



GREEN JOBS AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Washington, and the rest of the world, must reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution.

By doing so now, we will create jobs, expand our green economy and make important progress toward energy independence while facing up to the greatest environmental threat of our time.

Confronting climate change will unleash technological innovation and further strengthen Washington's position as a green economy hub now and into the future. It will allow us to continue to be a leader in promoting energy efficiency and new clean energy sources, creating high-quality jobs here in Washington state.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S GREEN JOBS AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Governor Gregoire's Green Jobs and Climate Action package will create jobs, stimulate the economy and reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas pollution. It will strengthen our position in the global race to seize the opportunities of the green economy, and it will lead the way to skilled, good-paying green jobs of the future.

The key features of the package are:

Targeted investments to stimulate our economy: The Governor's proposed budget in 2009–11 includes new and ongoing investments totaling \$455 million to expand our green economy to maintain and support several thousand jobs. Investments include:

- \$419 million in transportation projects to provide options for Washington citizens, such as HOV lanes, bike and pedestrian safe projects, park and ride lots, additional vanpool vehicles, and expanded commute reduction programs. Transportation investments also include biodiesel fuel for ferries and highway system efficiency improvements such as ramp metering and express lane system automation.
- \$10 million for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in public facilities and publicly funded housing.
- \$6 million for the Energy Freedom Program to support biomass energy projects such as anaerobic digesters and biofuels processing equipment.
- Expansion of Community Economic Revitalization Board activities to include "clean technology" projects as part of the additional \$20 million capital funding.

The Office of Financial Management estimates these investments will support 2,900 jobs in fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle tax credit: Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles could replace petroleum with electricity, potentially reducing money spent on oil and GHG emissions. The Climate Action Team (CAT) recommended a sales and use tax exemption for alternative vehicles to include the new generation of plug-in hybrid (electric-gas) vehicles. The Governor is proposing legislation to create a tax exemption starting in 2009 and extending through 2014. This will encourage Washington residents to purchase fuel-efficient “clean cars” and will send an important signal to the marketplace.

Improved building codes: Based on recommendations from the CAT, the Governor is asking the State Building Code Council to improve building energy efficiency by approximately 30 percent beyond the 2006 standards.

Washington Clean Energy Future: Governor Gregoire is proposing a partnership with the clean technology industries in our state to identify the strategic actions needed to ensure that Washington remains at the cutting edge of the green energy future.

Greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade incentives to drive reductions: To protect and improve our environment, we have to cap the GHG pollution that various sectors of our economy are allowed to release into the atmosphere. By capping this pollution, we will achieve the predictability scientists say is critical if we are to slow the rate of climate change. The cap-and-trade program will provide emitters flexibility to make needed reductions. It will create the market incentives for businesses, governments and others to invest in the

technologies that will reduce GHG pollution.

The Governor is asking the Legislature to authorize a GHG-reduction system designed by Washington state, for Washington state, starting in 2012. It is based on the Western Climate Initiative regional cap-and-trade design, developed by Washington and other states and Canadian provinces. Seen as a model for the U.S. cap-and-trade program, the regional program will drive investment in the clean energy economy, promote green jobs, position Washington businesses to receive credit for early reductions of greenhouse gases and protect Washington citizens’ interests in the anticipated federal cap-and-trade program.

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

By acting now, we will protect Washington state’s interests both economically and environmentally. Our policies will influence the decisions being made nationally and provide businesses the certainty they need to start investing in the green economy and creating jobs. Additionally, we will also take crucial steps toward addressing the significant impacts that would result from climate change, including extreme storms, severe droughts, devastating floods, increased wildfires and coastal erosion and landslides.

Through past efforts like our Clean Cars law and our renewable energy standards, we are attacking the problem and driving investment and creativity. We are innovators in Washington state, and if we unleash that innovation on this challenge, we will thrive.

For more information, visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0901003.pdf.

The Green Jobs and Climate Action Plan will help move us toward meeting our GHG reduction goals

