

OREGON

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2008

On January 24, 2008, Governor Kulongoski appointed members of the Global Warming Commission and outlined his 2009 climate change agenda. The Governor called on the Commission to develop long-term policy recommendations to combat global warming for future legislatures and administrations. The Oregon Global Warming Commission, is a 25-member advisory group created by the 2007 legislature through House Bill 3543. In a meeting with the new commission members, the Governor charged the group to develop recommendations for policy makers for the 2009 legislative session. The Governor outlined key elements of his 2009 Climate Change Agenda, including:

- Development of a cap and trade proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region;
- A comprehensive water package to address reduced snow pack leading to low water levels in the summer;
- Aggressive steps for energy efficiency and the development of green building, a green collar workforce and electric cars; and,
- Resources for state and local agencies to integrate climate change policy and analyze impacts of climate change on our water, forest, coastal and transportation resources.

[Governor's Press Release](#)

On January 23, Governor Kulongoski, and thirteen other states, wrote to EPA objecting to EPA blocking states' rights to reduce greenhouse gas vehicle emissions. In the West, the governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Washington also signed the letter.

[Multi-state letter](#)

2007

On October 23, 2007, Governor Kulongoski and British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell today signed a “Memorandum of Understanding” to establish partnership between the two

governments to work together for climate and ocean protections.

As part of the memorandum, Oregon and British Columbia agree that joint action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that many of these actions can have significant economic and environmental benefits for British Columbia and Oregon.

[Press Release](#)

On August 6, 2007, Governor Ted Kulongoski signed House Bill 3543, which sets greenhouse gas emissions targets for the state. HB 3543 directs the state to stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and to reduce GHG emissions to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and to 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The bill creates the Oregon Global Warming Commission to recommend to state and local governments ways to reduce GHG emissions and measures the state may adopt to mitigate the impacts of global warming. The Commission is also responsible for examining cap and trade systems, for developing an educational strategy on global warming issues, for tracking global warming impacts on Oregon, and other issues.

[HB 3543](#)

On June 6, 2007, Governor Ted Kulongoski signed Senate Bill 838, adopting a renewable electricity portfolio standard for the state. SB 838 requires the state's largest utilities to meet 25 percent of their electric load with new renewable energy sources by 2025. The standard is phased in starting with 5% by 2011.

For more information on the RPS go to:

http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/pdf/letters/faq_energy.pdf

The bill includes interim targets of 5 percent by 2011; 15 percent by 2015; 20 percent by 2020; and 25 percent by 2025. Sources of energy that count toward the standard include wind, solar, wave, geothermal, biomass, new hydro or efficiency upgrades to existing hydro facilities.

Utilities are not required to comply with the standard if doing so will result in retail electricity price increases of more than 4 percent. If none of a utility's options for compliance are cost-effective, they can make an Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) to help meet their renewable energy requirement. The level of the ACP will be determined by the Public Utility Commission.

[Press Release](#)

[SB 838](#)

On June 6, 2007, Oregon's new Renewable Portfolio Standard was signed into law. The law requires the state's largest utilities to meet 25 percent of their electric load with new renewable energy sources by 2025.

For more information on the RPS go to:

http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/pdf/letters/faq_energy.pdf

On January 24, 2007, Governor Ted Kulongoski offered his vision for combating global warming. He is calling for an ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standard that would require 25% of energy in the state to come from renewable sources by 2025. He committed to work with other Western states to discuss the creation of a regional cap and trade system to reduce greenhouse emissions.

http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/P2007/press_012407.shtml

In May 2006, Governor Kulongoski established the Governor's Climate Change Integration Group. <http://egov.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/CCIG.shtml>

The Governor established the Integration Group to continue and expand on the work of the Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming, which prepared the [Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions](#) in 2004. The Advisory Group proposed the following goals:

1. By 2010, arrest the growth of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions (including, but not limited to CO₂) and begin to reduce emissions, making measurable progress toward meeting the existing benchmark for CO₂ of not exceeding 1990 levels.
2. By 2020, achieve a 10 percent reduction below 1990 greenhouse gas levels.
3. By 2050, achieve a "climate stabilization" emissions level at least 75 percent below 1990 levels.

While the Governor has acted to implement many of the key recommendations of the 2004 Strategy, he charged the Integration Group to address adaptation and to focus on four areas:

1. [Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions](#) (2004); receive reports from state agencies and other implementers, and make additional recommendations to achieve the goals of the strategy;
2. Assess the current state of knowledge about the sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and vulnerability of natural as well as human economic and social systems to climate change in Oregon and prepare recommendations about how the state can become more resilient and adapt to unavoidable changes;
3. Stimulate new research programs on mitigation and adaptation strategies in collaboration with the Oregon University System; and,
4. Provide a clearinghouse for sharing information with citizens about climate change impacts and the opportunities in Oregon to address those impacts in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.

Carbon Allocation Task Force

The Governor established the Carbon Allocation Task Force in 2005. The priority of the Task Force is to develop a carbon allocation standard that limits and reduce over time the carbon dioxide emissions from the use of electricity in Oregon as it is supplied by utilities. The Task Force will also cooperate with efforts in neighboring states to develop similar carbon allocation standards to the degree practicable and will consider a regional standard if there are other states that are interested in developing such a standard.

<http://egov.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/CATF.shtml>

Oregon Low Emission Vehicles Program

In June, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission voted unanimously to adopt permanent rules for Oregon's Low Emission Vehicles (LEV) program.

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/aqplanning/orlev/>

The program requires that new motor vehicles sold in Oregon meet California's vehicle emission standards beginning with model year 2009 in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CO₂ Standards for new electric generation plants

In 1997, the Oregon legislature gave the Energy Facility Siting Council authority to set carbon dioxide emissions standards for new energy facilities. The EFSC has set specific standards for base load natural gas plants, non-base load (peaking) power plants and non-generating energy facilities that emit carbon dioxide.

http://egov.oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/standards.shtml#Carbon_Dioxide_Emissions

Oregon Public Utility Commission

On January 8, 2007, as part of Order NO. 07-002 (Investigation into Integrated Resource Planning) the PUC stated: “Second, we will open a proceeding to examine the treatment of carbon dioxide (CO₂) risk in IRPs. Among other things, this investigation will address the CO₂ value that a utility should use for its base case, what CO₂ costs should be used for sensitivity analysis, and what analysis of “trigger point” values should be required.”

<http://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/orders.asp?ordernumber=07-002>

The Climate Trust

http://www.climatetrust.org/about_us_history.php

In 1997, the Oregon Legislature enacted the first law in the U.S. aimed at reducing greenhouse gas levels. This law (the Oregon Standard) requires new power plants built in Oregon to offset part of their emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The Oregon Standard allows power plants to comply by paying mitigation funds to a non-profit organization, the Climate Trust. In turn, the Trust must use the funds to carry out projects that avoid, sequester, or displace the carbon dioxide the plant will emit in excess of the required standard.