



2009-2010 Clean Energy & Climate Action Scorecard



111th Congress

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Action Fund is the political arm of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. SACE Action Fund is a non-partisan, non-profit (c4) organization striving to make global warming solutions a top priority for our region's elected leaders to ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast.

As a legislative watchdog, SACE Action Fund works within our region's conservation community to identify and highlight important energy and climate-related legislation and votes in Congress with significant policy implications that will impact our energy choices, clean air and water, and public health. SACE Action Fund holds our federal delegation members accountable for their votes in an semi-annual Clean Energy & Climate Action Scorecard.

SACE Action Fund also educates conservation-minded citizens to encourage their involvement in the political process by providing the tools and information they need to make informed choices about clean-energy candidates at election time.

2009 - 2010 Clean Energy & Climate Action Scorecard

Our nation's continued dependence on fossil fuels as a primary energy source coupled with the real and growing threats of climate change require our elected leaders to develop policies that will support a clean energy economy, including reductions in climate pollution, higher fuel-economy standards, incentives for renewable energy production, standards for energy efficiency, and the expansion of renewable energy sources. This scorecard helps to illustrate how Congress continued its vital work from the 110th Congress to move our country to a clean energy economy through a series of energy and climate-related votes during the 111th Congress in 2009 and 2010.

How to Votes are Scored

Each vote was selected for its importance in supporting or opposing clean energy and climate policies. For each vote, a U.S. Representative or Senator had four possible actions including: **support** (represented by a ✓), **opposition** (represented by an ✕), **no recorded vote** due to an absence (represented by 'no vote') or because the vote occurred before or after a member's tenure (represented by '----').

5 Key House Votes

Energy Efficiency & Clean Energy

Vote #1:

Given the severe economic downturn that occurred in late 2008, the first order of business for the new Congress was to execute a plan to stimulate the economy that would encourage both near-term and long-term economic growth. In February 2009, the House of Representatives voted on H.R. 1 (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), which included nearly \$80 billion in clean-energy investments. This funding provided tax credits for clean energy businesses, increased resources for weatherization projects (particularly for low-income homes), support for smart-grid and efficiency upgrades in the nation's electricity grid and investments in lower-carbon transportation options like natural-gas buses and high-speed rail. On February 13, 2009, the House approved the H.R. 1 conference report by a vote of 246-183 [*House Roll Call vote #70*]. **YES** was the clean energy vote. The Senate passed the conference report on the same day and President Obama signed the bill into law on February 17, 2009.

Vote #2:

Each Federal budget represents the policy priorities of the current presidential administration and billions of dollars to be allocated to specific programs and agencies. The president's proposed budget included funding to support clean air, clean water, renewable energy and energy efficiency programs -becoming a powerful tool for promoting these national policies. On April 29, 2009, the House passed the budget as a continuing resolution (S. Con Res 13) by a vote of 233-193 [*House Roll Call vote #216*] shortly before the Senate passed the same measure to set the 2010 fiscal budget. **YES** was the clean energy vote. Although President Obama submitted his 2011 Federal budget to Congress in February 2010, Congress may not consider or vote on the measure until after the midterm elections in November 2010.

Climate Change & Clean Energy

Vote #3 & 4

Twenty years after the first congressional hearings focused on potential impacts of carbon pollution, the House of Representatives held a historic vote in the process of addressing climate change. In the spring of 2009, the House debated H.R. 2454 (the American Clean Energy and Security Act) introduced by

Representatives Waxman and Markey which would reduce global warming pollution 17% from 2005 levels by 2030 while requiring 20% of electricity to come from clean, renewable sources and energy efficiency by 2020. In addition to ACES's environmental benefits, more than 2 million clean-energy technology jobs would result from this legislation, further aiding the clean energy recovery efforts. On June 26, the House approved H.R. 2454 by a vote of 219-212 [*House Roll Call vote #477*]. **YES** was the pro-climate action and clean energy vote. Following the lead of the League of Conservation Voters, SACE Action Fund is double counting this historic vote as it was the first time either House of Congress successfully passed a bill to limit carbon pollution. At the time of publication, the Senate has not yet considered a climate bill of its own.

High-Risk Energy

Vote #5:

When the *BP Deepwater Horizon* drilling rig exploded on April 20, 2010, the resulting disaster exposed the lax state of laws and regulations that currently govern offshore drilling. Although an amendment to H.R. 3524 (Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act) included an amendment to end the federal moratorium on deepwater drilling for oil companies that could meet new safety requirements, the bill would boost safety standards for offshore drilling, remove a liability cap for oil spills and provide greater protections for workers who report violations in offshore drilling rules. On July 30, 2010, the House narrowly passed H.R. 3534 by a vote of 209-293 [*House Roll Call vote #513*]. **YES** was the clean energy vote. At the time of publication, the Senate has yet to consider a companion oil spill response bill.

