

Biden Tags Climate Change An "Existential Threat"

From January 31, 2023 to February 8, 2024, President Biden used the term "existential threat" 49 times to describe climate change or global warming.

- Climate change is **"the single-most existential threat to humanity we've ever faced, including nuclear weapons."** ([Whitehouse.gov, January 31, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/01/31/))
- "Let's face reality. **The climate crisis doesn't care if you're in a red or a blue state. It's an existential threat.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, February 7, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/02/07/))
- "And then, what we did was we sat down and, you know, made sure that we began to focus on the Inflation Reduction Act, which we put in, **for example, a \$369 billion investment in climate, because it is the existential threat to humanity.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, March 13, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/03/13/))
- "If we don't keep [global temperature] below 1.5 degrees Celsius over the — be — not go above that — we're going to damn our children to a circumstance **that is going to be the only truly existential threat under nu- — other than nuclear war.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, March 14, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/03/14/))
- **"Climate change is an existential threat to our nation and world."** ([Twitter, March 31, 2023](https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1639888888888888888))
- **"The single existential threat to the world is climate change.** We don't have a lot of time, and that's a fact. And even recognizing — finally, everyone is recognizing it in America." ([Whitehouse.gov, April 13, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/04/13/))
- Global warming is **"an existential threat to our nation and literally to the world."** ([Whitehouse.gov, April 21, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/04/21/))
- "America will lead the way on **meeting the existential threat of climate change** – and we're not leaving anyone behind." ([Twitter, April 23, 2023](https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1641234567890))

- "And, folks, as you all know, **climate change poses an existential threat to humanity**, to our children and our grandchildren. We owe it to them. We really owe it to them to rise to this existential challenge." ([Whitehouse.gov, April 28,2023](#))
- "The only **existential threat any of us face, and our children and grandchildren face, is climate**. If we, in fact, go above 1.5 degrees Celsius over the next period of time, it's not — you're not turning it around." ([Whitehouse.gov, May 10, 2023](#))
- "Many of our neighbors understand that **climate change is an existential threat**. And what we understand is that it's an important component of our national security." ([Whitehouse.gov, May 20, 2023](#))
- "We've addressed challenges that transcend borders, and responding to global pandemics by tackling **the existential threat of climate change**." ([Whitehouse.gov, May 25, 2023](#))
- "We are seeing proliferating global challenges, from Russia's aggression and brutality in Europe to our competition with China, and a whole hell of a lot in between — from growing instability to food insecurity to natural disasters, **all of which are being made worse by the existential threat of climate change**." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 1, 2023](#))
- "You know, we also protected the most significant breakthrough ever — ever — in dealing with the exis- — **existential threat of climate change**." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 2, 2023](#))
- "How is regulating artificial intelligence going to be any different than what has been done at the global scale, so far, **to deal with climate change, another existential threat?**" ([Whitehouse.gov, June 8, 2023](#))
- "If we don't deal with **global warming — it's the only existential threat that exists for humanity**. All of the data shows that if we don't stay

between 1.5 degrees Celsius by the year 20- — anyway, we're — we're going to be in trouble." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 9, 2023](#))

- **"Addressing the existential threat of climate change** in a real way for the first time. It is the existential threat to humanity. It is the existential threat to humanity." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 13, 2023](#))
- Global warming is **"the only truly existential threat. It's the existential threat.** If we don't meet the requirements that we're looking at, we're in real trouble." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 14, 2023](#))
- "You know, I've toured many sites across the country that clearly show **climate change is a genuine exi- — is the existential threat to humanity.** The existential threat to humanity." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 19, 2023](#))
- **"The existential threat to the United States and to humanity, not a joke, is envir- — climate change,** if we do nothing about it." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 19, 2023](#))
- Referring to the rising temperature of the Earth, Biden said, **"the only really existential threat to humanity is 1.5 degrees Celsius.** I really mean it. And I believe it; I've believed it for a long time." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 20, 2023](#))
- "Well, first of all, I think **it is the existential threat to humanity: climate change.** It's the most serious problem we face as human beings." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 22, 2023](#))
- "But, look — and let's keep fighting the existential threat that — **the only existential threat to humanity is climate change.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, June 28, 2023](#))
- Climate change is **"the existential threat to humanity.** It is the existential threat." ([Whitehouse.gov, June 29, 2023](#))

