

[Values to Action](#) is advocating for increased federal funding for behavioral science research that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In the [first paper](#)¹ published by the Coalition of Behavioral Science Organizations Climate Change Task Force, we documented how little research is experimentally evaluating behavioral strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions on large scales.

We had two hypotheses about why this might be true. First, it's possible the method for conducting such large-scale evaluations of strategies to reduce emission has not been explicated. So we wrote a [second paper](#)² that explicated a method for how this could be done. Second, it's possible there is no funding to select such large-scale research. So we conducted a comprehensive review of federal funding to fight climate change using behavioral science.³ Our suspicions were correct, very little federal funding is being allocated toward the use of behavioral-based strategies to reduce emission on large scales.

In light of the three papers cited above, [Values to Action](#) formed an [Action Circle](#) to induce the federal government to allocate a portion of the budgets of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Energy (DOE) toward the conduct of the behaviorally-based strategies to reduce emissions.

To accomplish that, we have identified all of the senators and congresspersons (including contact information for their corresponding Chiefs of Staff) who are on the appropriation sub-committees with jurisdiction over funding the NSF, EPA, and DOE by the federal government.

Additionally, the Action Circle drafted a [policy brief](#) that summarizes the problem and details what we think should be done. For example, we suggest that 10% of the climate change budget of the NSF, EPA, and DOE be devoted to experimental evaluations of behavioral strategies for influencing the reduction of greenhouse gases on large scales.

The next step is to get these papers and the policy brief into the hands of the relevant policy makers. To do that we're trying to reach behavioral scientists passionate using a science of human behavior to ameliorate the climate crisis by asking them to speak up on our behalf.

Our approach operationalizes advocacy for public policy in a way that comports with the best evidence about how to influence legislation. We ask that you help us reach your membership so that we can recruit people who are constituents of relevant legislators so that we can amplify the voice of behavioral science.

Would you be willing to forward a message to your members on our behalf?

We are not asking for endorsement of this effort by your organization, though we would welcome it. Rather, in light of the urgency of this issue (Congress is in the process of determining the funding of these agencies), we simply need help in reaching as many people who are concerned about climate change and are constituents of relevant legislators.

If you're willing to send a message to your members, it would entail a brief summary of the problem and a link to our website where they will find instructions on how to advocate.

Specifically, we're asking them to send a pre-scripted (but modifiable) email to relevant policy makers in their home state (we provide contact information). The pre-scripted message will contain all the relevant links to the papers cited above. With any luck, we can flood the inboxes of relevant legislators. (Note, this is one arm of our advocacy plan, another involves speaking directly to these policymakers – we have already established inroads with several).

If you're willing to help, please respond affirmatively to Dr. Anthony Biglan (President of Values to Action) by emailing him at tony@ori.org

He will send you the details of what we suggest you could send to your members.

If you're not able to assist, please tell us why by emailing Dr. Biglan. We'd like to know more about some of the barriers that stand in the way of effective advocacy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Urgently,

Dr. Anthony Biglan
President
Values to Action

1. Biglan, A., Bonner, A. C., Johannson, M., Ghai, J., Van Ryzin, M., Dubuc, T. L., Seniuk, H. A., Fiebig, J. H., & Coyne, L. W.. (2020). The state of experimental research on community interventions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – A systematic review. *Sustainability*, *12*(18), 7593. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12187593>
2. Bonner, A. C., & Biglan, A. (2021). Rebooting behavioral science to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. *Behavior and Social Issues*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42822-021-00058-y>
3. Bonner, A. C., & Biglan, A. (accepted pending revisions). The lack of federal funding for experimental evaluations of interventions to reduce emissions. *Perspectives on Behavior Science*.