

# HB 2020

## A Common-Sense Next Step for Oregon's Climate Future

### State leadership on climate is more important than ever.

Oregon is known as an energy and climate leader. But we can't rest on our reputation while the federal government dismantles climate progress, slashes agency budgets, and drops climate change from federal environmental reviews. HB 2020 outlines a small but determined next step for Oregon – one in which we continue to take on the critical challenges of climate change while improving efficiency and effectiveness in state government.

#### What this bill does:

##### Makes modest changes to the Oregon Department of Energy.

- Renames the agency to formalize climate role.
- Adds Senate confirmation of agency director.
- Provides responsibilities that support state goals to reduce carbon, including a report on program organization to the Legislature in 2019.
- Builds on ODOE's existing climate and energy planning work — the agency already offers technical expertise in renewable and thermal energy, energy resiliency, fleets and fuels, and emissions inventories. ODOE has served as the liaison to the Global Warming Commission since the commission was formed.
- With this bill, existing ODOE programs are strengthened, improving Oregon's ability to meet its various energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals and deepening the agency's resources for Oregonians.

##### Establishes a new state Energy and Climate Board.

- Board serves as oversight and advisory body for the Oregon Department of Energy and Climate.
- Board provides forum for discussions on strategic energy and climate policy, providing stakeholders with more transparency and opportunities to have their voices heard.
- Board membership includes an economist, an academic, Oregonians who represent residential and commercial energy users and the transportation sector, and a member of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

##### Supports more efficient and collaborative state climate efforts.

- The number one thing we know about the state's response to climate change is that we're not on track to meet our statutory goals.
- At least 10 different agencies oversee climate programs, with much of the work occurring in silos. There's no prioritization of goals, and limited requirements for state government to work together on the problem.
- HB 2020 creates the building blocks for a more coordinated state approach to climate change, one that improves overall outcomes for Oregon while supporting agency performance, reporting, and accountability.

#### What this bill doesn't do:

Add to the state budget. HB 2020 can be absorbed within ODOE's proposed 17-19 budget, which gives the Legislature a full session in 2019 to evaluate changes to climate policy in Oregon, how to fund those changes, and how to organize the state's responsibilities going forward.

2017 Legislative Session

For more information:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Measures/Overview/HB2020>

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## Oregonians are clear: climate change is a public health and economic priority.

### HB 2020 results from the Legislature's year-long review of the Oregon Department of Energy.

- Modernizing ODOE just makes sense, which is why the Oversight Committee, utilities, and ODOE all agreed that updating ODOE's mission was necessary and timely, especially as older programs reach their end.
- ODOE isn't the same agency it was five years ago as BETC wound down. Twenty-first century challenges demand more from the state, and HB 2020 provides a framework for improved results, led by a non-regulatory agency ready to serve in a facilitator role.
- ODOE has become more streamlined, presenting two budgets in a row with significant FTE cuts. Further limiting the agency's role does nothing to reduce the department's reliance on the Energy Supplier Assessment. Expanding ODOE's role, on the other hand, fills a critical state need while potentially helping to diversify its revenue in the future.

## State government should and must evolve.

### The state has a responsibility to address climate change, with guidance for agencies to work together.

- HB 2020's modest changes improve our opportunities to engage with people on climate change. Oregonians deserve a forum for comprehensive discussions about our progress and challenges, and about how we're responding to climate change in ways that take into account the needs of the most vulnerable communities in the state.
- As stewards of our state's resources, we have to balance climate policy and Oregon's economy. State government must provide a predictable and reliable plan to meet our climate goals so Oregon businesses can prepare.
- Each legislative session, we approach climate policy as one-off decisions. This may lead to unintended consequences that could be avoided with thoughtful planning and stakeholder engagement. Designating a lead agency and improving coordination can enhance climate work already underway while providing invaluable information to decision-makers.

### ODOE can meet new responsibilities while offering value to Oregon businesses, agencies, nonprofits, and customers of every utility in the state.

- **Renewable Portfolio Standard** — ODOE tracks Oregon's RPS goals, certifies utilities' facilities, and provides technical help to utilities and electricity suppliers. HB 2020 will further strengthen this work.
- **Utility Partnerships** — partnered with Central Lincoln PUD on competitive, successful entry to NGA Policy Academy on grid modernization and energy resilience. Secured federal funding and provided additional state funding to Eugene Water and Electric Board energy storage pilot project. Issued Renewable Energy Development grants to Emeral PUD (\$58k) and Central Electric Cooperative (\$128k).
- **Agriculture and Energy Workgroup** — worked closely with stakeholders on evaluating the balance between high-value agriculture and the future of energy transmission in the Umatilla Basin.

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