

Regarding Climate Smart Economic Recovery: Democratic Party of Oregon Resolution 2020-007

Equitable Investments to reduce Greenhouse Gases for Economic Recovery from the COVID-related Economic Downturn

WHEREAS, scientists advise that a minimum of 7.6% per year reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for the next ten years is needed to avoid catastrophic climate-induced impacts: losses to infrastructure, property, agriculture, human health and life, due to droughts, wildfire, flooding, ocean acidification, and sea level rise¹; and

WHEREAS, the climate emergency can hinder economic recovery due to already occurring impacts such as fires, flooding, and sea level rise if not addressed concurrently to economic rebuilding from the impacts of COVID-19²; and

WHEREAS, Oregon state and local governments have lost revenue due to the reduced economic activity during the Pandemic and are considering investments that assist in the economic recovery³; and

WHEREAS, DPO Resolution 19-007 in support of Green New Deal principles includes climate smart investments in infrastructure and labor while assuring a just transition off fossil fuels⁴;

WHEREAS, DPO Resolution 2019-003 supports modernization of Forest Practices to address climate change and provide climate smart jobs advancing selective logging in mixed forests that sequesters carbon, protects watersheds and ends clearcutting⁵; and

WHEREAS, the Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04 directs a majority of state agencies to prioritize and expedite investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the building of climate resilience while ensuring environmental justice⁶; and

WHEREAS, several states, and at least one local government (*e.g.*, Connecticut, New York, California, Montgomery County, Maryland) have laws, policies and programs that support financing and investments in clean energy growth⁷, including a Green Bank⁸; and

¹ UNEP (2019). Emissions Gap Report 2019. Executive summary. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi.

² Kahn et al. (2019). Long-term Macroeconomic Effects of Climate Change. Globalization Institute Working Paper 365. <https://doi.org/10.24149/gwp365>.

³ Radnovich, C, "Economists forecast more than \$2B revenue loss due to COVID-19". Statesman Journal, May 20, 2020.

⁴ DPO Resolution 2019-007 <https://dpo.org/party/resolutions/2019-resolutions/>

⁵ DPO Resolution 2019-003; <https://dpo.org/party/resolutions/2019-resolutions/>

⁶ Executive Order 20-04 Directing State Agencies to Reduce and Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emission. Paragraph 3.C. March 10, 2020. https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-04.pdf

⁷ The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (n.d.). Clean Energy Strategies, Green Banks. <https://www.nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/basics-green-banks.html>.

⁸ <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Financial-and-Gov.-CT-Green-Bank-Resolution-of-Purpose.pdf>

WHEREAS, implementing economic recovery actions and funds that are climate smart will reduce risks and avoid much higher mitigation and adaptation costs now and in the future⁹; and

WHEREAS, elected and government officials have a responsibility to the electorate, as well as a moral, scientific, and economic imperative to all of us to reduce the worst impacts of both public health emergencies and climate change while specifically protecting vulnerable populations, which include minorities, children, women, the aged and people with underlying medical conditions.¹⁰

NOW, THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF OREGON RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. We call on all government officials and elected representatives to prioritize equitable and climate smart investments of COVID-19 and other economic recovery funds in addition to supporting the immediate health and human needs of Oregonians.

Section 2. We request COVID funds be directed to climate smart sustainable infrastructure and family-wage, labor-intensive resiliency strategies.

Section 3. We call on all government officials and elected representatives to support COVID-19 equitable and climate smart recovery activities to create long-term, well-paying jobs that recognize union elections and establish union contracts.

Section 4. We call on all elected representatives and government officials to support the creation of Green Banks in Oregon at the state and local levels that prioritize investment in climate-friendly energy and resilience and climate-friendly strategies.

Section 6. We call on all government officials and elected representatives to expedite and prioritize the climate smart investments, planning, programs, and projects as embodied in Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04 (March 10, 2020) to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate-induced damages and the threats of damages.

⁹ Global Commission on Climate and the Economy, 2018. World Resources Institute.
<http://newclimateeconomy.report:443/2018/map/>

¹⁰ Gardiner, S. M. & Hartzell-Nichols, L. (2012) Ethics and Global Climate Change. *Nature Education Knowledge* 3(10):5