

Oregon

Oregon has long been a leader in establishing strong policies that help build a more resilient economy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Oregon's private sector has been able to leverage this policy environment to make significant investments in maximizing energy efficiency and conservation, building out a renewable energy portfolio and growing the alternative fuel industry. This is good for consumers, good for the environment and good for the state's economy.

Oregon has been recognized nationally and internationally as an innovative leader in working with the clean technology industry to strengthen our economy and environment. The state focuses on how we can continue to transition to new energy systems that save consumers money, create consumer choice, provide for system reliability, remove market barriers for development, and attract significant private capital investment. For example, the Energy Trust of Oregon was created to maximize energy efficiency and conservation. Since the organization's inception, ETO has helped save rate-payers \$1.7 billion on their energy bills. Their work keeps energy costs as low as possible, builds a sustainable energy future, creates jobs that cannot be outsourced and protects the environment. The state also has implemented strong building codes, energy efficient appliance standards, residential energy disclosure mechanisms, renewable energy and conservation incentives, alternative transportation options, mass transit alternatives, and the renewable portfolio and carbon dioxide standards, to name a few.

Specific actions and commitments:

I. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goals

In 2007, the Oregon State Legislature established greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. The goals call for Oregon to arrest the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and begin to reduce emissions by 2010, achieve greenhouse gas levels that are 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, and to achieve greenhouse gas levels that are 75% below 1990 levels by 2050. Oregon has put in place a number of policies and programs that are moving the state forward to meet these greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

II. Clean Electricity

Oregon is one of the largest producers of renewable electricity in the country. The Bonneville Power Administration's hydro system is the backbone of Oregon's renewable energy portfolio. Approximately 44% of the state's energy is hydroelectric. In addition, 2.8% is derived from nuclear, 5.2% from wind and 10% from other renewable resources, such as solar, landfill gas, geothermal, waste and biomass.

In 2007, the legislature passed the renewable portfolio standard which requires large utilities to serve 25% of their retail load from new renewable resources by 2025. To date, this has attracted over \$10 billion investment in the state, most of which is in rural Oregon. This investment not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, it provides much needed property tax and other revenue to hard hit counties. Through maximizing royalties from wind, counties have been able to retain public safety officers, build schools and provide rebates for their citizens. The state is on track to meet the renewable portfolio standard by 2025.

In 2009, the state established a five year solar feed-in tariff pilot program to expand distributed generation solar. In addition, the state requires all new and retrofitted state buildings use 1.5% of their construction budget to install solar on-site and is working to develop a community solar program. The state also provides incentives for renewable energy generation projects.

Oregon's only coal-fired power plant will be decommissioned in 2020.

III. Energy-neutral buildings

Oregon has long been a national leader on energy efficiency. It is the state's policy to maximize energy efficiency and conservation first, as efficiency is the least-cost resource. The region has set a target of meeting 85% of new load growth through energy efficiency and conservation, and due to the investments made by our local utilities Oregon is on track to meet the state's share of this target.

Oregon adopted a reach code to lay the groundwork for significantly reducing energy consumption in the build environment. The state coupled this with providing an incentive for building operators who meet the reach code, helping to buy down the cost of the delta between standard code and the reach code. In addition, the state is pursuing commercial building disclosure mechanisms to capture behavioral energy efficiency, adoption of efficient appliances, on-site generation, smart controls and other features. Oregon consistently ranks in the top three on the State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, published by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy.

IV. Clean Transportation

The largest contributing sector to Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions is the transportation sector at 33%. Oregon is taking a comprehensive approach to reducing emissions in this sector. The state prioritizes maximizing mass transit opportunities, investing a significant amount of money is providing strong mass transit opportunities for people in all corners of the state. In addition, the state has established incentive and loan programs to help private and public sector fleets convert to alternative fuels; this not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, it saves fleet operators significant money that can be reinvested into growing their business or public sector organization. Coupled with work to convert fleets, the state has worked diligently to create Oregon's part of the West Coast Electric Vehicle Highway and to provide alternative fueling stations so consumers and fleet operators have access to alternative fuels. Lastly, Oregon requires its metropolitan planning organizations to develop transportation and land use plans that meet carbon reduction targets. Lastly, Oregon joined with California and other states to significantly increase the adoption of zero emission vehicles.