

Viewpoint: Reaching net zero US agriculture emissions — As part of his infrastructure plan, Biden could ‘unleash climate-friendly food innovation’ by backing novel foods like alternative proteins, low-emission meats

By procuring novel foods like alternative proteins and low-emission meats, the Biden administration could unleash a wave of climate-friendly food innovation and production, leading to reduced agricultural emissions, while also scaling up new industries.

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While the Biden administration has boldly called for making U.S. agriculture the [first net zero emissions](#) agricultural sector in the world, it has not taken full advantage of core government capabilities to mitigate emissions. Livestock production accounts for at least [42%](#) of US agricultural emissions, with the majority of these gases released in the form of methane from cows. With federal procurement, there is significant [untapped potential](#) to increase demand for sustainable food production and shape consumption trends. The government spends a vast amount of money – about \$2 billion dollars a year, on average – purchasing animal products for [food assistance](#), school lunches, reservations, soup kitchens, food banks, and others, in addition to feeding the military.

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Federal procurement of emerging food technologies like alternative proteins, specifically plant-based or cultivated meats, and low-carbon animal products will dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of the food that the government buys and scale up these climate-mitigating industries.

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