OGWC 2020 Biennial Report

Report to the Legislature

The Oregon Global Warming Commission is directed to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly that describes Oregon’s progress toward achievement of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals each biennium. The report may include relevant issues and trends of significance, including trends in greenhouse gas emissions, emerging public policy and technological advances. The report also may discuss measures the state may adopt to mitigate the impacts of global warming on the environment, the economy and the residents of Oregon and to prepare for those impacts.

2020 Report Outline

OGWC will prepare a succinct report in advance of the 2021 Legislative Session. Copy-editing and layout to occur in September and/or November 2020.

I. Executive Summary

II. Brief Summary of the State of the Climate

- Refer to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute’s Fourth Climate Assessment Report (2019), the Oregon Interagency Adaptation Framework (2020) and the 2018 OGWC Report.
- Costs of inaction
- Benefits of action

III. Progress Toward Achievement of the GHG Reduction Goals

- Discuss expectations relative to meeting the 2020 statutory goal, using GHG emissions inventory data from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (with 2018/2019 preliminary estimates).
- Discuss the GHG emissions reductions (and pace thereof) necessary to achieve the state’s 2050 goal.
- Legislation, executive orders (EO) and market changes that have occurred since our last report.
- Discuss the need to ramp up efforts and continuing challenges.
- Discuss efforts to get on track to achieve Oregon’s 2050 and interim goals, including: actions occurring based on 2017 EO’s, and ongoing efforts being taken by public and private entities to reduce emissions.
- Discuss key EO 20-04 directives (note, EO 20-04 directives will also be summarized in ODOE’s 2020 Biennial Energy Report).

IV. Commission Recommendations

- Describe the role of government action in accelerating market transitions.
- Discuss principles for effective climate mitigation policies.
- Make recommendations for best practices to address environmental justice.
• Make recommendations on state actions as part of implementation of EO-20-04 – synergies, conflicts, missing opportunities and priorities.
• Make recommendations on additional actions that should be taken by agencies and others (such as private companies, neighboring states) with or without additional legislative action (important examples not an exhaustive list).
• Discuss the need for a new plan to get us to our 2035 goal.

V. Conclusions

• Costs of inaction and benefits of action.
• Prospects for meeting our goals.
• Role of government action in accelerating market transitions.
• Legislative, executive and private actions are all important.
• Action needed sooner rather than later.
• Need to do more/give more authority to agencies to act.