



Fact Sheet

States and Cities Taking Concrete Action to Cut Global Warming Pollution

Extensive scientific evidence demonstrates that global warming is real, that it is affecting us now, and that human activities – particularly the burning of fossil fuels – are the primary cause. Science is also clear about what we need to do to avoid the worst consequences of global warming: stabilize emissions of the pollutants that cause global warming within the next decade and reduce them by about 80 percent by mid-century. Achieving those reductions won't be easy, but it can be done. States and localities across the country already have adopted policies that cut global warming pollution and have committed to do more.

CALIFORNIA LEADS THE WAY, SETS CAP ON GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

- ◆ In September 2006, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), the first-ever statewide cap on global warming pollution. The law will reduce annual global warming emissions in California by 25 percent by 2020 (equivalent to 1990 levels).
- ◆ Governor Schwarzenegger also has committed to reduce the state's global warming emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 (Executive Order S-3-05).

STATES ADOPT POLLUTION REDUCTION GOALS AND PLANS FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

California's new law to cap its global warming emissions grew out of Governor Schwarzenegger's 2005 executive order. Other states are adopting similar statewide goals and plans for achieving those goals.

- ◆ In 2001, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers established a regional goal to reduce global warming emissions to 1990 levels by 2010, at least 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and by 75-85 percent in the long term (Climate Action Plan, August 2001). The New England states are in various stages of complying with the agreement. Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts officials already have released plans, while a stakeholder group in Rhode Island has agreed on a plan.
- ◆ In 2005, New Mexico established a statewide goal to reduce global warming emissions to 2000 levels by 2012, 10 percent below 2000 levels by 2020, and 75 percent below 2000 levels by 2050 (Executive Order 05-033, June 2005). In October 2006, Governor Richardson unveiled a roadmap for achieving the 2020 goal.

- ◆ In 2006, Arizona established a statewide goal to reduce global warming emissions to 2000 levels by 2020 and to 50 percent below 2000 levels by 2040 (Executive Order 2006-13, September 2006).
- ◆ In February 2007, the governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington announced the Western Climate Action Initiative. Within six months, the governors will set a regional global warming emissions-reduction goal; and within 18 months, they will develop “a design for a regional market-based multi-sector mechanism, such as a load-based cap-and-trade program,” to achieve the emissions-reduction goal.
- ◆ In February 2007, New Jersey Governor John Corzine established a statewide goal to reduce global warming emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80% below 2006 levels by 2050 (Executive Order 54).
- ◆ In February 2007, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich announced a statewide goal to reduce global warming emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 60% below 1990 levels by 2050.
- ◆ In February 2007, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire established a statewide goal to reduce global warming emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, 25% below 1990 levels by 2035, and 50% below 1990 levels by 2050 (Executive Order 07-02).

More than a dozen other states, including Alaska, Colorado, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, and Vermont, are in various stages of considering statewide climate goals and/or plans.

CALIFORNIA AND NORTHEAST STATES REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM POWER PLANTS

- ◆ In 2006, California Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill (SB 1368) requiring the California Energy Commission to establish a global warming emissions standard for electricity used in California, whether it is generated in-state or imported from power plants in other states. The standard will require that new long-term investments in power generation come from facilities with emissions as low as, or lower than, emissions from a clean and efficient natural gas power plant.
- ◆ In 2005, the Governors of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont agreed to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to cap global warming emissions from the region’s power plants at current levels and reduce them by 10 percent by 2019. Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich signed legislation requiring the state to join RGGI in 2006, while Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri committed the states to join in 2007. The RGGI states recently finalized a model rule to implement the program, and each of the RGGI states will put the rule in place in 2007.

ELEVEN STATES ADOPT GLOBAL WARMING EMISSION STANDARDS FOR CARS AND LIGHT TRUCKS

- ◆ In 2004, California adopted the first global warming pollution standards for cars, light trucks, and SUVs, beginning in model year 2009. By 2015, new cars will be required to emit 34 percent less global warming pollution on average and light trucks 25 percent less pollution.

- ◆ Ten states, including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, have adopted California's global warming pollution standards for cars and light trucks. Arizona and New Mexico recently announced plans to adopt the standards.
- ◆ In January 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced he will issue an Executive Order establishing a Low Carbon Fuel Standard for transportation fuels sold in California. By 2020, the standard will reduce the carbon intensity of California's passenger vehicle fuels by at least 10 percent.

CITIES COMMIT TO REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

- ◆ In March 2005, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels launched the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to urge mayors across the country to commit to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities (and thereby reduce global warming emissions in their jurisdictions by at least 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012).
- ◆ As of February 2006, 407 mayors of cities from all 50 states had signed on to the agreement. These mayors represent more than 59 million Americans. Go to www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/quotes.htm#mayors for the list of participating mayors.

MORE THAN 20 STATES AND WASHINGTON, DC REQUIRE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION

- ◆ A total of 22 states and the District of Columbia have enacted renewable electricity standards, requiring a certain percent of the state's electricity come from renewable energy sources. These standards will reduce total carbon dioxide emissions by at least 75 million metric tons each year by 2017—the equivalent of taking more than 11 million cars off the road, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

STATES IMPLEMENT ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

- ◆ In recent years, 10 states (Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington) have adopted new appliance and equipment efficiency standards to cut energy use.
- ◆ Energy efficiency standards recently passed in Arizona, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington will save enough energy each year to power nearly 600,000 homes and will reduce as much global warming pollution as taking 800,000 cars off the road, according to the Appliance Standards Awareness Project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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