5 Key Senate Votes

Energy Efficiency & Clean Energy

Vote #1:

Given the severe economic downturn that occurred in late 2008, the first order of business for the new Congress was to execute a plan to stimulate the economy that would encourage both near-term and long-term economic growth. In February 2009, the Senate took up H.R. 1 (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), which included nearly \$80 billion in clean-energy investments. This funding provided tax credits for clean energy businesses, increased resources for weatherization projects (particularly for

low-income homes), support for smart-grid and efficiency upgrades in the nation's electricity grid and investments in lower-carbon transportation options like natural-gas buses and high-speed rail. On February 13, 2009, the Senate approved the H.R. 1 conference report by a vote of 60-38 [*Senate Roll Call vote #64*]. **YES** was the clean energy vote. The House had already passed the conference report earlier that day and President Obama signed the bill into law on February 17, 2009.

Vote #2:

Each Federal budget represents the policy priorities of the current presidential administration and billions of dollars to be allocated to specific programs and agencies. The president's proposed budget included funding to support clean air, clean water, renewable energy and energy efficiency programs -becoming a powerful tool for promoting these national policies. On April 29, 2009, the Senate passed the budget as a continuing resolution (S. Con Res 13) by a vote of 53-43 [*Senate Roll Call vote #173*] shortly after the House passed the same measure to set the 2010 fiscal budget. **YES** was the clean energy vote. Although President Obama submitted his 2011 Federal budget to Congress in February 2010, Congress may not consider or vote on the measure until after the midterm elections in November 2010.

Climate Change & National Security

Vote #3:

Military and defense analysts are increasingly studying the implications that climate change will have on national security both at home and abroad. A 2008 study released by the National Intelligence Council concluded climate change will have destabilizing impacts on national governments around the world due to a confluence of multiple factors: increased poverty, more frequent water shortages, shifting populations, decreases in crop yields, expanded disease ranges and environmental degradation. In September 2009, President Obama created the Center on Climate Change and National Security, an office within the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to study and track the impacts of climate change. The next month, the Senate defeated an amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill offered by Senator Barrasso (WY) to zero out funding for this office by a vote of 38-60 [*Senate Roll Call vote #307*]. **NO** was the pro-climate action vote.

High Risk Energy

Vote #4:

For a quarter of a century, a moratorium on offshore drilling protected vast stretches of coastal ecosystems from the impacts of oil and gas exploration and development. Congress allowed the moratorium to expire at the end of 2008 but the Obama administration issued a 'time out' on proposals for new drilling until the impacts and alternatives could be studied and a new proposal could be presented. However, on September 23, 2009 Senator Vitter (LA) offered a motion during the Appropriations process that would have prevented any newly approved Interior-Environment funds from being used to delay the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. In response, Senator Feinstein (CA) introduced a motion to table this amendment, thus maintaining the Obama Administration suspension of new drilling activities, which passed by a vote of 56-42 [*Senate Roll Call vote #293*]. **YES** was the clean energy vote. In the end, it should be noted that in March 2010, President Obama offered his administration's proposal on offshore drilling, which was open up 167 million ocean acres in federal waters from Delaware to the Gulf of Mexico to oil and natural gas exploration.

Vote #5:

For 40 years, the Clean Air Act has been a cornerstone of our environmental laws, protecting human as well as ecosystem health. After the Supreme Court declared in 2007 that carbon dioxide is a pollutant like any other regulated through the CAA, the Environmental Protection Agency began various rule-making processes to rein in the pollution that is causing climate change and threatening human health. Despite clear directives from the Supreme Court, Senator Murkowski (AK) brought S.J. Res. 26 to the Senate floor on June 10, 2010 to block such actions by the EPA, putting public health at risk and jeopardizing the long-awaited reductions in carbon pollution from the biggest polluters. The Senate did not adopt this resolution as the vote was 47-53 [*Senate Roll Call vote #184*]; nevertheless, similar legislative threats, notably from Senator Rockefeller of WV, remain on the horizon and may yet be considered by this Congress. **NO** was the clean energy vote.

Florida Congressional Delegation – House

District		House Member	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Votes #3 & #4: Climate Pollution Reductions	Vote #5: High-Risk Energy & Offshore Drilling Reforms	5 key votes in 2009-2010
FL01	R	Miller	x	x	x	x	0%
FL02	D	Boyd	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL03	D	Brown	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL04	R	Crenshaw	x	x	x	x	0%
FL05	R	Brown-Waite	x	x	x	x	0%
FL06	R	Stearns	x	x	x	x	0%
FL07	R	Mica	x	x	x	x	0%
FL08	D	Grayson	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL09	R	Bilirakis	x	x	x	x	0%
FL10	R	Young	x	x	x	no vote	0%
FL11	D	Castor	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL12	R	Putnam	x	x	x	x	0%
FL13	R	Buchanan	x	x	x	x	0%
FL14	R	Mack	x	x	x	x	0%
FL15	R	Posey	x	x	x	x	0%
FL16	D	Rooney	x	x	x	x	0%
FL17	D	Meek	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL18	R	Ros-Lehtinen	x	x	x	x	0%
FL19	D	Wexler	✓	✓	✓	---	100% ¹
FL19	D	Deutch	---	---	---	✓	100% ²
FL20	D	Wass.-Schultz	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL21	R	Diaz-Balart, L	x	x	x	x	0%
FL22	D	Klein	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL23	D	Hastings	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

¹ Congressman Wexler resigned in January of 2010. For Wexler and others who did not fill an entire term, the score is based on the 4 votes cast x 20%.

