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President Biden has already rejoined the Paris Climate Accord and taken a hard line toward the fossil fuel industry, feeling that climate change is the greatest challenge facing this country.

Long-term, Biden wants to reach zero net emissions by 2050 with a comprehensive slate of activities and regulations. He plans to incorporate them into an early infrastructure bill, using mass transit as one alternative. Nonprofits, however, are concerned with Biden’s tendency toward compromise and the impact of the pandemic on businesses, on progress toward this goal.

Although Biden is dedicated to this cause, nonprofit insiders say “big bold investments” are required to make immediate progress. During the last administration many foundations turned their focus away from federal policy toward states and to build movements instead. Mary Skelton Roberts of the Barr Foundation’s climate program hopes that foundations continue their state focus by “supporting analyses of the health impact of changes in state emissions policies and helping to ensure that the economic benefits…are equitably distributed. Strategic communications (will) really enable people to connect the dots between a clean-energy economy, good jobs, public health, and better outcomes”, she says. Foundations can play an integral role in amplifying this news and nonprofits would do well to sharpen their messages to them.

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