

The SB 80 Amendments: A Plan to Cut Carbon and Build Oregon's Clean Energy Economy

A reasonable compromise that uses coordinated, sector-by-sector planning to help the state determine how we can meet the statutory goals for global warming pollution reduction

Highlights from the New Proposed Amendments

- Clarifies that the bill would not create a “hard cap” on carbon emissions
- Establishes new Climate Council to coordinate state climate efforts
- Shares planning between state agencies including DEQ, ODOT, ODOE and the PUC
- Uses sector-by-sector planning for the most cost-effective strategies to achieve our statutory goals adopted by the Legislature in 2007
- Delays deciding whether to require reductions by manufacturing and industrial sector
- Creates a separate path for consumer-owned utilities
- Safety valves allow for technological limits, costs and other challenges
- A process to create a carbon offset market that will help Oregon forestry and agriculture

A Climate Council to Coordinate State Efforts, Monitor Emissions and Adapt Policies

A new Climate Policy Advisory Council ensures we have the most effective strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Council is composed of the Chair of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Directors of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

It would coordinate agency efforts, inventory current reduction policies, explore strategies to reduce pollution in each sector, consider costs and benefits, identify funding needs, and monitor progress. It would have no additional regulatory authority itself.

The Council is required to report to the Legislature, and can determine that meeting the statutory goals is not in the state's best interest.

Agencies: Planning to Meet Statutory Goals with Yearly Updates

State agencies that cover the electricity, transportation and industry sectors would create plans to meet the statutory pollution reduction goals in ORS 468A.205. Unlike hard caps adopted by New Jersey, Maryland and others, Oregon's plans to meet our goals would be subject to economic, social, and technological limitations encountered.

Agencies may adopt rules to implement those plans within their existing authority and would be required to seek new legislative authority where required. Agencies must update these plans yearly.

Investor-Owned Utilities: The PUC Develops a Fair, Cost-Effective Plan

The PUC will develop a plan with a broad range of mechanisms for the utility sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including conservation, energy efficiency, and grid improvements.

The plan must ensure rates are fair, just, and reasonable; recognizes steps Oregon has already taken; and use least-cost planning. The Plan must be adopted by June 30, 2010.

The bill allows the PUC to make a finding that meeting the goals is not technologically or economically feasible.

Consumer-Owned Utilities: Allowed to Adopt Own Plan or Pay 2% Fee; PUC can Suspend

The bill requires consumer-owned utilities to adopt five-year efficiency and conservation plans or adopt a 2% fee to the utilities' retail sales revenues pay for those improvements elsewhere. The PUC can suspend the requirements on finding a market emergency.

Transportation: ODOT Works with Others to Create Cost-Effective Plan

The bill has ODOT develop a plan by June 30, 2010 to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, after consulting DEQ, ODOE, and the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Allows new rules to encourage the use electrically-powered cars and light trucks.

Industrial: EQC Develops Voluntary Reduction Strategies for Large Polluters

EQC would develop a voluntary plan by June 30, 2010 to reduce emissions from industrial sources.

Offsets: Advisory Committee to Recommend Guidelines on Carbon Offsets

The Climate Advisory Council, Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Agriculture will make recommendations for the development of emission offsets that are real, quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable. Clear guidelines will create economic opportunities for Oregon's forestry and agricultural sectors.

Details: Reporting, Whistleblower, Global Warming Commission, Emergency

The bill requires reporting of emissions from large pollution sources. It protects whistleblowers. It refocuses the Global Warming Commission to adapting to the effects of global warming. It declares an emergency.