role and why climate policy matters to you

SAMPLE EMAIL ↕

[Executive X],

I’m reaching out because I’m increasingly concerned about the climate crisis and disheartened by [insert company name]’s membership in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is actively opposing climate policy at a time when we are all living through climate-fueled catastrophes that are more frequent, and more severe. They lobbied against the Inflation Reduction Act, fought against EPA power plant regulations, and backed the Willow oil drilling project. When we are silent and don’t speak out to counter the Chamber’s influence, we are complicit in this obstruction.

I’m very proud that our company supports ambitious climate action and has made significant investments in sustainability. That’s why I’m asking [insert company name] to leave the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and be a stronger and more vocal advocate for climate policy progress.

Sincerely,

[Your name]



04. STAY IN THE KNOW

- **Sign up for ClimateVoice’s newsletter.** Monthly, we’ll hit your inbox with the most important happenings in climate policy and how you can personally make a difference.
- **Follow** ClimateVoice on social: [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), you know the drill. We’ll keep you posted on day-to-day climate policy debates and employee activations.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: THE DIRTY DETAILS

“The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is still the No.1 political obstruction in the path of climate progress.”

**BILL WEIHL, ClimateVoice Founder & Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
(The Hill)**

The Chamber is one of the largest trade associations in the United States. Its members include corporations like Exxon,² Shell, ConocoPhillips, and Chevron.³ It also has a long history of being anti-climate, spending millions lobbying against climate policy progress.

Most recently, the Chamber worked to block the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, which committed \$369 billion in clean energy and policies to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2030. Delivering on the commitments in the Inflation Reduction Act is our best shot at avoiding the worst impacts of climate change.

CHAMBER V. CLIMATE

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has kept up a steady pattern of climate obstruction over the past year.

Lobbied against historic \$369 billion IRA climate bill

AUGUST

Backed controversial permitting reform

DECEMBER

Fought against tough EPA power plant rules

MAY

2022

NOVEMBER

Opposed EPA methane standards

MARCH

Praised polluting Willow Project

2023

THE PLAN BEHIND THE PLAN: LEAVE AND LEAD STRATEGY

To be a climate leader, companies must stop supporting the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's obstruction. It's time for pro-climate companies to LEAVE the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and LEAD by lobbying for bold climate policies at the federal, state and local levels, aligning political contributions with climate leadership and leading pro-climate coalitions in advocating strongly for pro-climate policies. It's time to ESCAPE THE CHAMBER.



LEAVE MEANS >>

- Your company getting the heck out of there! PUBLICLY. With a statement and commitments to make change. Plus, in that statement, inviting other companies to Escape the Chamber along with them and do the right thing for the climate (and you know, the world as we know it).

LEAD MEANS >>

- Your company acknowledges there is a better, more positive path as a pro-climate company.
- Your company distances itself from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's positions and statements that do not align with strong climate action and leadership.
- Your company consistently and forcefully lobbies for bold climate policies at the federal, state and local levels.
- Your company aligns political contributions with climate leadership and action. Better yet, redistributing those funds to pro-climate campaigns, or creating pro-climate campaigns sponsored by your company.
- Your company leads pro-climate coalitions to advocate strongly for pro-climate policies.

Thank you for raising your voice for strong climate policy action and a more sustainable future.

Questions? contact

INFO@CLIMATEVOICE.ORG

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SOURCES

- ¹ POLITICO (2021, December 15). [Chamber launches ads targeting Manchin, hoping to kill Build Back Better.](#)
Inside Climate News (2021, June 29). [The US Chamber of Commerce Has Helped Downplay the Climate Threat, a New Report Concludes.](#)
- ² ExxonMobil. [Trade associations, think tanks, and coalitions.](#)
- ³ U.S. Chamber of Commerce. [U.S. Chamber Board of Directors.](#)

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