



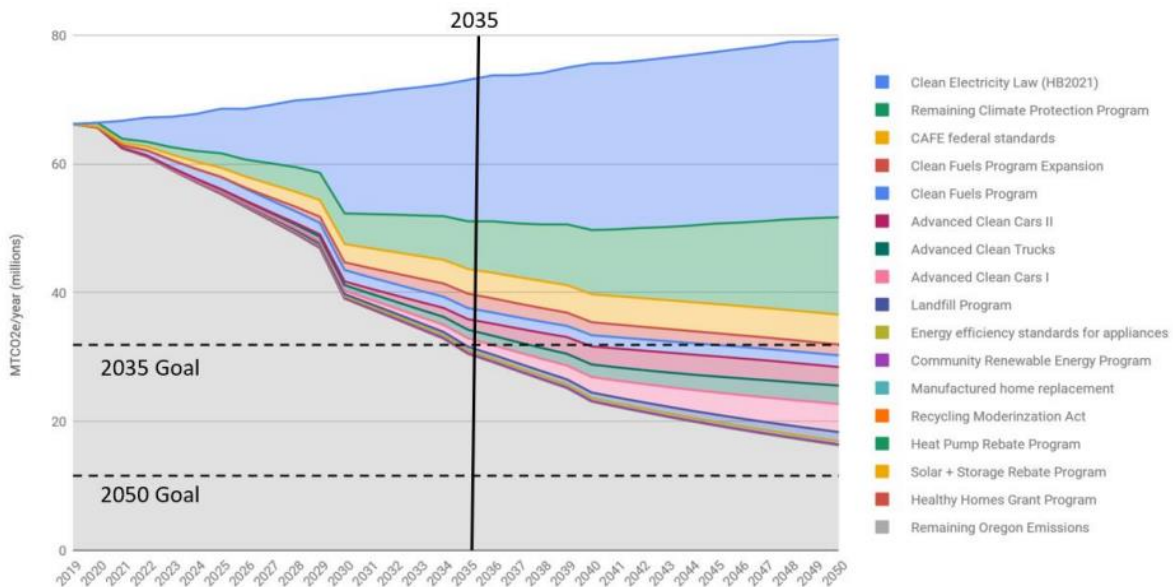
Memorandum

To: Oregon Climate Action Commission Members  
 FROM: Catherine Macdonald, Chair of the Oregon Climate Action Commission  
 RE: 2024 – 2025 Agenda Topics  
 DATE: 4/11/2024

As previewed at our March Oregon Climate Action Commission meeting, I would like to get your input at our April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on topics you would like the Commission to learn about, discuss and/or act on in the coming 18 months. I hope that you have had or will take time to review the [Oregon Climate Action Roadmap to 2030](#) and the [2021 Natural and Working Lands Proposal](#) as important touchstones for your input. I don't intend the ideas suggested below as a preliminary list of topics but provide them as examples to help spur your thinking.

As you will recall, the Roadmap includes the six overarching recommendations to guide the state's work to achieve the state's existing 2035 emission reduction goals by 2030 as well as several sub-recommendations – which could be important topics for future discussion. In our first recommendation, we emphasized the importance of the state committing to a “robust and continuous implementation of 16 existing climate programs” (Figure 3 below and page 5 from the Roadmap) analyzed as part of the TIGHER Project. Topics centered around these programs in general and/or any implementation

