

2022 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

WHAT'S AT STAKE: CLIMATE

February 26, 2022



A CRITICAL TIME FOR CLIMATE

2021 to 2030 is a decisive decade in human history. During this short window of time, the world needs to keep global emissions below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Global surface temperature is already about 1.09°C above pre-industrial levels, and without ambitious action, we will likely overshoot the 1.5°C threshold.

What does this mean for Filipinos? The Philippines is already among the countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis. But what we are experiencing right now will only get worse as global temperatures continue to rise. Globally, more warming will bring more frequent and more intense hot extremes, marine heatwaves, droughts in some regions, heavy rains, flooding events, intense tropical cyclones and worsening climate impact-drivers such as melting ice and snow, rising sea-levels, changing ocean circulation as well as acidifying, warming and deoxygenation of oceans.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

But that's not all. In a warming world of weather extremes, the climate is not the only thing at stake. The climate crisis is already impacting ecosystems, biodiversity, and agriculture, and our oceans. The crisis is not just about climate: it's about food security, access to water, people's health, lives, and livelihoods.

It is also about justice--the poorest Filipinos who are already in the margins will suffer the most. Alongside all this, the climate crisis will impact government efforts on poverty alleviation and economic development at a time when the country is also wanting to recover from the impacts of the COVID pandemic.

HOW SHOULD THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

The next administration will be steering the country's direction in six of the eight years leading up to 2030. To be effective, the new administration must face the climate crisis squarely. It must be ready with concrete plans that will not only ensure that communities can cope and adapt, but will also call for accountability from developed nations and corporations most responsible for the crisis, even as we pursue mitigation to rapidly transition away from fossil fuels domestically.

As the candidates are planning their agenda for the next six years of presidency, they must remember that all their plans will happen against a backdrop of worsening climate impacts. They also need to plan ahead of the six years and ensure that they create the foundations for a meaningful and transformative agenda that will lay down a robust climate action plan for the country for the coming decades.

CLIMATE JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ACTION AS THE GOVERNMENT'S CENTRAL AGENDA

With the urgency and enormity of the climate crisis and its impacts on the Filipino people, middle of the road approaches won't do. The climate agenda is not an add-on or a "nice to have" component in the economic recovery plans, or in public health and poverty reduction agendas. These issues are connected--and the climate crisis is an underlying factor that will derail any expected successes of these programs. The next president needs to have guts and vision to put communities' and people's welfare before corporate interests, confront big polluters, and speed up the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

WHAT SHOULD THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION'S CLIMATE AGENDA LOOK LIKE?

- Climate action and climate justice must be mainstreamed across all local and national government policies and programs (for example in city planning, infrastructure projects, permits for large-scale industrial activities, and fisheries and agricultural policies, among others)
- Plans for economic recovery from the impacts of the pandemic must build in climate action (i.e. a green and just recovery plan)
- Coherent strategies beyond disaster response must be put in place, and these should also address long term vulnerabilities, not just disasters
- A rapid and just transition to a low-carbon pathway must be instituted through a massive uptake of renewable energy solutions
- The call for climate justice must be central to our foreign policy
- Businesses must be made to align with the 1.5 commitment in the Paris Agreement, and must be mandated to bring their operations in line with the science to address the human rights impacts of climate change
- Full implementation and strengthening of the country's environmental policies must also be prioritized because ensuring a healthy environment is one of the best ways to mitigate climate impacts on communities

COP27 AND WHY 2022 IS AN IMPORTANT YEAR FOR THE CLIMATE

The next president needs to hit the ground running on the climate crisis because 2022 is an important year for the climate.

