The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA)

Lower costs, lower emissions

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

U.S. electricity demand is skyrocketing, but transmission is growing at only one-sixth the speed needed to deliver power. At the same time, American families and businesses are concerned about rising energy bills. The solution is to build more clean energy and get it where it's needed—faster and more affordably.

BAAJA, introduced by Sens. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Mike Lee (R-UT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM), sets enforceable permitting deadlines and modernizes transmission siting and cost allocation. This helps energy projects move from backlog to build, so they can start serving customers.

BAAJA reduces electricity costs

Affordability analyses suggest that **permitting reform can reduce costs across the power system between $125 billion and $350 billion** (as much as 7%) by reducing transmission congestion and bringing more low-cost resources onto the grid faster.

Estimates find "the combined impact of [BAAJA] would **reduce household electricity bills by $50-78 per year in 2040 compared to without BAAJA.**"

BAAJA reduces U.S. emissions

The Council estimates permitting reform could cut nationwide power sector emissions as much as 24% compared to 2025 emissions levels in 2035—a trajectory 13.5% lower than business-as-usual.

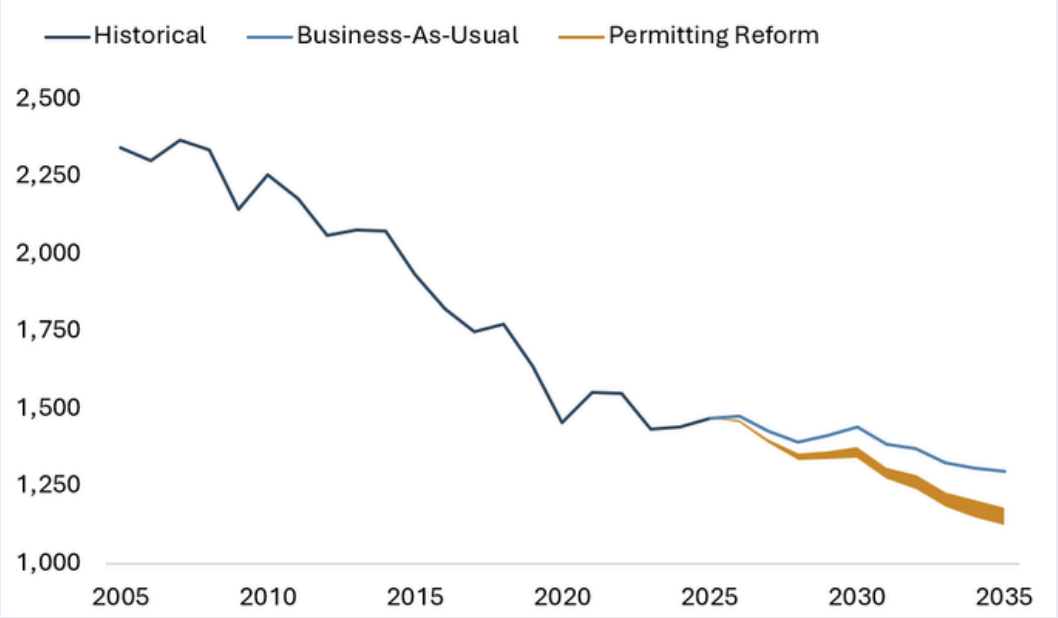
The U.S. is on track to reduce power sector emissions 45% in 2035 from the all-time peak in 2007. Permitting reform accelerates this trend, reducing emissions 53% in 2035 from 2007 levels.

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U.S. CO_2 emissions from power generation (million metric tons)



BAAJA unlocks new clean energy

The projects waiting to move forward are overwhelmingly clean: **zero-carbon generation and storage make up 86% of the interconnection queue (1,609 GW).**

In 2005, a new power project waited about 18 months to connect to the grid. Today, the wait is more than five years.

BAAJA speeds approvals across the board, for power plants, pipelines, and power lines. Faster approvals help most where the backlog is biggest: renewables and storage.

Read the full analysis.