

WASHINGTON

Legislation: [S6001](#)
Executive Order: [07-02](#)
[RPS](#)
[Climate Advisory Team](#)
[State Climate Change Web Page](#)

2008

On March 13, Gov. Gregoire signed Washington's new Climate Change Framework/Green-Collar Jobs Act. The Act: requires quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas pollution; requires a comprehensive plan by year's end to achieve the required reductions; and makes it possible to measure progress by requiring the largest greenhouse gas polluters to count and report their emissions beginning in 2010. The Act also directs the Departments of Ecology and Community, Trade and Economic Development to continue working with other Western states and Canadian provinces to craft a regional strategy for putting the market economy to work reducing greenhouse gases from major sectors of the economy.

[Press Release](#)

On January 14, 2008, Gov. Chris Gregoire announced major climate change legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create clean energy jobs. Her legislation would direct the state Department of Ecology to design a regional carbon cap and trade proposal; require annual emissions reporting by all significant generators of greenhouse gases; and create new "green collar jobs" programs to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Press release: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=754&newsType=1>

2007

In Washington, there are five Technical Working Groups that serve in an advisory role to the Climate Advisory Team. The TWGs are structured around the following sectors:

- [Agriculture](#) - biofuels, waste reduction, recycling and energy recovery, solid waste management
- [Energy Supply](#) - heat and power generation, electrical generation, transmission
- [Forestry](#) - forest restoration, sustainable forest management, wood energy and sequestration

- [Residential, Commercial & Industrial](#) - energy efficiency and conservation, industrial process, "customer side" of the meter
- [Transportation](#) - including vehicle efficiency, alternative fuels and demand reduction programs

In addition, Preparation/Adaptation Working Groups (PAWGs) have been formed to assist Ecology and CTED in developing recommendations for the Governor on how Washington can prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Departments of Agriculture, Health, Natural Resources and Ecology will lead PAWGs that will examine climate change impacts, and identify preparation/adaptation strategies and additional research needs. PAWGs are structured around five sectors where the [Ecology/CTED Economic Report](#) and the Climate Impacts Group at the [University of Washington](#) identify the greatest impacts for Washington State:

- [Agriculture](#) - species changes, crop changes, and pests
- [Forestry Resources](#) - growth (rate, species), pests, fires (loss of timber, loss of recreational value, costs to fight)
- [Human Health](#) - air quality (ozone, particulates), heat stroke, pests/vectors, and zoonotic disease
- [Water Resources & Quality](#) - freshwater, in-stream flows, municipal water, industrial water, flooding/droughts, storm water, salmon recovery, stream temps, hydropower, and water supply
- [Coastal & Infrastructure](#) - infrastructure design and location, erosion, coastal flooding, habitat, and other issues identified by the group as important for consideration

On May 3, 2007, Gov. Gregoire signed legislation to mitigate climate change . The bill, S. 6001, sets goals for reducing emissions and sets an emissions performance standard for new power plants. The goals for reducing greenhouse gases are: by 2020 reduce overall emissions to 1990 levels; by 2035 reduce emissions to 25 percent below 1990 levels; and by 2050 reduce emissions to 50 percent below 1990 levels. The legislation also includes goals for clean energy job creation and decreased dependence on imported fuels. After July 1, 2008, new baseload electric generation for which utilities enter into long-term financial commitments must meet a performance standard of 1100 pounds of greenhouse gases output /MWh. In addition, if technology improves, this standard may be lowered. Emissions that are sequestered, either by geologic or other approved means, under an approved plan will not be counted as emissions. [Press Release SB6001](#)

On February 7, 2007, Governor Gregoire signed Executive Order 07-02 , Washington Climate Change Challenge. The order establishes the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction and clean energy economy goals for Washington State:

- By 2020, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state of Washington to 1990 levels, a reduction of 10 million metric tons below 2004 emissions;

- By 2035, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state of Washington to 25% below 1990 levels, a reduction of 30 million metric tons below 2004;
- By 2050, the state of Washington will do its part to reach global climate stabilization levels by reducing emissions to 50% below 1990 levels or 70% below our expected emissions that year, an absolute reduction in emissions of nearly 50 million metric tons below 2004;
- By 2020, increase the number of clean energy sector jobs to 25,000 from the 8,400 jobs we had in 2004; and
- By 2020, reduce expenditures by 20% on fuel imported into the state by developing Washington resources and supporting efficient energy use.

In addition, the Governor calls for develop of a climate change initiative, Washington Climate Change Challenge, to achieve the goals of the Executive Order.

http://www.governor.wa.gov/execorders/eo_07-02.pdf

In January 2007, Washington State published a study on "Impacts of Climate Change on Washington's Economy." A team of scientists and economists reached three conclusions about the effects of climate change on Washington's economy:

1. Climate change impacts are visible and the economic effects are becoming apparent.
2. The costs of climate change will grow as temperatures and sea levels rise.
3. Climate change will also provide economic opportunities

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/economic_impacts.htm

2006

Renewable Energy Standard

On November 7, 2006 Washington became the second state to pass a renewable energy standard by ballot initiative.

Electric utilities subject to the standard must use eligible renewable resources or acquire equivalent renewable energy credits, or a combination of both, to meet the following annual targets:

- At least 3% percent of its load by 1/1/2012, and each year thereafter through 12/31/2015;
- At least 9% of its load by 1/1/2016, and each year thereafter through 12/31/2019; and
- At least 15% of its load by 1/1/2020, and each year thereafter.

Also requires large utilities to capture all cost effective conservation.

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature adopted "clean car" standards for motor vehicles, the California standards, which are stricter than the federal standards. More information is available in the Department of Ecology publication [Focus on Clean Car Standards](#).

In March, the Governor signed a bill requiring that two percent of diesel and gasoline sold in Washington be comprised of alternative fuels.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=276&newsType=1>

Other actions in Washington include:

- Updating state energy codes for new construction.
- Promoting state-funded weatherization assistance for energy-efficient homes.
- Providing tax incentives to companies for developing renewable and alternative energy projects.
- Creating a pilot program to use biodiesel as a substitute for fossil fuels in school buses.

In 2004, the legislature established carbon dioxide emission standards for new fossil-fueled power plants greater than 25 MW . <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=80.70>

Also in 2004, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, with state support produced a climate action plan for the Puget Sound Area <http://www.pscleanair.org/programs/climate/>. The plan formed the basis for Washington action on California vehicle standards and appliance efficiency standards.

Report: Washington State's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources and Trends (2004)

http://cted.wa.gov/CTED/documents/ID_1280_Publications.pdf

Interagency Climate Group

http://www.cted.wa.gov/portal/alias_CTED/lang_en/tabID_853/DesktopDefault.aspx