

SUMMARY OF OREGON'S 2020 EXECUTIVE ORDER ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



On March 10, 2020, Governor Brown issued [Executive Order 20-04 \(EO\)](#) directing numerous state entities to plan and to implement actions that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, transition to low carbon operations and adapt to the Climate Crisis. Governor Brown exhibited bold leadership, ordering caps on GHG emissions to decline over time to meet or exceed reductions from 1990 levels by at least 45% by 2035 and at least 80% by 2050.

A. Embed GHG reductions and climate crisis mitigation/adaptation in operations (§§ 1- 3)

The EO charges 12 agencies, 1 task force and 6 commissions to take GHG reduction, climate mitigation and adaptation actions. Certain of these have key duties: Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and its Commission (EQC); Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) and its Commission (OTC); Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DCLD) and its Commission (LCDC); Oregon Health Authority (OHA); OR Dept. of Energy (ODOE); Dept. of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division (Building Codes Division); Dept. of Administrative Services (DAS); Public Utilities Commission (PUC); and Global Warming Commission (OGWC).¹ Each entity must use all of its authorities to:

1. Prioritize and expedite processes and procedures, like rulemaking
2. Integrate climate impacts and GHG reduction goals into planning, budgets, investments, and policy decisions (giving priority to GHG reductions, vulnerable and impacted communities and consulting the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) on mitigation/adaptation priorities and actions
3. Issue reports on proposed EO actions by May 15, 2020 (9 of the entities)

The Governor is gathering agency leaders into an Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities. It will provide high level strategy and guide the various state climate actions.²

B. Cap and ramp down GHG emissions, enhance clean fuel standards and credits (§4 and § 5)

DEQ and EQC, through regulations and other means, will cap and reduce GHG emissions from gasoline, diesel, and other liquid fuels, natural gas, and from businesses with large emissions (*e.g., large food processors, Portland shipyard*). These must be effective no later than January 1, 2022, with an initial report due May 15, 2020 and another due June 30, 2020. They must also require fuel companies to reduce the average GHG emissions per unit of fuel by another 20% no later than 2030 and 25% no later than 2035 (strictest clean fuels standards in USA). They must accelerate 1) incentives for utilities to support low carbon fuels, 2) stricter landfill methane emissions standards, and 3) actions to prevent and reduce food waste by 50% no later than 2030.

The EO directs the PUC to prioritize proceedings and actions to lower GHG emissions, mitigate costs to customers (*e.g., e-vehicle charging costs, electrification infrastructure*), and require electric companies to have cost-effective wildfire resilience systems. The PUC is directed to hold utility wildfire resilience workshops. The PUC must coordinate with the Oregon Housing and Community Services to establish a public process to mitigate energy burdens on low income and others created by transitioning away from fossil fuels (*e.g., environmental justice*).

C. Increase Energy Efficiency in Building Codes and Products (§§ 6-8a)

In consultation with the ODOE, Boards and Advisory Committees, the Building Codes Division is directed to adopt energy use efficiency goals and metrics that achieve 60% energy reduction by 2030 from 2006 levels for new residential and commercial buildings, excluding electric vehicles and appliances. By Sept. 15, 2020, the Division must report on implementing the energy

¹ Also, the Dept. of Forestry (ODF), Dept. of Agriculture (DOA), Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF), Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Business Oregon, Water Resources Dept., and Water Enhancement Board.

² It includes 10 agencies, the PUC, the EJTF, the OGWC, OR Parks and Recreation, and the OR Sustainability Board.

efficiency codes, and provide benchmarks in 2023, 2026, and 2029. ODOE will determine long-term energy costs saving from these actions.

ODOE is directed to pursue more stringent efficiency standards for products, including grid-connected appliances. By September 1, 2020, it must adopt or update energy efficiency rules for 10 products sold or installed in Oregon.³

D. Green Government (¶8)

The Dept. of Administrative Services is instructed to produce a plan for all agencies to rapidly convert the state fleet into zero-emission vehicles, expand electric vehicle charging stations in public buildings, and report on these efforts by Sept.15, 2020. It must also develop a program for all state agencies to follow for buying/leasing zero-emission vehicles, and provide assistance to local and special governments (*e.g., school districts*) in green procurements and strategies. By Sept. 15, 2020, DOS must identify and report on embedding lower GHG emissions in procurement laws and practices (*e.g., all contracts*).

E. Transportation (¶¶9-10)

The OTC, ODOT, with LCDC, EQC and ODOE, are directed to establish GHG emissions metrics and amend the Transportation Planning Rule to direct metropolitan planning districts to incorporate the EO's GHG reduction goals in their transportation plans. ODOT and DLCD will provide financial and technical assistance to metropolitan planning areas for amending both transportation and land use plans to meet or exceed the new GHG reduction goals. Starting no later than June 30, 2020, Agency heads will report progress regularly to the Governor.

By June 30, 2021, in consultation with other agencies and public utilities, ODOT must conduct a statewide needs analysis on infrastructure for transportation electrification, particularly in rural areas and vehicle classes. It will also incorporate GHG emissions implications of transportation projects in both regular capital planning and in ODOT's statewide planning (*e.g., local road projects, safety projects, public transit, bike and pedestrian paths, and repair projects needed due to climate crisis impacts*).

F. Health (¶ 11)

Starting on or before Sept. 1, 2020, the OHA will report annually on the public health impacts from the climate crisis to the Governor, the OGWC and the EJTF. Its report must highlight the risks to vulnerable communities, including minorities and tribal members, rural communities, and low-income communities. By June 30, 2021, OHA will report on climate impacts on youth depression and mental health. It and the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration shall propose protections for workplace employees from exposure to extreme heat and wildfire smoke.

G. Carbon Sequestration and Progress Reporting (¶ 12)

By June 30, 2021, in coordination with ODA, OWEB, and ODF, the OGWC is directed to propose statewide carbon sequestration goals and storage for Oregon natural and working landscapes, including forests, agricultural lands, and wetlands. Further, the OGWC's biennial legislative reports must detail progress on the new GHG emissions reduction goals and the state's zero-emission vehicle goals (by 2035, 50 % of all registered vehicles and 90% of all new vehicles sold in Oregon will be zero-emissions vehicles).

³ High color rendering index fluorescent lamps; computers and monitors; faucets and showerheads; commercial fryers, dishwashers and steam cookers; residential ventilating fans, electric storage water heaters, and portable electric spas.