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As President of the United State of America for 24 hours, I would attempt to enact a 4 stage plan to counteract climate change and decrease the country's carbon footprint.



Sustainability Education: A major issue in the United States is a general lack of sustainability knowledge or sustainability misinformation propagated by the media. As President I would push for the implementation of sustainability education classes that are mandatory for students at public schools (as well as an opt-in program for students at private and charter schools) and public universities (with an opt-in program for private universities). This class would explain common concepts, such as recycling, composting, and carbon footprints, and it would cover the three areas of sustainability: social, economic, and environmental. Implementing this education would allow it propagate through generations and we would soon have a population with a strong sustainability background that could make educated decisions regarding their lifestyle in respect to sustainability.

Strict Price Adjustments to Reflect the Carbon Footprint of Products: This part of my plan is a bit more difficult because it requires cooperation with industry in the United States, and potentially overseas partners. Industry is usually focused on making a monetary profit, regardless of the cost to the environment. If the price of an item reflected the negative impact on the environment, consumers could use their purchases to “vote” for the less costly products that are better for the environment. It is no secret that as consumers we don't like spending tons of money on our products, so implementing this

price change could drastically change the carbon footprint by discouraging consumers from buying products that harm the environment. If companies see less profit, they will be motivated to change their business practices to something more sustainability, which in turn will decrease the price of their product. Tax breaks will also be offered to companies that meet certain sustainability criteria and make their products more sustainable. This method also allows for more transparency for the consumer when making purchasing decisions.

More Recycling and Composting Initiatives: One major problem with recycling and composting is education, but after implementing a sustainability class for the majority of children and young adults, the problem will begin to decrease. A second problem with recycling and composting is that a lot of areas don't have access to recycling and compost facilities, making it near impossible to recycle even if people wanted to. My plan is to create a grant program to build recycling and composting plants across the United States. This initiative would also create a lot of jobs, which would also allow workers who used to work at landfills move over to the recycling/composting facilities, so there would be little to no job loss. This would also solve our problem with China no longer taking our recycling because we would have the capacity to recycle it on our own. This ties into my previous plan of making products reflect their cost to the environment because companies would have greater access to recycled materials to use for their products, making the transition to a more sustainable business plan a little easier.

Transparency: Transparency is something that I am very passionate about and as President I would hope to spread that passion throughout the government and to major companies in the United States and beyond. The citizens deserve to know what is going on in their government and what they are buying. I would make a law instituting stricter policies for companies on the information they must release to the public, as well as instituting tax breaks for those who do release all of the information consumers request. Creating transparency in the government will not be an easy task, but I would like to create a committee of representatives from multiple government departments who share similar ideas about transparency to generate monthly documents about their respective departments to share with the public about what is currently happening in their departments. My hope is that this will get the public more involved in the government proceedings and that they will use their new sustainability knowledge to help create greater changes after I leave my short one-day term as President.