



# Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP)

## Governor Brown's 2020 Executive Order on Climate

In March 2020, Oregon Governor Kate Brown made history by taking sweeping executive action (EO 20-04) to address the climate crisis. Citing the scientific, economic and moral imperative for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adopting climate mitigation measures, the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) will ensure that Oregonians across the state benefit from a competitive economy and healthy communities. OCAP directs 16 different state agencies to take action in support of one primary overarching goal: reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon by at least 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050. Here's how the program aims to achieve that:



### Transportation

**Why it matters:** The transportation sector is responsible for nearly 40% of Oregon's total greenhouse gas emissions. Increased investment is needed in low-carbon modes of transportation, including transit, biking and walking.

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP will cut transportation emissions by: a) strengthening Oregon's Clean Fuels Program, setting a bold new goal of reducing the carbon intensity of Oregon's transportation fuels by 25% by 2035— the strongest in the nation; b) significantly expanding the number of electric vehicles on the road and charging stations to fuel them; and c) directing the Department of Transportation to help advance transportation and land use plans that achieve the state's emission reduction goals, and evaluating the greenhouse gas emissions of transportation projects in planning processes.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** OCAP will support Oregon jobs and investments in communities across the state, all while cutting harmful, climate-change causing pollutants from our air.



### Health

**Why it matters:** From increased rates of asthma, lung and heart disease related to air pollution, dehydration and other illness resulting from extreme heat, and the physical harm and psychological stress caused by wildfires, flooding and other natural disasters, human health is yet another casualty of unmitigated climate change

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP directs the Oregon Health Authority to produce a report on the public health impacts of climate change in Oregon. The report will place a particular emphasis on the risks faced by vulnerable populations—including seniors, children, low-income communities and communities of color—reflecting the fact that these groups will disproportionately feel the health impacts inflicted by climate change.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** With dangerous wildfires increasing in frequency and intensity across Oregon, and more air-polluting vehicles on our roads, climate change threatens to worsen public health outcomes across Oregon. OCAP's report on climate change and public health will better our ability to ensure healthy families and communities across the state.



## Food

**Why it matters:** Food waste alone is responsible for at least 2.6 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S—the equivalent to more than 37 million cars on the road. When wasted food goes to a landfill, it creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP directs the Department of Environmental Quality to take actions to cut Oregon's food waste in half by 2030.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** Cutting food waste will reduce harmful methane emissions and save the energy required to grow, process, transport and cook food. It will also save Oregonians money: the average U.S. household of four loses an estimated \$1,350 to \$2,275 every year as a result of uneaten food.



## Buildings

**Why it matters:** Buildings can either guzzle or sip energy and currently run on a significant amount of fossil fuel energy, both from electricity and natural gas. Because buildings can last for more than 100 years, building things well in the first place saves money in the long run.

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP sets new building energy efficiency goals for residential and commercial construction, representing at least a 60% reduction in new building energy consumption from 2006. It also directs Oregon to adopt energy efficiency standards for appliances to be consistent with stronger standards among West Coast jurisdictions.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** Maximizing the energy efficiency of buildings will reduce operating costs for businesses and save renters and homeowners money on their utility bills.



## Equity

**Why it matters:** Climate change has a disproportionate effect on the physical, mental, financial and cultural wellbeing of impacted communities, including Native American tribes, communities of color, rural communities, and other traditionally underrepresented communities.

**How OCAP will help:** Through OCAP, the Governor's office will convene an interagency workgroup on climate impacts to impacted communities to develop strategies to guide climate actions, with participation by 15 state agencies and departments.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** By engaging impacted communities in the policymaking process, we can ensure equitable, lasting solutions to achieve Oregon's climate objectives.



## Youth

**Why it matters:** As the reality of climate change becomes more dire, young people are increasingly anxious and depressed about what it means for their futures.

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP directs the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a timely study the impacts of climate change on youth depression and mental health in Oregon.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** With more young Oregonians struggling with mental health than ever, it is critical that we better understand the relationship between the global climate crisis and youth depression here at home.



## Innovation

**Why it matters:** Innovation and technological development will be critical in order for industry to effectively decarbonize and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP directs the Environmental Quality Commission to limit and reduce emissions from large stationary sources and major fossil fuels emitters. In doing so, OCAP encourages innovation, incentivizing the adoption of new technologies and processes to reduce emissions across Oregon's industrial sector.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** Industrial innovation and technological development will help Oregon maintain economic competitiveness and growth, while advancing the state's emission reduction goals.



## Lands

**Why it matters:** Natural and working lands play a critical role in carbon sequestration and climate mitigation. The science is clear: in order to avoid climate catastrophe, we must radically transform the way we use our land—from how we grow our food to how we manage our forests.

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP directs the Oregon Global Warming Commission to propose state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** Increasing the capacity of our natural and working lands to remove and store carbon means preserving the Oregon we love—its forests, wetlands and agricultural lands—for future generations.



## Clean Energy

**Why it matters:** Electricity is the second largest contributor to climate pollution in Oregon and big energy investment decisions will be made over the next few years. Oregon's way of regulating utilities has been based on "least cost, least risk," but not "least carbon."

**How OCAP will help:** OCAP directs the Oregon Public Utility Commission to prioritize proceedings and activities that advance decarbonization and make rapid reductions to greenhouse gas emissions in the utility sector.

**How Oregonians will benefit:** Increased renewable energy and energy efficiency will help ensure a diversified energy supply, more jobs, cleaner air and healthier communities across Oregon.

## More information

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