

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2005

Contacts:
Holly Armstrong, 503-378-6169
Anna Richter Taylor, 503-378-6496

GOVERNOR KULONGOSKI ANNOUNCES NEW STEPS TO CURB GLOBAL WARMING IN OREGON

(Salem, OR) – Today Governor Ted Kulongoski announced five new initiatives to curb global warming in Oregon as part of a regional strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Northwest. The initiatives are based on the recommendation of The Governor’s Advisory Group on Global Warming, which developed a report called the *Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reduction*. The Governor also announced his continued commitment to work with his fellow governors in the broader West Coast Governors Global Warming Initiative.

“The threats of global warming are real and Oregon has an opportunity to be a leader on the front end by developing new technologies, investing in renewable energy, and practicing conservation – which will reduce greenhouse emissions in our state,” Governor Kulongoski said. “I am impressed by the report delivered to me last month from my advisory group, and am pleased to announce five recommendations from that report that we will begin putting into action today. These five steps will put Oregon on the map as a national leader in the efforts to combat global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

The Governor’s announcement included: 1) establishing new greenhouse gas reduction goals for the state (arrest increases by 2010; 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020; 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050); 2) appointing a task force to develop a plan for how Oregon can implement stricter emission standards for vehicles; 3) appointing a workgroup to develop a carbon dioxide reduction schedule for utilities and other large emitters of carbon dioxide; 4) directing the Oregon Department of Energy to create an energy-saving campaign to reduce state agency energy use by at least 20 percent by 2015 and energy use statewide by at least 20 percent by 2025; and 5) launching an aggressive campaign to increase renewable energy and bio fuel production and use in the state pursuant to strategies contained in the state’s Renewable Energy Action Plan.

Governor Kulongoski created the Advisory Group on Global Warming in February 2004 and asked it to develop a statewide strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that would complement the regional work of the West Coast Governors Global Warming Initiative. The Advisory Group included 28-leading members of the business, academic, and environmental communities and state agencies. The Co-Chairs of the group were Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Valley Professor of Marine Biology, Oregon State University, and Mr. Mark Dodson, Chief Executive Officer, Northwest Natural. The group met for the first time in February 2004 and delivered its final report to the Governor on March 24, 2005 after receiving input from approximately 400 Oregonians.

In addition to the announcement today, The Governor sent a letter to Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Karen Minnis urging the adoption of several bills that would expand renewable energy options for Oregon residents, businesses and state government – which is important part of the Governor’s global warming strategy.

“At a time when Oregon is facing record high fuel and energy prices it is essential that we aggressively conserve our energy use and diversify our energy supply over the coming years to benefit both our urban and rural economies, reduce our vulnerability to rising oil and natural gas prices, and do our part to curb global warming,” the Governor said in his letter. “We have an opportunity to solidify Oregon’s role as a leader on this issue, which reaches across party and regional lines by helping both our economy and our environment today and into the future.”

The Governor will appoint the new task force and workgroup within the next two months and will continue to explore and implement other recommendations made by his advisory group. For the complete *Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reduction*, go to: <http://egov.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/Oregon.shtml>