² Congressman Ted Deutch was elected to the House in a special election on April 13, 2010 and was sworn in two days later on April 15, 2010.

FL24	D	Kosmas	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL25	R	Diaz-Balart, M	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%

Florida Congressional Delegation – Senate

State		Senator	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3: Climate Change & National Security	Vote #4: Offshore Drilling	Vote #5: Clean Air Act Protections	5 key votes in 2009-2010
FL	R	Martinez	✗	✗	---	---	---	0%
FL	R	LeMieux ³	---	---	✗	✗	✗	0%
FL	D	Nelson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

³ Senator LeMieux was sworn in on September 10, 2009 following the resignation of Senator Martinez on September 9, 2009.

Georgia Congressional Delegation

District		House Member	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3 & #4: Climate Pollution Reductions	Vote #5: High-Risk Energy & Offshore Drilling Reforms	5 key votes in 2009-2010
GA01	R	Kingston	x	x	x	x	0%
GA02	D	Bishop	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
GA03	R	Westmoreland	x	x	x	x	0%
GA04	D	Johnson	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
GA05	D	Lewis	✓	no vote	✓	✓	80%
GA06	R	Price	x	x	x	x	0%
GA07	R	Linder	x	x	x	no vote	0%
GA08	D	Marshall	✓	x	x	x	20%
GA09	R	Deal	x	x	x	---	0% ⁴
GA09	R	Graves	---	---	---	x	0% ⁵
GA10	R	Broun	x	x	x	x	0%
GA11	R	Gingrey	x	x	x	x	0%
GA12	D	Barrow	✓	x	x	✓	20%
GA13	D	Scott	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3: Climate Change & National Security	Vote #4: Offshore Drilling	Vote #5: Clean Air Act Protections	5 key votes in 2009-2010
GA	R	Chambliss	x	x	x	x	x	0%
GA	R	Isakson	x	x	x	x	x	0%

⁴ Congressman Deal announced his resignation from Congress to run for Governor of Georgia on March 1, 2010.

⁵ Congressman Tom Graves was elected to the House in a special election on June 8, 2010 and was sworn in the next week on June 14, 2010.

North Carolina Congressional Delegation

District		House Member	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3 & #4: Climate Pollution Reductions	Vote #5: High-Risk Energy & Offshore Drilling Reforms	5 key votes in 2009-2010
NC01	D	Butterfield	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
NC02	D	Etheridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
NC03	R	Jones	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
NC04	D	Price	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
NC05	R	Foxx	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
NC06	R	Coble	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
NC07	D	McIntyre	✓	✗	✗	✓	40%
NC08	D	Kissell	✓	✓	✗	✓	60%
NC09	R	Myrick	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
NC10	R	McHenry	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
NC11	D	Shuler	✗	✓	✓	✓	80%
NC12	D	Watt	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
NC13	D	Miller	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3: Climate Change & National Security	Vote #4: Offshore Drilling	Vote #5: Clean Air Act Protections	5 key votes in 2009-2010
NC	R	Burr	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
NC	D	Hagan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

South Carolina Congressional Delegation

District		House Member	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3 & #4: Climate Pollution Reductions	Vote #5: High-Risk Energy & Offshore Drilling Reforms	5 key votes in 2009-2010
SC01	R	Brown	x	x	x	no vote	0%
SC02	R	Wilson	x	x	x	x	0%
SC03	R	Barrett	x	x	x	no vote	0%
SC04	R	Inglis	x	x	x	x	0%
SC05	D	Spratt	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
SC06	D	Clyburn	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3: Climate Change & National Security	Vote #4: Offshore Drilling	Vote #5: Clean Air Act Protections	5 key votes in 2009-2010
SC	R	Graham	x	x	x	x	x	0%
SC	R	DeMint	x	x	x	x	x	0%

Tennessee Congressional Delegation

District		House Member	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3 & #4: Climate Pollution Reductions	Vote #5: High-Risk Energy & Offshore Drilling Reforms	5 key votes in 2009-2010
TN01	R	Roe	x	x	x	x	0%
TN02	R	Duncan	x	x	x	x	0%
TN03	R	Wamp	x	x	x	no vote	0%
TN04	D	Davis	✓	✓	x	x	40%
TN05	D	Cooper	✓	✓	✓	x	80%
TN06	D	Gordon	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
TN07	R	Blackburn	x	x	x	x	0%
TN08	D	Tanner	✓	✓	x	x	40%
TN09	D	Cohen	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Clean Energy & Energy Efficient Recovery	Vote #2 Clean Energy Budget Priorities	Vote #3: Climate Change & National Security	Vote #4: Offshore Drilling	Vote #5: Clean Air Act Protections	5 key votes in 2009-2010
TN	R	Alexander	x	x	x	x	x	0%
TN	R	Corker	x	x	x	x	x	0%