Last August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report: The Physical Science Basis (IPCC AR6 WG1). Three more reports are expected to be released in 2022. The IPCC publishes comprehensive scientific assessment reports every 6 to 7 years, since 1990. The latest, the Fifth Assessment Report, was published in 2013-2014 and provided the main scientific input to the Paris Agreement. The current one, finalized in 2021-2022, will provide the main scientific input to the global stocktake process under the Paris Agreement (2022-2023) that should lead to new climate commitments by countries, in line with the Paris Agreement 1.5°C temperature limit. The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) will consist of four parts: three working group (WG) reports and a Synthesis report:

- WG1 report: Physical Science Basis, released 9 August 2021
- WG2 report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, expected release 28 February 2022
- WG3 report: Mitigation of Climate Change, expected release 28 March 2022
- Synthesis Report, expected release September 2022



Photo by Jilson Tiu/Greenpeace

Several international meetings--on biodiversity, forestry, desertification, cities, disaster response, and oceans--are happening within the year, each taking a stocktake on these issues with a climate lens. And from 7 to 18 November, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) will be held in Egypt.

COP26 ended with the 1.5C commitment hanging by a thread. Glasgow was meant to deliver on firmly closing the gap to 1.5C and that didn't happen, but in 2022 nations will now have to come back with stronger targets. COP26 saw progress on adaptation, with the developed countries finally beginning to respond to the calls of developing countries for funding and resources to cope with rising temperatures. There was a recognition that vulnerable countries are suffering real loss and damage from the climate crisis now, but what was promised was nothing close to what's needed on the ground. This issue must be at the top of the agenda in COP27 this November. While the meeting was also the first to state clearly the need to phase out coal and fossil fuel subsidies, the language has been weakened. The call for emissions reductions of 45% by the end of this decade is in line with what we need to do to stay under 1.5C but it needs to be implemented.

Many are looking at COP27 to deliver crucial agreements on the climate, particularly on climate finance and loss and damage. In the past, Philippine delegations have been crucial in helping consolidate a strong position among vulnerable countries, and demanding strong language on commitments from developed nations. We must do so again.



Photo by Jilson Tiu/Greenpeace

WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND?

Greenpeace is examining where each of the 10 presidential candidates stand on issues related to climate based on their track record and recent public pronouncements.

The 10 presidential candidates may have different levels of understanding about the climate crisis, but almost all of them have made pronouncements about it. We examined their track record and statements to get a sense of how they plan to act on the issue, if they become president. We focus on five areas:

1. **Climate action** - overall plans about how their administration will respond to the climate challenge
2. **Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters** - how are they planning to pursue climate justice and hold those responsible accountable
3. **RE and the energy transition** - how they see the urgency of a fossil fuel phase out
4. **Nuclear, oil and fossil gas** - whether they plan to pursue measures that will detract from a rapid transition to RE
5. **Disaster response** - what will be their approach to climate emergencies

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEMOCRACY

Election promises and dramatic statements on pressing issues are rife during campaign season. Certainly, no candidate will express that they have no intention, or have low ambition, to address the climate crisis (or other issues, for that matter). NGO Global Witness has proposed the following criteria to help people judge whether a candidate will take climate issues to heart once elected:

- **Strong support for independent democratic institutions**
- **Strong support for the rights to freedom of assembly, protest, and speech**
- **A program that explicitly supports the rights of marginalized communities, including ethnic minority and Indigenous communities**
- **Distance from extractive corporations**
- **A science and fact-based policy agenda in line with meeting the Paris Commitments**

Greenpeace believes that to protect the climate and people, we need a vibrant democracy alongside good governance. A healthy democracy is a pre-condition to a healthy environment. It is one of our best tools for advancing solutions to the urgent threats posed by climate change.

Climate and environmental protection can only be successful when we have a government that supports people's participation in all aspects of governance, protects and defends human rights, promotes transparency and information disclosure, and fights corruption.

The next president must stand for inclusive, transparent and inspired models of governance that are fully accountable to people, prioritizing and meeting our collective rights to social, economic, cultural and environmental dignity.



