

The Clean Energy Jobs bill: Why we must get it right



When Oregon leads on climate, Oregonians benefit

Science requires all jurisdictions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions aggressively over the next 10-15 years to avoid a climate disaster. Passing a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill that caps pollution and invests in clean energy solutions is not only the leadership response needed in the face of climate change, but will also result in numerous benefits for Oregonians.

Oregon's leadership matters

Reducing Oregon's emissions can help make an outsized dent in mitigating climate change

- Oregon has higher annual GHG emissions than 116 countries who have signed the Paris Climate Agreement and agreed to hit targets that keep global warming under 2°C, and aim for 1.5°C.

Absent federal action, states like Oregon can help lead the way in addressing the climate crisis

- 20 states and the District of Columbia currently have statewide greenhouse gas targets.
- Together, this local and regional action can make a big impact. Strong Oregon action can break the logjam of future state action on the horizon:
 - Oregon is poised to adopt an economy-wide cap-and-invest program that links with California and Quebec.
 - Nine other states already have a cap-and-invest program focusing on reducing power sector emissions.
 - Twelve states in addition to Oregon have introduced carbon pricing legislation for 2019.

Oregonians will benefit from climate action

Growing the economy, while reducing emissions

- California's economy climbed from 10th largest in the world in 2012 (when its cap-and-trade program was initiated) to 5th largest today, while achieving its 2020 emissions reduction goal four years early.
- Since California passed its climate program, the state has attracted more than \$22 billion in clean technology venture capital—more than any other state or country besides the U.S. as a whole and China.

Improved health and associated cost savings

- The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), launched in 2009 to cut carbon pollution from power plants in nine Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states using a cap-and-invest model, has resulted in major public health benefits from reduced air pollution. These benefits—including lives saved, asthma attacks prevented, and missed days of work avoided—are valued at \$5.7 billion.

More clean energy jobs

- Oregon currently has more than 55,000 clean energy jobs, located in every county of the state. These jobs have grown up to twice as fast as the state average. With a strong cap-and-invest program, Oregon can further accelerate job growth in the clean energy sector. In the RGGI program's first six years, 30,000 jobs were created through clean energy programs and investments.

Over three-quarters of Oregonians want to see CO₂ regulated as a pollutant, with sizable majorities in every county across Oregon.



climate solutions

accelerating the transition to our clean energy future

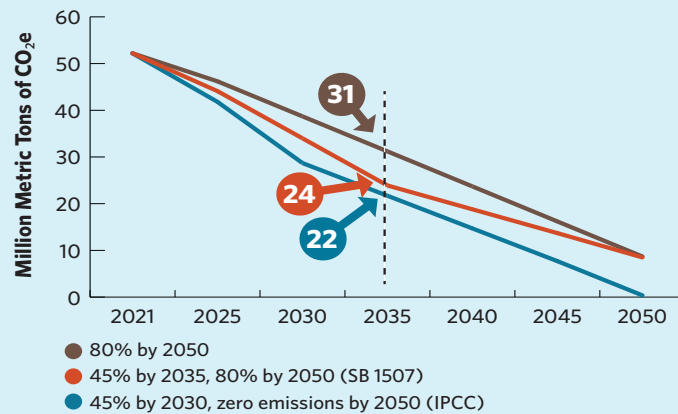
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Oregon's state climate goals: Why we need a strong interim target

The best available science requires we make major GHG reductions in the next 10-15 years to avoid locking in irreversible climate change impacts. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released in October 2018 unequivocally states that we must reduce our climate pollution to 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieve zero emissions by 2050 to avoid the worst climate impacts.

Since 2015, the Oregon Global Warming Commission has recommended an interim target of 45% below 1990 levels by 2035 to meet our original state goals.

A strong interim target will help drive near-term emission reductions



An interim target of 45% reduction reduces approximately 7 million MT of CO₂e more in 2035 than just a straight line 80% target to 2050 (the equivalent of taking approximately 1.5 million cars off the road for a year).

Achieves critical near-term reductions

Those near-term reductions are more critical than gradually achieving them by 2050. The longer we wait to make these reductions, the more costly and steeper they will need to be.

Supports WCI linkage

Other Western Climate Initiative (WCI) jurisdictions have strong interim targets. Equivalently stringent targets is important to link with these jurisdictions.

Maintains environmental integrity of the cap

Coal to Clean creates a steep reduction of emissions by 2030 as coal is removed from Oregon's electricity mix. A cap that does not account for this reduction cliff could result in excess allowances and excess pollution in the transportation and industrial sectors. The interim target would require further reductions on a similar order of magnitude as Coal

to Clean, maintaining the integrity of the cap during this mandated transition off coal.

Keeps Oregon on track

Oregon is not currently on track to meet its emissions reduction goals set over a decade ago. Instead of weakening our existing state goals by setting a less ambitious target for 2035, the interim target gets Oregon back on track as intended by the legislature and responding to best available science.

Positions Oregon to lead and benefit

Two primary goals of state climate action are 1) to get Oregon ahead of the curve so it can lead and benefit from the clean energy economy and 2) to spur national and global climate action to avoid the worst climate impacts. Strong near-term GHG emissions reduction targets are key to achieving these goals.

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