

Climate Change and Transportation in Washington State

September 14, 2011



Washington State
Transportation Commission

Climate Action Team

- In 2007 – 08, Governor Gregoire appointed a Climate Action Team (CAT) to develop recommendations for greenhouse gas reduction. Focus areas were the built environment, transportation, reducing the waste stream, and environmental policy review.
- The CAT recommended about 10 major transportation policies. Some were enacted; some required agency implementation; some required funding.



Keys Laws in Place

HB 2815 of 2008* established future limits on greenhouse gas emissions and directs GHG reduction efforts.

- The GHG reduction targets are:
 - Achieve 1990 GHG levels by 2020
 - 25% less than 1990 levels by 2035
 - 50% less than 1990 levels by 2050



**codified in part as RCW 70.235.020*

Key Laws in Place cont...

- The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is directed to adopt “broad, statewide goals to reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled by 2050”*
 - targets an 18% reduction by 2020
 - targets a 30% reduction by 2030
 - targets a 50% reduction by 2050

**codified as RCW 47.01.440*

- WSDOT also is directed to identify VMT reduction strategies, recognizing the different transportation needs of urban and rural areas

Key Laws in Place cont...

Executive Order 09-05 directs the State to:

- Participate with California and other states and provinces in the Western Climate Initiative
- Promote alternative fuel vehicles
- Evaluate adoption of a low carbon fuel standard

SB 5560 of 2009* directed the state to develop a GHG reduction strategy, and directed state agencies to reduce GHG

**codified in part as Chapter 43.21M RCW and as RCW 43.41.130*

Since 2008 - 09

- Economy crashes
- VMT drops
- Electric vehicles introduced
- GHG emissions decline
- Funding evaporates for transit and transportation options
- Slow progress on climate change programs
- West Coast Electric Highway moves forward



Washington State Energy Strategy



Transportation accounts for nearly half of the energy consumed in Washington.

Washington State Energy Strategy

- In 2010, the Washington State Legislature directed the, Department of Commerce to update the 1993 State Energy Strategy. The directive said the state's comprehensive plan for meeting future energy needs must meet three goals:

- Maintain competitive energy prices;
- Foster a clean energy economy and jobs; and
- Meet obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Although the 1993 state energy strategy included a chapter on transportation, more recent updates only address electricity supply and demand. The Advisory Group for the 2012 Update decided to focus significantly on transportation energy use.

The Draft 2012 State Energy Strategy builds on the work of the CAT for its transportation recommendations.

Draft Near Term Strategies are grouped as follows:

- Vehicles and fuels
- Travel efficiency
- Pricing



Draft: Washington State Energy Strategy

Draft Near Term Strategies include:

- *Vehicles and Fuels*
 - Deploy electric vehicle infrastructure
 - Set a renewable fuels standard
 - Manage transportation systems
 - Reduce diesel emissions
- *Travel Efficiency*
 - Expand commute trip reduction efforts
 - Promote housing/employment density
 - Encourage bicycle/pedestrian access
 - Improve transportation concurrency
- *Pricing*
 - Pay-as-you-drive insurance
 - Pilot VMT Pricing



Washington State Energy Strategy

The Washington State Energy Strategy will be adopted by the Department of Commerce in December 2011. Like the Washington Transportation Plan, it makes recommendations that requires further action to implement.

