



Governor
Chris Gregoire

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MAKING CHANGES FAMILIES CAN COUNT ON

POLICY BRIEF

CLIMATE CHANGE

At a global level, there is scientific consensus that our climate is changing. Just last week, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that our planet's atmosphere has more greenhouse gases in it now than any time during the last 650,000 years. It is equally clear that humans are causing our climate to change by burning massive amounts of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. Eleven of the last 12 years have been the warmest years on record.

We can already see the impacts of this change here at home. Scientists at the University of Washington tell us that temperatures in the state are rising even faster than globally, our glaciers have lost one-third of their volume since 1983, snowpack in the cascades – which cities, fish and farmers rely on for water – is declining, and our summers are drier as the snowpack melts earlier each year.

Governor Gregoire believes this moment is an opportunity. We can find solutions that reverse our contributions to climate pollution. We can move away from our overdependence on foreign oil, and we can grow a clean energy economy.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Governor Gregoire is setting ambitious goals for reducing our climate pollution. By 2020, we'll reduce our emissions to what they were in 1990, and reduce them by another 25 percent by 2035. By 2050, emissions from Washington will be fully 50 percent below our 1990 levels.

Goals like these not only inspire, they offer businesses incentives for the future. Last year, the Governor proposed and legislature passed a law that requires fuel suppliers to ensure that 2 percent of their diesel fuel is biodiesel and 2 percent of gasoline is ethanol. One year later, private companies are planning to supply 25 percent biodiesel and 16 percent ethanol. Government and business are working together on renewable fuels, and will continue to work together to find future solutions.

Governor Gregoire is asking the Department of Ecology and Community Trade and Economic Development to put together a Strategic Framework for Action to reach these goals. Working with businesses, environmental groups, universities, local governments and legislators, we will develop recommendations to ensure that we meet our goals. After a thorough evaluation of all the options, we will have a roadmap that we can begin to implement in eighteen months.

Our work to adopt cleaner car emission standards, standards for renewable fuel and renewable energy generation, appliance and building energy efficiency standards, and green building requirements have already moved us toward the goal.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Washingtonians spent over \$9 billion, almost \$25 million each day, on imported fuel last year – more than we spend on K-12 education. Governor Gregoire believes we should keep some of that money in our own economy by continuing to grow our renewable fuel industry, and by becoming more efficient. To help us move toward energy independence, Governor Gregoire's goal is to reduce the amount we spend on imported fuel by 20 percent by 2020.

GROWING CLEAN ENERGY

The steps we take to reduce our impact on the climate are also an opportunity to grow the economy. There are good, family wage jobs in the next Washington, jobs from cleaner energy, smarter use of natural resources, and adoption of advanced technology. This sector of our economy is growing rapidly – it grew 45 percent between 1998 and 2004. Governor Gregoire believes Washington can continue to be a leader in the new, cleaner economy, with 25,000 new jobs in this sector by 2020, a three-fold increase.