Climate Change – South Carolina is on the Frontline

We need a 100% clean economy and that starts right here in South Carolina.

Climate change is not a distant threat. It's impacting our economy, our health and our environment. Some cities, such as Columbia, are experiencing two more weeks per year of days above 95 degrees than in the 1980s. Coastal flood days in Charleston have quadrupled since the 1950s. Hurricanes are stronger now than they were in the 1970s and 80s. And all of this has already cost lives as well as billions of dollars.

If we don't act, things will get much worse. By the end of the century, sea level rise is projected to increase up to seven feet, which would put areas home to over 275,000 of the state's residents at risk of flooding. By mid-century, 100-year floods in Charleston could be as much as nine times more likely to occur. And nearly half of the state's counties could see a 25-65% drop in crop yields by 2100.

100% Clean is 100% Achievable. If we're serious about beating climate change, we need to be fully committed to a **100% clean economy.** The U.S. must stop adding climate pollution to the atmosphere -- producing no more climate pollution than we can remove by 2050. **It's an ambitious goal. But it's achievable if we start now. There's no time to waste.**

Across the United States, we're already making progress. Wind power is almost 70% cheaper than it was a decade ago. Solar is 90% cheaper. Electricity from renewables is now cheaper than power from 75% of U.S. coal plants. Strategies to reduce emissions and sequester carbon in soil through improved crop management are gaining ground with farmers.

We're already seeing movement toward a net-zero economy in South Carolina
- More than a dozen solar projects came online in 2018, increasing the utility-scale solar generation in the state eightfold. Nearly 3,000 South Carolinians work in the solar industry.
- At least fifteen facilities in the state manufacture components for the wind industry, some of which are operated by major companies like GE Renewable Energy and PPG Industries.
- The state General Assembly took a step toward a robust clean energy marketplace by unanimously passing the Energy Freedom Act, which eliminates the rooftop solar net metering cap and allows producers to sell their power to the grid.

But the Palmetto State has only begun to tap into its vast solar potential.

As climate pollution continues to increase, we need bold action from Congress to create a 100% clean economy and help South Carolina and the country reach its potential.

Here's what you can do to help grow a 100% clean economy:
Contact your elected officials: They need to know you support a 100% clean economy.
Join EDF at edf.org/signup: We'll help you get involved
Talk to your employer: Check out Defend Our Future's guide to corporate engagement to find out how your voice can be the tipping point that helps companies raise their ambition on climate.
Hold an event: Get your friends together and spread the word. Check out this guide