

the most money his campaign has received so far.

Inslee doesn't take credit for the increased interest in climate change. He says voters are witnessing the consequences of climate change, whether it's the Midwest being underwater or cities like Paradise, California, burning up. Voters are paying attention.

BREAKING DOWN A GREEN ECONOMY

Talking with *EW*, Inslee quotes hockey legend Wayne Gretzky: "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not to where it has been."

By doing so, Inslee joins a million business owners, such as Bill Gates and Steve Jobs, who have used Gretzky's quote to try to show how groundbreaking their ideas are. He also joins the ranks of *The Office's* often-awkward branch manager Michael Scott, who famously quoted the classic Gretzky quote: "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take."

Inslee, however, is proposing something that could be as groundbreaking as Gretzky's influence on hockey. He's trying to transform the U.S. from being a fossil fuel-based economy to a green one.

On May 3, Inslee released his first major policy announcement: a 10-year plan to take on climate change and create green jobs.

Called the *100% Clean Energy for America Plan*, Inslee's plan would, by 2030, achieve 100-percent zero emissions in new vehicles and buses and 100-percent zero-carbon pollution in all new commercial and residential buildings. It would also call for 100-percent clean and renewable electricity generation by 2035.

Among other actions, Inslee wants to shut down what he calls the increasingly uneconomic U.S. coal fleet by 2030, and repower with more clean energy. The plan also proposes using tax incentives to push for increased development of clean technology.

Rather than publishing all of his policies at once, Inslee has been unveiling them slowly. The next plan he released was his clean energy plan, titled *Jay Inslee's Evergreen Economy Plan*.

The 28-point initiative — built on the model that, according to Inslee, led Washington state to become the fastest-growing economy in the U.S. — would invest in clean energy research and deployment, create jobs in manufacturing, build green transportation infrastructure, support job-training programs, raise wages and protect workers' rights and families.

Inslee's *Evergreen Economy Plan* is based on five strategies for economic growth. First, he would invest in an initiative to rebuild millions of buildings in the following decades.

Second, he would invest in infrastructure, including transportation, water, affordable housing and sustainable communities.

Next, the federal government would partner with the private sector to increase exports of clean technology made in the U.S. He'd also invest in developing future clean technology.

Finally, his plan would re-unionize workers to create a more inclusive future for all workers, including the elimination of right-to-work laws.

The first impression that Kauffman has of Inslee's plan is its level of detail. He says Inslee understands that, in order to fight climate change, you must propose systematic change.

"It's quite detailed to the point where you can see it as realistic," Kauffman says. "By breaking it down and being specific, you can help people see how this is realistic and not just a grandiose plan — but it is a grandiose plan."

Reinventing an economy based on fossil fuels sounds expensive, but Inslee says money to pay for the plan would come from not having to pay for future climate change-related natural disasters. He wants to avoid the expenses "you'd otherwise have on the Trump Trail of Tears," adding that the president's willful ignorance and refusal to protect Americans from climate change is going to cost the U.S. a lot of money in the long run.

Inslee adds that, by repealing Trump-imposed tax cuts, the U.S. could bring in an additional \$20 billion from the "ill-gotten tax breaks for gas and oil industries" that could help shift from a fossil fuel economy.

Kauffman agrees with Inslee, saying to pay for Inslee's plan would be no harder than continuing the fossil fuel subsidies the U.S. currently pays for.

Passing Inslee's climate plan would require the Legislative branch being on board, a tall order considering President Barack Obama had to bring the Democrats together to pass his Affordable Care Act, which cut along party lines.

Inslee cautions us not to underestimate the power of presidential leadership. When President John F. Kennedy said the U.S. would put a man on the moon, he made a difference. Obama made a difference when it came to health care.

Inslee says there hasn't been any presidential leadership when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And, beside presidential leadership, Inslee says that to get the Legislative branch on board, the U.S. Senate must abolish the filibuster.

"We can't sit down with Mitch McConnell," he says. "As long as the filibuster exists, oil and gas industries will control the Senate."

