The United States’ Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated US$990 million in federal relief money to the state of Alaska, with unconditional support for businesses and fisheries, and US$600 million for municipalities. Federal- and state-level funding in Alaska prioritizes employment and business support without green conditions or green stimulus.

Greenness of Stimulus (GSI) scores indicate countries’ net impacts on climate and the environment due to COVID-19 stimulus measures.
The executive order passed on 15 May 2020 waiving or exempting polluters across all key sectors from any regulations or requirements “which may inhibit economic recovery” is a major driver of the country’s negative GSI score.

The Paycheck Protection Program’s negative effects outweigh any environmentally beneficial ones. More than US$3.5 billion is directed to fossil fuel and carbon-intensive industries versus US$250 million slated for clean-energy industries.

A few US states (New York, California and Pennsylvania) invested in green infrastructure and energy, but this support does not apply to Alaska.

In August 2020, the Trump administration finalized its plan to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, putting the oil and gas rights to 1.6 million acres of untouched coastal plain up for auction. The refuge has been untouched for three decades and is one of the few remaining places in the world where wildlife can roam free. Many of Alaska’s Indigenous Peoples rely on the Porcupine caribou herd, whose migration through the refuge is jeopardized by the drilling plans.
In addition to federal aid programs, Alaska implemented the Alaska CARES Grant Program to fund small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and non-profit organizations that were not eligible for federal relief.\textsuperscript{xi}

Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) and a coalition of tribes remain locked in a legal dispute over the allocation of US$8 billion in federal CARES Act funding set aside for tribes and tribal organizations. On 25 September 2020, the DC Court of Appeals ruled that ANCs are not eligible for tribal funding. If the ruling stands, it could prevent Alaskan corporations from receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in much-needed federal aid.\textsuperscript{xii}

**Figure 2 shows the stimulus measures announced in the United States (both environmentally positive and negative) and the sectors into which the stimulus money will flow.**

### Figure 2: Policy measures announced in the United States, split by environmentally relevant sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY MEASURE</th>
<th>AGRICULTURE &amp; LAND USE</th>
<th>ENERGY</th>
<th>INDUSTRY</th>
<th>TRANSPORT</th>
<th>WASTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bailouts with green strings attached</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green infrastructure investments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green R&amp;D subsidies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies or tax reductions for green products</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature-based solutions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and wildlife protection programmes</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies for environmentally harmful activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentally harmful infrastructure investments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deregulation of environmental standards</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentally related bailouts without green strings</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies or tax reductions for environmentally harmful products</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The ✫ indicates policies that are expected to have an impact on the Arctic.
Although certain American states (New York, California and Pennsylvania) invested in green infrastructure and energy, federal and Alaskan state funding and measures adopted to date will not create Arctic green jobs.

- No green jobs, in the Arctic or otherwise, are expected to be created directly or indirectly by the federal or Alaska state-level funding under the stimulus measures currently in place.

- Imposing environmental conditions on industry bailouts and funding SMEs are the two measures that would create the most green jobs in the Arctic, especially with regard to funding for fisheries and the sustainable transition of the industry. Additional measures could include de-prioritizing the oil and gas sector in favour of nature conservation, nature-based solutions and tourism.

A full overview of the report’s findings, methodology and additional country profiles can be viewed online here.
Endnotes:

i The Barents Observer, “Roundup of Covid-19 response around the Arctic” (2020). https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/node/6581?fbclid=IwAR0YbhiI-KsVxPxtRw3yCVrqlP7rBvtfU8mNcqelo_2Dy3Sbf_BLYzRa-kWE

ii For more information on the definition of “Arctic” and the underlying methodology for this work, please see the Methodology.

iii The Greenness of Stimulus Index (GSI) is constructed by combining the flow of stimulus into five key sectors (agriculture and land use, energy, industry, waste and transport) with an indicator of each sector’s environmental impact; this impact captures both historical trends and specific measures taken under the country’s stimulus measures.


xi State of Alaska (2020). https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/ded/AKCARESGrant.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2RK1w1rgG5c0YrFleeqOL3woc6uFCRsMECf8cC-mSO2gPYPYnUvDyCvK


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