



# Environment:

## Creating a Cleaner, Safer and More Prosperous Economy

Manufacturers are keeping their promise to deliver responsible environmental stewardship through a commitment to improving sustainability practices, increasing energy efficiency and reducing emissions. The industry has led the way in driving a sea change in the way businesses address climate change and advance sustainable manufacturing in America, and the results are clear.

Over the past decade in particular, manufacturers contributed 18% more value to the American economy while reducing the carbon footprint of their products by 21%. A recent NAM survey showed that more than 80% of manufacturers either have or are developing corporate sustainability policies, programs or goals. Manufacturers have sharply reduced the industry's impact on the environment through a wide range of innovations, such as increasing energy efficiency, saving and recycling water and implementing successful initiatives to reduce pollution and waste. The industry's

momentum is strong, and with new technologies being implemented every day, the future is unquestionably bright.

With the right federal policies and a balance between environmental ambition and commercial feasibility, manufacturers are proving we can have both a clean environment and a prosperous economy. However, when lawmakers adopt regulations that put manufacturers in America at a competitive disadvantage, the critical balance between environmental improvement and economic growth is lost, hurting our workers, businesses and communities. In the eyes of America's manufacturers, the need to act on climate is no longer up for debate. At the same time, everyone wants clean water and clean air. Everyone needs a good job and an economy that delivers new opportunities and a better life. With federal policies that balance these goals with sound rules and regulations, manufacturers can continue leading the way toward a safer environment and stronger economy.



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**“Manufacturers are committed to protecting and preserving the Earth we share. Overcoming the environmental challenges ahead will take a collective effort from businesses and policymakers alike. Manufacturers are working to let our example lead the way—and our results speak for themselves.”**

**—Michael W. Lamach, Chairman and CEO, Ingersoll Rand, plc**

### **An Environment and Climate Change Agenda for the Future Must:**

- Recognize manufacturers as the solution to emerging environmental challenges and build on the strong steps manufacturers have already taken to become more sustainable.
- Apply sound science and evidence-based approaches in new proposals.
- Appropriately balance the United States' economic and environmental interests so that achieving one goal does not mean ignoring the other.

### **Actions for Leaders to Take:**

- ✓ Modernize environmental laws and regulations for 21st-century environmental challenges.
- ✓ Pursue realistic, bipartisan legislative solutions to climate change that reduce emissions, promote innovation and new technologies and preempt the patchwork of various regulations and lawsuits.
- ✓ Improve the manner in which the federal government assesses chemical risks and communicates them to the public.
- ✓ Coordinate public-private sustainability efforts to develop and implement new technologies and solutions across the manufacturing supply chain.
- ✓ Ensure strong oversight of federal agencies and eliminate duplicative regulations or those for which risks are improperly assessed or costs outweigh benefits.