

*Working together for clean air*



Puget Sound  
Clean Air Agency  
pscleanair.org



# Climate Change Activities in Washington State, the West Coast and Beyond

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## Local Action Builds a Foundation

- 2000 – 2001
  - City of Seattle adopts resolution to meet Kyoto targets and Seattle City Light declares goal of becoming climate neutral
  - Climate Solutions releases report showing clean energy businesses could create 32,000 jobs and a \$2.5 billion dollar regional industry
  - Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Board of Directors votes to create a climate protection program
- 2003 – 2004
  - Clean Air Agency develops climate protection program, conducts a stakeholder process to identify policies and start building program
  - Boeing, Weyerhaeuser, Puget Sound Energy and 20 others agree on set of climate protection strategies
  - West Coast Governors agree to work together on climate protection
- 2005
  - Seattle City Light achieves goal of zero net greenhouse gases (climate neutral)
  - Clean Air Agency begins to implement the stakeholder recommendations
  - New Governor Gregoire supports climate legislation

## West Coast Governors' Climate Change Initiative

- Washington, Oregon and California agree to work together on a suite of climate protection activities
- Modeled after New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers climate action plan
  - Set new targets for state fleet greenhouse gas emissions
  - Promote anti-idling on the I-5 corridor, near major urban areas, and on other major interstate routes.
  - Increase renewable energy by one percent or more by 2015
  - Adopt energy efficiency standards for products not regulated by the federal government.
  - Update state building energy codes, with a goal of achieving at least 15 percent cumulative savings by 2015 in each state.
  - Explore 3 state adoption of California car standards



# Washington State Legislature 2005

## ● Clean Car Initiative

- Legislature directs state environmental agency (Dept of Ecology) to develop rules and adopt CA car standards
- Avoids approximately 6 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2020
- Saves Washington citizens over \$2 billion by 2020
- Linked to Oregon adoption

## ● Equipment energy efficiency standards

- Adopts standards for 13 appliances not under federal regulations
- Avoids 0.3 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Saves citizens \$150 million by 2020

## ● Adopts green building standards

- Avoids 0.04 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e

## ● Adopts tax incentives for solar and wind energy



## Climate Conditions in 2005

- From November 2004 through February 2005, Washington experienced one of the warmest, driest winters on record
- Precipitation at or near record lows, reduced ski season
- By early March, the mountain snow pack averaged 26% of normal. Many rivers and creeks on both sides of the Cascades were flowing at or near record-low levels.
- Climate conditions confirmed concerns from University of Washington researchers and climate activists.
- Local leaders, including Seattle Mayor Nickels and King County Executive Ron Sims, take even greater action on climate change



## King County

- One of the first users of biodiesel in public buses
  - 500,000 gallons in 2006
- March 2006, King County Executive Ron Sims pledges:
  - 50% of fuels used in public fleets, including METRO buses, will be from renewables such as biodiesel
  - Protect an additional 100,000 acres of county land by 2010
  - Increase reclaiming rates to reuse all treated sewer water
  - Consider ways to reduce dependence on cars in all future land-use plans



## US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- Mayor Greg Nickels asks cities across the US to agree to Kyoto target.
- To date, 224 cities have signed the agreement, representing 43.9 million Americans.
- Brings national and international attention to local action







## Mayors Climate Agreement Includes:

- Inventory global warming emissions and create action plans
- Reduce sprawl and preserve open space
- Promote transportation options
- Increase clean, alternative energy
- Make energy efficiency a priority through building improvements
- Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use
- Practice sustainable building
- Increase municipal fleet efficiency; reduce the number of vehicles; educate employees about anti-idling; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel
- Increase recycling rates
- Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting
- Educate the public, governments, and businesses about reducing global warming pollution

## Mayor's Green Ribbon Commission

- **Reduce Seattle's dependence on cars and cut GHG emissions by 170,000 tons**
  - Increase the supply of frequent, reliable and convenient public transportation
  - Significantly expand bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure
  - Lead a regional partnership to develop and implement a road pricing system
  - Implement a new commercial parking tax
  - Expand efforts to create compact, green, urban neighborhoods
- **Increase fuel efficiency and use of biofuels and cut GHG emissions by 200,000 tons**
  - Improve the average fuel efficiency of Seattle's cars and trucks
  - Substantially increase the use of biofuels
  - Significantly reduce emissions from diesel trucks, trains and ships
- **Achieve more efficient and cleaner energy for our homes and businesses and cut GHG emissions by 316,000 tons**
  - Maintain City Light at zero net GHG emissions
  - Substantially increase natural gas energy conservation
  - Strengthen the State Energy Code
  - Reduce Seattle Steam's use of natural gas

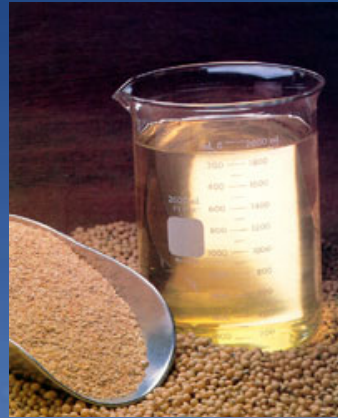
## Mayor's Green Ribbon Commission

- In addition to direct action recommendations, there were policy action recommendations
- Build on Seattle's leadership
  - Continue Seattle's strong leadership example
  - Mobilize the entire community
  - Create the Seattle Climate Partnership
  - Leverage regional and state action for climate solutions
- Sustain our commitment
  - Direct more resources to the challenge
  - Monitor and report on progress



## Washington State 2006

- **State legislators recognize economic and climate protection advantages of renewable fuels**
  - Washington agriculture industry can produce locally grown fuel
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Promote energy independence
- **State legislature passes Renewable Fuels Standard**
  - Starting in July 2007, 2% of all diesel sold in state to be biodiesel and
  - 2% of all gasoline to be ethanol
  - Increases to 5% biodiesel and 10% ethanol when Washington Dept of Agriculture determines in-state production adequate and air quality can be maintained



## What's Next

### ● Washington State

- Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)
- RPS requires each utility to ensure 5% of their power sources are renewables such as solar, wind, geothermal
- Public initiative, goes to the voters Fall 2006
- Also recommended by Agency stakeholder group
- Reduces 1.87 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e, saves region \$72 million by 2020 (assuming production tax credit)

### ● Clean Air Agency

- Ethanol 85 (E85)
- Cellulosic ethanol can reduce GHGs 60 to 80% over gasoline, based on a lifecycle analysis
- Auto manufacturers promote purchase of E-85 vehicles (Live Green, Go Yellow) but few fueling stations exist
- Working with state and regional partners to develop E-85 stations

## Along the West Coast

- **West Coast Governors Climate Initiative**
  - Focus on energy efficiency
  - Renewable fuels
  - Clean power
- **Washington State – prepare analysis of economic benefits of climate action and costs of inaction**



## Web Resources

- **Puget Sound Clean Air climate website:**  
[www.pscleanair.org/specprog/globclim/](http://www.pscleanair.org/specprog/globclim/)
- **Mayor Nickels Green Ribbon Commission:**  
<http://www.seattle.gov/climate/>
- **King County Executive Sims' initiatives:**  
<http://www.metrokc.gov/globalwarming/>
- **West Coast Governors' Initiative:**  
<http://www.ef.org/westcoastclimate/>