CLIMATE ACTION CHECKLIST FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY PROFESSIONALS

Do you work in government relations or public policy? Good news:

YOUR JOB

IS A CLIMATE JOB

Read through this checklist and pick one or more actions to pursue. (Bonus: Work your way through all of them!)

POLICY AND REGULATION

☐ Learn your company’s policy on speaking out on behalf of climate-related policy. Does it match the company’s stated climate ambition? If not, push your leadership to take stronger positions on climate advocacy. Raise this question at team and all-staff meetings, and mobilize others to raise their concerns, as well.

☐ Encourage decision-makers to publicly support federal legislation that not only helps your company, but also helps climate action across the board.

☐ Is your company part of climate policy coalitions (such as the Ceres BICEP Network)? If so, ask about how often they engage with them to support climate policy.

☐ Work with your sustainability team and regional offices to identify local and state-level climate policies to advocate for. Take note if your state is involved with a regional climate coalition, like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) or Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI), as these coalitions can help guide and aggregate business influence.

☐ Be transparent about how your company spends its political contributions and lobbying dollars. Allocate more dollars to lobbying in support of climate policy.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

☐ Work with the marketing and communications teams to develop effective communications strategies and campaigns to publicly support climate legislation.

☐ Encourage decision-makers to publicly support federal legislation that not only helps your company, but also helps climate action across the board.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

☐ Find out whether your company belongs to any trade associations that lobby against climate-friendly policies or promote counter-productive ones. If it does, encourage your leadership to pressure the associations to take action on climate change. If they choose not to, consider leaving them and explaining why you did.

INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY

☐ Using your knowledge of policy and regulatory landscapes, help your finance team craft an internal carbon price to keep your company accountable to its climate goals.

TRAVEL

☐ Where feasible, opt for virtual gatherings instead of in-person get-togethers.

DIALOGUE AND ACTION

☐ Brainstorm action with colleagues on your team and beyond. Raise your collective concern at team and all-staff meetings.

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