Carbon and Climate Policies

*Oregon OAH Action Plan - **Appendix B***

The Oregon OAH Action Plan identifies problems and develops solutions to ocean acidification and hypoxia, a challenging consequence of global climate change attributable to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. While Oregon's carbon footprint is only part of the global problem, Oregon is working to address emissions in a variety of ways that complement and reinforce our work on OAH. While the OAH Council developed the recommendations that led to this OAH Action Plan, other Oregon entities have the expertise on CO_2 directly. This appendix briefly describes the entities and responsibilities in Oregon (outside of the OAH Council process), that are addressing CO_2 adaptation and mitigation.

Oregon has taken great strides to manage CO_2 emissions, understand the effects of climate change on our ecosystem and economy, and provide leadership across the West Coast and the globe on CO_2 emissions policy.

Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) was created by the Legislature in 2007 (HB3543) to track trends in greenhouse gas emissions and recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce emissions in Oregon. In the past 12 years, the OGWC has produced several reports documenting state and regional actions on global warming impacts and existing greenhouse gas reduction policies. The commission consists of 25 members, 11 of which are voting members appointed by the Governor. Members include state agencies, NGOs, academics, and industry. Staff support for the commission is provided by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE).

Greenhouse Gas Emission Goals (2007) were set by the same bill that created the OGWC (HB3543). The emission goals commit Oregon to a 10% reduction from 1990 levels by 2020, and 75% reduction by 2050.

Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) was also created by the Legislature in 2007 to form a network of over 150 researchers from Oregon public universities and affiliated federal and state labs, to achieve a climate-prepared Northwest by cultivating informed communities and advancing the understanding of regional climate, impacts and adaptation. A representative of OCCRI holds one of the 11 voting seats on the OGWC and is responsible for providing technical assistance to the commission. The institute is administered by Oregon State University and also the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) - Pacific Northwest Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), which is one of 11 Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) projects from around the United States.

Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) was created in 2008 by the Executive governments of the four West Coast jurisdictions: British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. The goal of the PCC is to coordinate and promote Climate and Energy policies, aimed at dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a vibrant, low carbon regional economy. Key focus areas for the PCC have included clean energy buildings and transportation systems, food waste reduction management, and ocean acidification and hypoxia. By connecting governments (both regional and local) at the regional level the PCC facilitates collaboration on climate issues that cross borders and jurisdictional boundaries.

International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) was created through PCC collaboration in 2016, with Oregon as a founding member. The goal of the OA Alliance is to bring together international, regional, and local governments and organizations in order to encourage government action to mitigate and adapt to Ocean Acidification, in order to protect coastal communities and ecosystems. The OA Alliance currently has 42 member groups and governments developing their own OA Action Plans. Oregon's OAH Action Plan, as adopted by Governor Brown, becomes Oregon's submission to the OA Alliance, and thus will be shared with the region and world.

United States Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of states formed in 2017 that are committed to honoring the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change objectives and goals within their borders. Oregon is a founding member, and as a member has agreed to make steps to achieve the U.S. goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 26–28% from 2005 levels and targets of Clean Power Plan before 2025. This State-based Alliance has now become a platform for its members to further develop and strengthen their existing Climate policies, through sharing of information and best practices.

Oregon Climate Agenda (OCA) was developed in 2018 by Governor Kate Brown to create a roadmap to explain and implement Oregon's goals on carbon, climate change and ocean acidification and hypoxia. The OCA describes strategies to reduce carbon and GHG emissions, including:

- Implement market-based carbon program and create the Oregon Climate Authority to better align state programs and expertise to achieve the state's climate policy goals at the least possible cost, while protecting our manufacturing sector and mitigating impacts and providing opportunities for low-income and rural communities, communities of color, and Tribes.
- Hasten the pace of electrification of vehicles in Oregon by expanding electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives.
- Decarbonize the electricity sector by achieving the state's renewable energy targets, encouraging grid modernization and expand opportunities for residential, municipal, and commercial customers to access clean energy services.
- Maintain and strengthen strong energy efficiency investments in residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors, expand the reach of energy efficiency programs to ensure all communities benefit, improve the energy efficiency of state building codes, and support world-leading industrial efficiency initiatives by Oregon's large industrial utility customers.
- Pursue climate solutions that benefit rural communities and Tribes, support working lands, and foster resilience to climate change.

Other Oregon Initiatives that relate to addressing carbon, climate change, and OAH:

- Cleaner Air Oregon (2018): rule making by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to set standards that regulate heavy metals and other toxic chemicals released by industrial facilities.
- 100 Year Water Vision (2018): Oregon will steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy and our environment, now and for future generations. Strategic investments and policies will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment.
- Oregon Environmental Protection Act (2019): solidifies protective federal clean air, water, and drinking water standards as a baseline for Oregon's rulemaking.

To learn more about OAH science, impacts, and solutions, please visit the Oregon OAH Council's website:

oregonocean.info/index.php/ocean-acidification