THE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS: WHERE THEY STAND ON CLIMATE ISSUES

ABELLA, ERNESTO

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Has not yet presented an overall plan of action on the climate crisis
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	Agrees on the need for a transition. Will support microgrids in far flung areas.
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	No stand currently expressed on this issue
Disaster response	No stand currently expressed on this issue

- *Abella hasn't yet presented or spoken about an overall plan to address the climate crisis.*
- *But in a recent interview, he said he agreed on the need for an energy transition.*
- *So far, what he has expressed in renewable energy is that he will support microgrids in far-flung areas.*
- *On the plus side, he says his government will be a "listening government" and believes in the full engagement of civil society.*

DE GUZMAN, LEODY

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Stated that climate change will be one of his priorities. His climate crisis action plan includes strengthening communities' adaptive capacity, sustainable projects, calling for reparation and damages from rich countries; called for long term solutions including an energy transition
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	Calls for reparation and damages from rich countries
RE and the energy transition	Would enact a rapid transition to RE with the closure of coal plants (in 2 years); shift to RE will be done via private partnerships; RE to bring jobs and lower electricity rates
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	Not in favor of nuclear
Disaster response	Says he will strengthen community adaptive capacity; and called for a strategic land use policy to prevent disasters

- *Currently, De Guzman has the most progressive position on climate. This doesn't come as a surprise because of his background as part of progressive civil society.*
- *He has spoken about a "climate crisis action plan" which addresses different aspects of the climate challenge*
- *He has a strong call for reparation and damages from rich countries, and is the only candidate currently very vocal about this stance*
- *His position on coal phaseout in two years is promising*
- *He is the only one among the candidates who has openly rejected nuclear energy*
- *His approach to disaster preparedness is strengthening community capacity*
- *He also has a track record of strong support for democratic institutions and processes and has stated he will prioritize the human rights defenders bill and will defend freedom of the press.*

DOMAGOSO, ISKO

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Plans to address climate crisis through massive reforestation with IP groups and LGUs
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	No stand currently expressed on this issue
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	He is open to extraction of oil in the WPS
Disaster response	Will utilize technology for disaster preparedness

- Late last year, Moreno announced that he plans to address the climate crisis through a massive reforestation effort with the help of IP groups
- As Mayor, he pushed for harnessing solar electricity in school rooftops, and for a rainwater collection system
- But currently, he has not yet expressed his stand or plans for RE and energy transition at the national level
- He says he will utilize technology for disaster preparedness
- On governance, Isko Moreno has vowed to have an inclusive government that ensures "social harmony"

GONZALES, NORBERTO

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Has not yet presented an overall plan of action on the climate crisis
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	For an energy transition, will speed it up
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	No stand currently expressed on this issue
Disaster response	No stand currently expressed on this issue

- We know very little of Gonzales's climate plans as he has only so far spoken about a commitment to speed up the transition to RE. However, he has offered no details on this.

LACSON, PING

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Will make the Philippines a “model country” in the fight against climate change; and would address climate based on science and data; espouses “carbon emissions testing” and reforestation to address climate change
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	Energy transition is part of his plan to make the Philippines a model
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	Amenable to pursuing nuclear; supports oil/gas exploration in the WPS
Disaster response	Sought a review of the DRRM act to make more climate responsive in 2010; will make country better prepared for climate risks by wiping out corruption, technology and better urban and rural planning

- Lacson's major pronouncement on climate is how he would make the Philippines a “model country” in the fight against climate change
- He says he will do this by having the country contribute to global emissions reductions targets through a transition to renewables and “alternative” sources of energy
- In 2010, he sought a review of the DRRM act to make it responsive to climate
- He will strengthen climate adaptation by wiping out corruption, the use of technology and better planning
- On the minus side, he supports nuclear energy and welcomes fossil fuel exploration in the WPS
- He supports transparency in government and his main agenda is to eliminate corruption

MANGONDATO, FAISAL

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Has not yet presented an overall plan of action on the climate crisis
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	No stand currently expressed on this issue
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	No stand currently expressed on this issue
Disaster response	No stand currently expressed on this issue

