



The Inflation Reduction Act, Our Health and the Climate Initiative

One in five people in the United States is over the age of 60, including one million in Arizona. Many of these seniors are supported by family, friends, and neighbors who provide daily or intermittent care for older people and persons living with disabilities.

Older adults are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts caused by climate change. They often have health conditions that are exacerbated by heat and air pollution which climate conditions can make worse. According to the American Lung Association, Phoenix ranks among the most polluted cities in the United States for ozone and particulate pollution. In addition, older adults with limited mobility are also more at risk from extreme weather events.

In addition, one in three households in the United States struggles to pay their energy bills and one in five has to choose between paying for food or medicines or their electric bills. Low-income families spend at least 7% of their income on energy bills. Ten percent of low-income households keep their home temperature at unhealthy levels to save money.

To help alleviate the climate crisis and its health impacts, on August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law. This bill will help millions of older adults whose health is affected by extreme heat and pollution.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) expands clean and renewable energy production, reduces carbon emissions, and accelerates the decarbonization of the power sector and vehicle fleet. The law also provides significant funding to change the current transmission infrastructure that today prevents the delivery of renewable power, such as wind and solar, to urban centers.

The Inflation Reduction Act Includes:

\$100 million to the Department of Energy to Accelerate Offshore Wind Energy Production

To explore, encourage, and develop infrastructure for the transmission of electricity generated by the offshore wind across state lines and facilitate interregional transmission.

New methane waste emissions charge

A fee on methane greenhouse gas emissions to encourage its capture and productive use.

\$60 billion to address environmental justice, including:

- **\$60 million** to reduce diesel emissions from servicing “goods movement facilities” located in low-income and disadvantaged communities;
- **\$32.5 million** to support the Council on Environmental Quality's efforts to, among other things, gather data to track the disproportionate effects of climate change on disadvantaged communities;
- Nearly **\$2 billion** in neighborhood access and equity grants to improve walkability, safety, and affordable transportation;
- **\$3 billion** in climate justice block grants to reduce pollution;
- **\$27 billion** investment in the Clean Energy Technology Accelerator; and
- **\$3 billion** to support the purchase and installation of zero emissions port equipment to reduce diesel emissions and improve public health

\$9 billion expansion of existing home energy efficiency tax credits and rebates

To encourage the purchase of heat pump space heaters, induction cooktops, and heat pump water heaters.

\$25 billion for conservation and environmental stewardship

To invest in the conservation and stewardship of forests, climate-smart agriculture, and coastal restoration projects.

Rebates for purchase of new and used clean energy vehicles

Provides rebates of up to \$7,500 for new clean energy vehicles, up to \$4,000 for used clean energy vehicles.

The law also provides clean energy tax credits for new and used electric and fuel vehicles and investments in cleaner transit, buses, and trucks.