

Monday, October 25, 2021

Today's Paper



NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

OPINION

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

# Philadelphia can't curb the climate crisis without federal support | Opinion

President Biden has put out a plan that finally invests directly in the families and communities that need it the most.



Philadelphia Councilmember Katherine Gilmore Richardson speaks during a ceremony in honor of Dr. Oscar James Cooper in North Philadelphia on Saturday.  
TYGER WILLIAMS / Staff Photographer

by Katherine Gilmore Richardson, For The Inquirer  
Updated Oct 5, 2021

Philadelphia needs only to look at the events of the past few weeks to see the damage climate change is already causing to our neighborhoods.

In recent months, Hurricanes Ida and Isaias forced residents out of their homes in neighborhoods like Eastwick, damaged businesses and submerged some of our

Monday, October 25, 2021

Today's Paper



NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

OPINION

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

---

carbon pollution soon, we will be locked into an irreversible downward spiral of

catastrophic events that will put all of our communities at risk.

Like the devastation caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, these impacts will fall disproportionately on Black and brown families who have fewer financial resources and are more likely to live in neighborhoods more susceptible to flooding and rising temperatures, and less likely to have enough green infrastructure.

Here in Philadelphia, we have taken the lead as a model for how municipal governments can address this growing threat.

In the past few years, we have worked to invest in our storm-water infrastructure through the nationally recognized “[Green City Clean Waters](#)” initiative to reduce the burden of our aging sewer system. We have committed to increased purchases of green, renewable energy. And we have worked to create policies and programs that address our largest source of carbon emissions, the built environment.

Yet the size of the problem is so massive, we can only meet it if the federal government is willing to partner with us

Monday, October 25, 2021

Today's Paper



NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

OPINION

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

---

front and center.

Build Back Better would fundamentally restructure our economy, reducing our emissions by investing billions of dollars in clean, sustainable industries: expanding renewable energy, installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and reducing emissions from existing industries.

At the same time, it would address a number of other environmental hazards that are plaguing our city, from toxic schools that threaten the health of our children and teachers to lead water pipes.

At its heart, Build Back Better is one of the biggest investments in family-sustaining union jobs in our nation's history. It recognizes that the fight against climate change and other environmental threats is a historic opportunity to boost labor unions while powering a clean energy economy.

It would put people to work building a 21st century electric grid, installing new solar panels and wind projects while upgrading transmission lines, and building out an electric vehicle charging infrastructure to green our cars, buses, and trucks.

And it would put even more people to work addressing other environmental hazards, from replacing lead water pipes that

Monday, October 25, 2021

Today's Paper



NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

OPINION

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

---

For this agenda, the centerpiece of President Biden's first term, is currently at risk by some members of Congress who seek to delay its passage and shrink the overall amount of funds it includes, saying that wealthy individuals and multinational corporations who have benefitted from Trump tax giveaways shouldn't have to shoulder their fair share of the burden for providing critical government services.

The components of the Build Back Better plan aren't just [wildly popular with the American public](#), they are also essential for putting our economy on more sustainable footing by investing in local communities and finally addressing a long legacy of failed economic policies that have stoked multigenerational poverty in too many Black and brown neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia's own congressional representatives, Reps. Dwight Evans and Brendan Boyle, sit on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, which is charged with drafting key portions of the final bill, and will play a critical role in shaping a final legislative package.

It's time to meet this historic moment with action that will transform our nation by investing in our people to save the planet.

*Katherine Gilmore Richardson is Chair of City*

Monday, October 25, 2021

Today's Paper



NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

OPINION

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

KG

Katherine Gilmore Richardson, For The Inquirer

**About Us**

- About The Inquirer
- Advertise
- Contact Us
- Licensing & Permissions
- Photo Reprints
- Newspapers in Education
- Jobs & Internships
- Inquirer Events
- Acel Moore Workshops
- Newsroom Staff

**News & Info**

- News
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Business
- Health
- Food
- Life
- Opinion
- Archives
- Special Reports

**Marketplace**

- Subscribe
- Inquirer Store
- Job Listings
- All Classifieds
- Legal Notices
- Gift Subscriptions

**e-Editions**

- The Inquirer
- The Daily News

Monday, October 25, 2021

**Today's Paper**



NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

OPINION

POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

© 2021 The Philadelphia Inquirer, LLC

[Terms of Use](#) / [Privacy Policy](#) / [Cancellation Policy](#) / [California](#)

[Notice](#) / [California residents do not sell my data request](#)

[California residents do not sell my data request](#)