- Climate does not seem to figure in Mangondato's agenda given that he has not spoken about this issue yet in public

MARCOS, BONGBONG

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Called for integration of climate change mitigation in all aspects of governance in 2016; calls for collective action on climate change
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	Says he supports RE and the shift away from fossil fuels
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	For nuclear power; wants to revisit the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant which he says can also be used for fossil gas; proposes nuclear plants in Mindanao
Disaster response	Has expressed the need to safeguard the most vulnerable from calamities and has tweeted about the need to strengthen recovery settlements

- As a candidate, Bongbong Marcos has called for collective action on climate change (but has given no details about this), although in 2016 he supported a call for integration of climate change mitigation in all aspects of governance
- He has talked about climate justice (as an issue) in his youtube channel a few years ago, but stopped short of making any calls or recommending plans of action. He has not spoken about this as a candidate.
- He says he supports RE and the shift away from fossil fuels, but has given no details yet on how he proposes the transition
- He supports nuclear and fossil gas, and expressed that Mindanao can be the area for nuclear plants
- While he has expressed the need to safeguard the most vulnerable from calamities and has tweeted about the need to strengthen recovery settlements, he has not yet expressed this as part of a plan
- Among all the candidates, his record for the support of democratic institutions and processes is the most controversial given his family's history of dictatorship, human rights abuses and corruption cases.
- Recently he also expressed that he believes that SALN release should be voluntary and not mandatory for government officials.
- Allegations of cronyism under his father's dictatorship include reports of connections to extractive industries, which may not bode well for bold environmental and climate policies
- His approach to corruption is to "minimize" it, noting that it is a "human condition"

MONTEMAYOR, JOSE

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Called for people to plant trees and stop cutting trees
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	No stand currently expressed on this issue
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	No stand currently expressed on this issue
Disaster response	No stand currently expressed on this issue

- Like Magondato, little is known in public about Jose Montemayor's climate positions, although he seems to have authored a book on climate change
- When asked about the climate, he called on people to plant trees and to stop cutting trees

PACQUIAO, MANNY

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Will institute a “super agency” for disaster response and long term strategies to address the climate (integrating the NDRRMC with the CCC)
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	No stand currently expressed on this issue
RE and the energy transition	Says RE development is among his top 5 priorities
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	Supports nuclear and eyeing floating nuclear power plants
Disaster response	“Super agency”

- *Pacquiao has floated the idea of a “super agency” to address the climate crisis, and this will involve integrating the NDRRMC with the Climate Change Commission. If such an integration is done well, this may bode well for a start on instituting coherent climate action in government (however, other agencies also need to be on board)*
- *He has not expressed any stand on climate justice*
- *He says RE dev't is among his top priorities, but he supports nuclear and is eyeing floating nuclear power plants*
- *Stopping corruption is among his top 5 priorities, but he has not yet expressed how he would support people participation in governance*

ROBREDO, LENI

Focus areas	Candidate's stance
Climate action	Pushing for “inclusion of climate change programs in all plans of government”; will make the Philippines a center of climate related industries (e-transport and climate smart agriculture infrastructure)
Climate justice, and accountability and obligations of big polluters	Says she will put forward coherent policies
RE and the energy transition	Agrees with the need to move away from fossil fuel dependence; will institute a just framework towards green energy; pushing for the retirement of coal plants; will prioritize RE (solar, wind, geothermal), and is in favor of mini grids and rooftop solar
Nuclear, oil, and fossil gas	“Open to discussion” on nuclear; sees fossil gas as an option for transition towards carbon neutrality by 2050; will provide support for more companies to fast track the development of more oil fields
Disaster response	Will invest on relocation and resilient infrastructure

