

July 17, 2009

## Summary of Executive Order 09-05 Washington's Leadership on Climate Change

On May 21, 2009, Governor Gregoire signed Executive Order (EO) 09-05, continuing the state's strong action to address climate change. Below are its key elements and directives to the Governor's agencies.

### Action area: Shaping the Federal Climate Program

**Federal Engagement:** **Work with the federal government on a climate program that reflects our state's priorities.** Ecology will coordinate with other agencies, the Governor's Office, and Washington's Congressional delegation to provide comments and suggestions on federal legislation. *Ecology is coordinating with other state agencies to review and comment on H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. Formal comments submitted by the state are posted on Ecology's climate change website.*

**Industry Benchmarks:** **Develop recommendations on emission benchmarks by industry sector based on industry best practices by July 2011.** Ecology with help from outside experts and in consultation with WA businesses will develop an initial set of sector by sector benchmarks that will realistically reflect specific WA industry conditions and configurations. *Ecology will be working with industries to determine the best approach for establishing a priority list of benchmarks to develop by sector. The agency expects to then work directly with the industries in those sectors.*

**Forest Sector:** **Develop recommendations for forest offset protocols and other financial incentives for forestry and forest products by Sept. 2010.** *A planning meeting will be held in July 2009 with a subset of stakeholders to determine how to best focus efforts given the current status of WCI and Congressional legislation and considering the 2008 Forest Sector Workgroup Report. After the planning meeting, DNR and Ecology will convene the working group to undertake the efforts identified in the planning meeting as well as develop recommendations for financial incentives for forest landowners and forest products.*

**Regional Program:** **Continue participation in the Western Climate Initiative.** *Ecology is continuing to work with the other states and provinces participating in the WCI and Washington stakeholders to develop the "essential elements" needed to implement the regional greenhouse gas emission reduction program designed by WCI. The "essential elements" will form the basis of the statutory or regulatory requirements for each of the jurisdictions. The WCI's full workplan is available on Ecology's climate change website.*

### Action area: Reducing Greenhouse Gases from Stationary Sources

**Reduction Strategies:** **Provide larger facilities with an estimate of GHG emissions and their proportionate share of reductions by Dec. 2009, ask facilities to recommend strategies, and develop reduction strategies by Oct. 2010.** *Ecology sent a letter to large GHG emission sources in June 2009 to provide them with an estimate of their GHG emissions. Ecology will convene a kick-off meeting with these businesses and other stakeholders in July 2009 to solicit their idea on the best way to have on-going consultation with these stakeholders to estimate each facilities proportionate share of reductions and to develop recommendations and strategies to reduce emissions.*

**TransAlta Coal Plant:** **Develop an agreed order with TransAlta to meet the state's emission performance standard at the Centralia plant by no later than 2025.** *By January 2011, Ecology in concert with the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's office, and representatives of TransAlta will develop an agreed order that meets or exceeds conditions of the Governor's EO. The order will be finalized only after going through substantive stakeholder review and comment.*

### Action area: Reducing Greenhouse Gases from Transportation

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**Fuel Standards:** Provide recommendations for low-carbon fuel standards or alternatives to reduce carbon in transportation fuels by July 2010. Ecology, in consultation with the Departments of Commerce and Transportation as well as interested stakeholders, will assess various lower carbon fuel programs and options, assess how those options would align with Washington's transportation fuel supply conditions, and recommend a low carbon fuel approach that best fits our state.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled:** By Dec. 2010, develop estimates of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), evaluate and develop recommendations on existing VMT benchmarks to address low or no emission vehicles, and develop other strategies for reducing transportation emissions. The Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Departments of Ecology and Commerce, will work with local governments and business and environmental stakeholders to evaluate VMT benchmarks and other strategies for reducing GHG emissions from the transportation sector.

**Regional Transportation Plans:** Work with larger regional transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) to develop regional transportation plans and report on progress by Dec. 2011. The Department of Transportation will work with the Puget Sound Regional Council, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Southwest WA Regional Transportation Council, and Thurston Regional Planning Council to cooperatively develop and adopt regional transportation plans that provide people with transportation alternatives, reduce GHG emissions and meet VMT benchmarks.

**West Coast Green Highway:** Develop and seek federal funding for the electrification of the West Coast interstate highway, to purchase electric vehicles, and to install infrastructure to support electric vehicles and other efficient low-carbon vehicles. The Governor's Office will work with state agencies, representatives from the states of California and Oregon, and private sector stakeholders to fund a West Coast Green Highway, to support the purchase of electric vehicles, and to build the infrastructure needed to support efficient low- and no- carbon fuels and vehicles.

#### Action area: Adapting to and Preparing for Unavoidable Impacts

**Sea Level Rise:** Evaluate the potential impacts of sea level rise on the state's shoreline areas and develop recommendations for addressing these impacts.

**Water Resources:** Develop guidelines, tools and recommendations for anticipated changes in water resources due to climate change.

The evaluation and recommendations on sea level rise and water resources will be incorporated into the initial climate change response strategy developed under the direction provided by the legislature under the State Agency Climate Leadership Act (SB 5560). The Governor's EO specifically calls out these two critical issues for our state to ensure they receive focused attention as we work to develop our response strategy. Ecology along with the Departments of Health, Agriculture, Commerce, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Transportation, will work with other state agencies, scientific experts, and other stakeholders in developing recommendations on preparing for and adapting to climate change. We will also invite the Association of Washington Cities and the Association of Washington Counties to work with us, as their resources allow.

#### Process and Progress Reports

**Tribal Governments:** State and its agencies shall consult with Washington's Native American Tribes in all aspects of the climate EO. An executive level (agency directors) government to government letter will be sent to the chairs of each of the 29 federally recognized tribes in the state offering a meeting to brief tribes on the EO and the State Agency Climate Leadership Act (SB 5560) and discuss on-going tribal involvement/consultation.

**Progress Report:** Progress report to the Governor by Dec. 2010. Ecology will coordinate with other agencies to develop a report summarizing the progress in implementing the EO.