

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Michael Dembrow
Representative Ken Helm
Representative Karin Power
Oregon State Legislature

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SUBJECT: Climate Change Programs Implemented by the State of Oregon

INTRODUCTION

The State of Oregon, through various departments and governmental entities, currently has numerous programs in place to address climate change. While no overarching governing structure seems to be in place to coordinate these initiatives, Oregon as a state is moving forward in the fight to protect its people and environment from the detrimental effects of climate change. The programs address a wide array of issues, including but not limited to, researching climate change, determining the effects on the state and the region, examining potential policy responses, enhancing the energy efficiency of infrastructure, increasing the deployment of renewable energy, and even accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles.¹

Per the request, we have produced a chart (see below) that provides information on the programs we have identified over the past two weeks. The programs are listed along with the agency in charge of administering the program, the corresponding administrative rule where applicable, and a brief description of the program itself. In order to provide better context, the programs are further separated into three categories: (1) programs to cut emissions, (2) programs to build resilience, and (3) programs to educate or better understand climate change. It should be noted that this is a working document, subject to change if necessary.

¹ Oregon has primacy in implementing the federal Clean Air Act, which includes requirements for the control of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources pursuant to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §7401 (1970). This program is not described in detail below, but is also not anticipated to achieve major additional emissions reductions.

STATE PROGRAM CHARTS

PROGRAMS THAT INTENTIONALLY OR INCIDENTALLY CUT EMISSIONS²			
PROGRAM	AGENCY	AUTHORITY	DESCRIPTION
Multi-State Zero Emissions Vehicle Action Plan (ZEV Alliance International)	Public Utility Commission; Department of Environmental Quality	OAR 860-087-001 ³ ; Federal Clean Air Act ⁴ ; HB 2017 (2017)	Oregon joined other states with zero emission vehicle rules to develop the plan that provides for a coordinated approach to the increased use of ZEVs by specifying actions needed to remove barriers to their adoption. Oregon's commitment to zero emission vehicles has been reaffirmed many times over the past decade. For instance, the state adopted California's Zero Emission Vehicle program effective with the 2009 model year. Additionally, 2013, Gov. Kitzhaber joined seven other Governors in committing to coordinated action to ensure the successful implementation of their state zero-emission vehicle programs.
Zero Emissions Vehicle Rebate Program	Department of Environmental Quality	HB 2017 (2017)	Program allows the DEQ to offer rebates on purchase of electric vehicles that operate with zero emissions.
Oregon Global Warming Commission	Department of Energy	HB 3543 (2007)	Charged with tracking trends in greenhouse gas emissions and recommending ways to

² These programs reduce carbon dioxide emissions. However, in some cases this pollution reduction is a secondary benefit, as some programs were established primarily to provide a variety of other benefits to Oregonians.

³ OAR refers to the PUC's rules regarding Transportation Electrification Programs.

⁴ Under the federal Clean Air Act, California may adopt rules regulating emissions from new vehicles that are more stringent than those issued by the U.S. EPA; however, once California adopts such rules, other states may adopt the same requirements. *See*

<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/programs/Pages/ORLEV.aspx>.

			coordinate state and local efforts to reduce emissions in Oregon.
Energy Efficient Schools Program	Department of Energy	ORS 470.810 (2011)	Helps schools understand their energy needs, identify improvements, and connect with financial resources to improve learning environments.
Carbon Dioxide Standard	Department of Energy	OAR 345-024-0500; ORS 469.470 (1999)	Sets carbon dioxide emission standards for new energy facilities that emit carbon dioxide. Includes requirement to pay fees for carbon offsets for higher emitting facilities.
Public Purpose Charge	Department of Energy	SB 1149 (1999)	Directs both Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp to collect a “public purpose” charge from customers and then put those funds towards conservation projects and renewable resources are usually sent to the Energy Trust of Oregon to help fund conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy projects.
State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) Program	Department of Energy	ORS 276.900-915 (1991)	Requires state agencies to build new or renovate existing buildings using energy efficient design methods.
1.5% for Green Energy Technology	Department of Energy	OAR 330-135-0010; ORS 279C.527 (2007)	Requires that public entities spend 1.5% of public building construction costs on green energy technology.
Oregon Sustainable Transportation Initiative	Department of Transportation	ORS 468A.205 (2007)	Integrated statewide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation while creating healthier, more livable, communities and greater economic opportunity.
Solar Photovoltaic Program	Public Utility Commission	OAR 860-084-0000 (2010)	Addresses Renewable Energy Certificates and Compliance with the RPS.

Renewable Portfolio Standard	Department of Energy; Public Utility Commission	OAR 330-160-0005 (2007); SB 1547 ⁵ (2016)	Requires 50 percent of electricity Oregonians use to come from renewable resources by 2040.
Community Solar Program	Public Utility Commission	OAR 860-088-0005 (2016)	Utilities are required to approve and allow the interconnection of certified non-utility-owned community solar projects.
Energy Trust of Oregon	Public Utility Commission	SB 1149 (1999)	Trust is an independent, customer-focused, nonprofit aimed at helping 1.6 million utility customers in Oregon save energy and generate renewable power.
Oregon Clean Fuels Program	Department of Environmental Quality	OAR 340-253-0000 (2012)	Assists in the reduction of greenhouse gases in the transportation sector by supporting creating cleaner cars, using cleaner fuels, and reducing the amount that Oregonians drive.
Forestry Carbon Offsets	Department of Forestry	ORS 526.780 (2001)	Creates a platform for the State Forester to enter into agreements with nonfederal forest landowners as a means to market, register, transfer or sell forestry carbon offsets on behalf of the landowners to provide a stewardship incentive for nonfederal forestlands.

⁵ As of March 2016 and the passage of SB 1547, the PUC requires electric companies to retail electricity consumers located in Oregon to eliminate coal-fired resources from electric company's electricity supply. Increasing the RPS requirement to 50% by 2040.

PROGRAMS TO BUILD RESILIENCE			
PROGRAM	AGENCY	AUTHORITY	DESCRIPTION
Climate Change Response Preparedness and Action Plan	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Governor's recommendation (2007)	Under OPRD's mission and statutory responsibilities, OPRD has created a plan to identify potential impacts and suggest actions to reduce and increase the resiliency to climate change and aid in taking informed actions.
Oregon Sustainability Board	Oregon State Legislature	ORS 184.423 (2001)	By establishing Oregon's overall sustainability policy, OSB encourages activities that best sustain, protect, and enhance the environment, economy and community for the present and future benefit of Oregonians.
Climate and Health Program	Oregon Health Authority	Grant from the CDC (2017)	OHA works with the CDC as part of a Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative intended to help agencies address the public health effects of climate change.

PROGRAMS TO EDUCATE AND BETTER UNDERSTAND CLIMATE CHANGE			
PROGRAM	AGENCY	AUTHORITY	DESCRIPTION
Oregon Climate Change Research Institute	Department of Higher Education	HB 3542 (2007)	OCCRIS is a network of researchers at OSU, UP, PSU, SOU and federal and state labs steered at achieving a climate-prepared Northwest by building a climate knowledge network.
Oregon Climate Service	Oregon State University	ORS 352.816; Oregon State Legislature (1970s)	Located at Oregon State University, OCS acquires, maintains, disseminates, and interprets climate data and information for the state.