- *In a recent pronouncement, Leni Robredo said she would advocate the “inclusion of climate change programs in all plans of government”, integrating local and national government plans*
- *Still vague on climate justice, saying only that she put forward coherent policies, but has currently given no details*
- *She has spoken several times on the need to move away from fossil fuel dependence and declared that she will institute a just framework towards green energy that includes the retirement of coal plants*
- *She says her administration will prioritize RE (solar, wind, geothermal), is in favor of mini grids and rooftop solar.*
- *However, nuclear is on the table should she be elected, and she will support further fossil fuel extraction*
- *On the support for democratic institutions and processes: she is in favor of giving more space for people to participate in governance; vows she will empower communities in environmental discussions and will institute People's Councils at the local level. She also says she will bring back trust in government by stopping corruption; and she is pro-information disclosure*



Photo by Jilson Tiu/Greenpeace

SUMMARY

The climate crisis needs to be the top election agenda, and candidates need to show us that they have solid plans to address this.

1. Climate will be the defining issue of the next administration.

- The next president will serve during the decade which is the most crucial window for climate action if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change

2. Filipinos are already suffering from climate impacts and it will get worse.

- The climate crisis impacts very fundamental issues: food, water and energy security, poverty, injustice, health, and our fundamental rights to life, health, among others. It cannot go unaddressed. To secure all these and ensure Filipinos are able to live decent lives free from fear or want, means that climate needs to be the primary lens in government policy making and implementation.

3. Addressing the climate crisis entails urgent, long-term, and systemic solutions.

- The solution is not one-off actions, but bold, visionary, transformative policies that will secure the safety and well-being of Filipinos for decades to come. As mentioned earlier, the next president needs to have guts and vision to put communities' and people's welfare before corporate interests, confront big polluters, and speed up the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Above all, for such transformative policies to succeed, the next president must champion democracy: support people's participation in governance, strengthen democratic institutions, and advance and protect human rights, among others.

WHAT FILIPINO VOTERS NEED TO LOOK AT IN THEIR CANDIDATES WHEN IT COMES TO CLIMATE ISSUES

- 1. Coherent climate action:** How will climate action figure in their administrative priorities? Will climate action be at the forefront of their policy agenda? How will they ensure climate action is at the heart of the post COVID recovery plan? What is their comprehensive blueprint for addressing the climate crisis?
- 2. Fossil fuel phase-out:** Outline their plan for an energy transition: how are they going to follow through with the coal moratorium? What are their timelines: Will they be willing to commit to a complete coal phase out by 2040 or earlier? How will they ensure a just transition?
- 3. Climate justice:** What is their stand on the accountability and obligation of big polluters? The crisis we are experiencing now is due to the historical emissions of countries, and also fossil fuel companies. What actions do they have in mind to demand more financing from countries, aside from payment for loss and damages, how will they demand justice? Will they be supportive of climate litigation if we see no action from these entities?
- 4. What are their plans to protect the most climate-vulnerable sectors, such as agriculture and fisheries?** With worsening climate conditions, farmers will continue to suffer billions-worth of agricultural damage, while fisherfolk will continue to deal with harder livelihood situations. Almost all candidates expressed that they will prioritize farmers and fishers, but for most of them, climate impacts on these 2 sectors--which are expected to be very significant--remain unaddressed.

REFERENCE

Matrix of climate positions -

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IDTFXGweAIRBTdKVCxrvBWf3oXR8heIFTJsA-cpj5dU/edit#gid=1612814296>

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The information provided on the stance of presidential candidates are taken from a scan of each of the candidate's public pronouncements in news websites, as well as the candidate's own web, as of 23 February 2022. While we have made every attempt to ensure a thorough scan of public pronouncements, the information provided here is for general guidance only on matters of interest and does not purport to be comprehensive. It also does not include information that candidates may have expressed but are not recorded in public platforms.

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Greenpeace is a global, independent campaigning organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future. Greenpeace has been present in the Philippines since 2000, working to safeguard the constitutional rights of Filipinos to a balanced and healthful ecology.

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