Inslee is one of few presidential hopefuls to have suggested that. Other candidates,

those also in the Senate, are too comfortable with senatorial privileges to take away the filibuster, he says.

GREEN IS THE NEW ORANGE

If Trump is the "first orange president" — as late-night TV show hosts describe him — then Inslee might just be the first green president. And he tells *EW* that his platform could beat Trump.

In 2016, when Trump was in Eugene, I saw his speech at the Lane County Fairgrounds. At that point, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton emerged as the Democratic Party nominee, beating Sen. Bernie Sanders in a controversial Democratic primary.

In his speech, while lamenting the loss of Oregon timber jobs, Trump said he really wanted to face Sen. Bernie Sanders in the general election. Some hindsight polls suggest that Sanders, whose platform focused more on jobs than Clinton, could've won.

Inslee says he's beaten Trump 22 times in a row already, adding that he was the first to challenge Trump's Muslim ban. Alongside Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Inslee has sued the Trump Administration over policies such as abortion obstacles, an emergency declaration on the U.S.-Mexico border and the forced separation of immigrant families at the border.

Kauffman says what partially affected Clinton in the 2016 election was her lack of focus on the economy. Inslee's climate plan is more focused on ensuring jobs are available for those who have worked in fossil fuel industries.

"Of all the candidates who I've heard talk about environmental policy, I think he has the best chance of breaking through because he does see it systemically," he says.

Inslee addresses climate change as a jobs-boosting endeavor, Kauffman says.

"He rejects this idea that you have to have a trade off between environment and jobs," he says. "There is a lot of evidence that suggests that is a false trade off."

Renewable energy has to be produced locally, he adds. A green economy still has to import some parts, but if the U.S. invested in it, the country could become a leader in clean technology of the future.

The U.S. had a chance to secure its place as a leader in clean technology investment five to 10 years ago, Kauffman says. Because the U.S. hasn't made a green economy its priority, other countries have jumped ahead.

It's still possible for the U.S. to become a leader again, he adds.

"One of the biggest critiques of Trump's environmental and jobs plan is that he's saving a dying coal industry of 6,000 jobs and foregoing the opportunity to build a tremendous new industry — that's a manufacturing industry," he says. "He's supposed to boost manufacturing and, by rolling back the incentives for building that industry, we have allowed China and Germany to eclipse us."

Inslee tells *EW* he can beat Trump by putting forth a plan that isn't based on trickle-down economics, which he says damaged the U.S. He adds that he's not proposing some abstract ideas that simply sound good; Washington state has shown what works for spurring the growth of the middle class.

The road to nomination for Inslee is a long one. On the way to the Democratic National Convention, Inslee has said he won't accept any fossil fuel or corporate political action committee money.

So far, according to *OpenSecrets*, 45 percent of contributions to Inslee's campaign have come from small donations under \$200, and 54 percent have come from large individual contributions. Most of his contributors are employed with Amazon or Microsoft, or they are Washington state public employees.

If Inslee doesn't receive the nomination, there could be some other alternatives for him in delivering his climate plan. Assuming a Democrat defeats Trump, one potential place for Inslee could be heading a brand new cabinet post focused on climate change, Kauffman says.

For now, Inslee hasn't shown any sign of backing down despite poor polling numbers. He's still presenting new policy ideas. Inspired by FDR, he's calling for a Climate Conservation Corps.

Inslee supports the right to collective bargaining. He wants to re-invest in the U.S. public education system. And he's expected to continue publishing new policy proposals.

He won't say whether he's jumping on board with Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders when it comes to student loan forgiveness, though. Rather, he supports financing debt relief.

Inslee does tell *EW* that he wants to prevent people from getting into significant education debt in the first place by adopting a plan he signed into law in Washington state. Those who qualify for the state's college grant — and aren't wait-listed — can attend a public college and university without paying for tuition and fees if applicants receive the maximum award.

"The Washington plan is the most comprehensive student financing plan in the U.S.," he says. "It's free college for those who actually need it." ■

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