- "We understand that the challenges we face today, **from the existential threat of climate change** to building a global economy where no one gets left behind" ([Whitehouse.gov, July 12, 2023](#))
- "We're here today with the mayors of Phoenix and San Antonio and senior members of my administration **to talk about the existential threat of climate change. And it is a threat.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, July 27, 2023](#))
- "**The climate crisis – and extreme weather that comes with it – represents an existential threat to our nation.**" ([Twitter, July 28, 2023](#))
- "But there is more work ahead to combat **the existential threat of climate change.**" ([Whitehouse.gov August 8, 2023](#))
- "Then, exactly one year ago tomorrow, I signed a significant piece of clean energy legisla- — combining — **combatting the existential threat of climate change**" ([Whitehouse.gov, August 15, 2023](#))
- "Delivering — delivering on promises that have long been made to the American people to...address **the existential threat of climate crisis.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, August 16, 2023](#))
- "The Inflation Reduction Act is delivering for the American people. It's lowering costs for families, restoring fairness to the tax code, creating good-paying jobs here in America, **addressing the existential threat of the climate crisis**, and more." ([Twitter, August 20, 2023](#))
- "I signed the most significant piece of clean energy legislation—the single largest investment **combating the existential threat of climate change** anywhere in the world." ([Twitter, August 24, 2023](#))

- "Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act...we're making the most significant investment in clean energy and **combatting the existential threat of climate change** that's ever been made anywhere in the world." ([Whitehouse.gov, September 1, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/09/01/))
- "The only **existential threat humanity faces even more frightening than a — than a nuclear war is global warming** going above 1.5 degrees in the next 20 — 10 years." ([Whitehouse.gov, September 10, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/09/10/))
- "And you all, as I said earlier, have **coined the phrase 'climate anxiety' to describe what is — what is associated with that existential crisis.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, September 14, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/09/14/))
- "[From day one], my administration, the United States, has treated [climate change] **as an existential threat** from the moment we took office not only for us but for all of humanity." ([Whitehouse.gov, September 19, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/09/19/))
- "Vice President [Harris] and I have **treated the climate crisis as an existential threat** from the moment we took office." ([Twitter, September 21, 2023](https://twitter.com/VicePresident/status/1705444444444444444))
- "From day one of my Administration, we've treated [climate change] **like the existential threat that it is.**" ([Twitter, September 21, 2023](https://twitter.com/VicePresident/status/1705444444444444444))
- "We hear your **warnings of a rising sea and what — they pose an existential threat to your nations.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, September 25, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/09/25/))
- "Look, I don't think it's hyperbole to suggest that **the only truly existential threat to humanity is climate and failure to act.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, September 27, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/09/27/))
- "I believe **climate change is the only existential threat we have.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, September 28, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/09/28/))

- Climate change is "**the only existential threat to humanity.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, October 14, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/10/14/climate-threat/))
- "Let me close with this. I came to office determined to get this country up — up again so it — **we could face the existential threat of climate** and still grow" ([Whitehouse.gov, October 14, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/10/14/climate-threat/))
- "We passed the biggest investment in the history of the world to combat climate change — you know, in the entire world, over billions of dollars, because **it's the only existential threat to humanity.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, November 9, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/11/09/climate-threat/))
- "You know, I've seen firsthand what the reports made clear: **the devastating toll of climate change and its existential threat to all of us.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, November 14, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/11/14/climate-threat/))
- "And as I've said before, [climate change] **is the only existential threat to humanity**" ([Whitehouse.gov, November 16, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/11/16/climate-threat/))
- "I signed a historic law — the most significant investment **combatting the existential threat of climate change** ever anywhere in the world." ([Whitehouse.gov, November 29, 2023](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2023/11/29/climate-threat/))
- "My Administration is pausing pending decisions on new Liquefied Natural Gas exports. During the pause, we'll take a hard look at the impacts of exports on costs, energy security, **and climate change – the existential threat of our time.**" ([Twitter, January 26, 2024](https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1718888888888888888))
- "There is only one existential threat we face in this world, **and that's the environment. I mean, it literally is the existential threat.**" ([Whitehouse.gov, February 8, 2024](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2024/02/08/climate-threat/))