Figure 3: GHG Reduction Wedges from Programs and Regulations Adopted

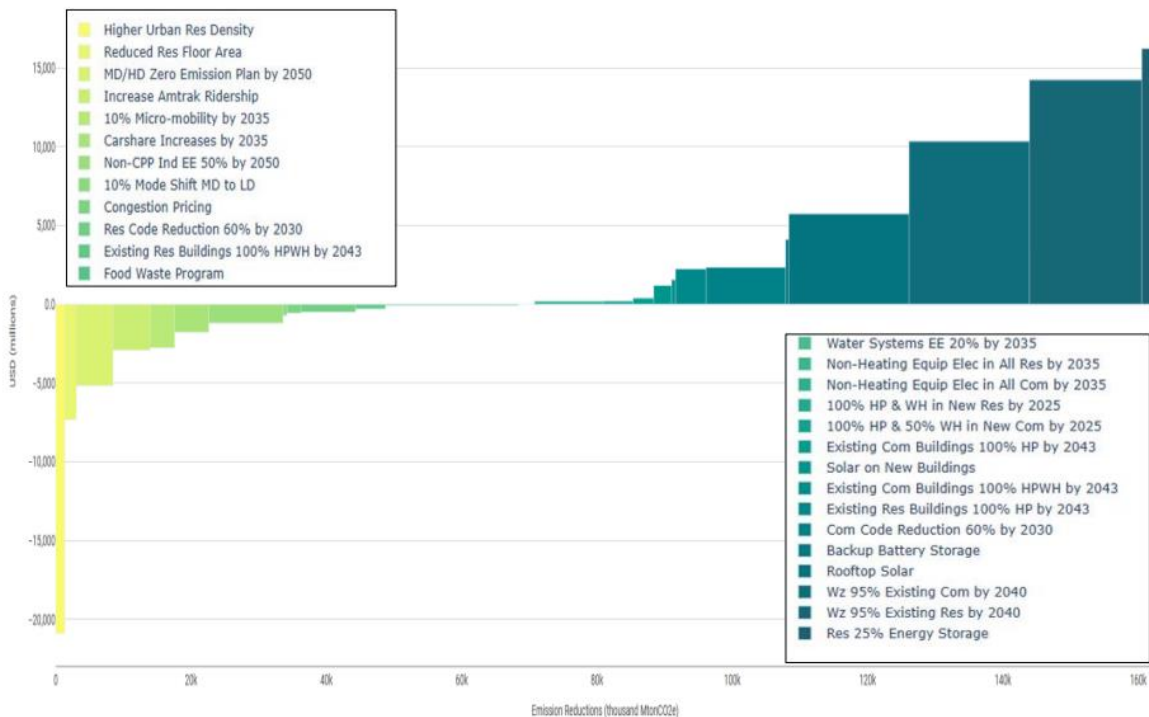


challenges.

Our second recommendation speaks to updating Oregon’s GHG goals, with sub-recommendations to “establish that it is the policy of Oregon to pursue action at a level and pace that is consistent with pathways to limit global warming to 1.5°C”, as well as establishing a new net zero goal and a Natural and Working Lands goal. We anticipate updating our assessment of the Sector-Based Emissions goals as part of our 2024 Biennial Report to the Legislature. At a minimum, we will want to discuss this as part of our adoption of the 2024 report – but if additional background and/or discussion would be helpful we could add that to one of our upcoming agendas.

In our third Recommendation, we identified 35 new actions (Figure 7 below and Table 3 from the Roadmap) that should be advanced to accelerate Oregon’s climate Action and meet our 2035 goals by 2030. As a reminder, the width of the bar indicates the emissions reduction benefits, the Y axis captures the cost-effectiveness of actions (net cost savings below the X axis, net cost needs above the X axis). The sub-recommendations in here describe a process for further scoping these new actions – the actions themselves and/or the process for further scoping the actions could be good topics for future agendas. We also flagged the need for additional work to ensure the equitable implementation of existing climate programs and regulations as well as the design of new actions as part of our first and third recommendations.

Figure 7: Hybrid Scenario Marginal Abatement Cost Curve



Our fourth and fifth recommendations, pertain to supporting further study and analysis to inform decision makers to continue to guide effective climate action and strengthening governance and accountability for Oregon climate action, respectively. Some of the sub-recommendations have been advanced and as such, discussions regarding implementation challenges may be appropriate as well as deeper discussions on new or pending actions. The final recommendations pertain to positioning Oregon to take full advantage of federal investments in climate action some of which DEQ will tell us about on Tuesday.

The 2021 Natural and Working Lands (N&WL) Proposal included four overarching strategies or recommendations – and several sub-recommendations – some of which have been completed or are in the works. We will need to discuss the Commission responsibilities included in HB 3409 (2023), such as the Workforce Study and the N&WL Inventory, as part of our work to complete these assignments. For others, such as coast wide planning for the landward migration of tidal wetlands or actions to help local communities design and implement urban forestry plans, we may want to hear from agencies that are leading this work. Discussions to deepen our recommendations on pending actions, such as assessing forest landowner interest in engaging in the types of investments the state is making through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program might be valuable.

For additional reference, below please find a synopsis of assignments and reporting dates that may spur other thoughts on important discussions we should have as part of our upcoming work beyond those referenced above. The deadlines included below reflect the modifications made to the deadlines in HB 3904, by the passage of SB 1525 (2024).

- Commission Report to the Legislature on the N&WL Fund investments and a plan or vision for the N&WL Fund for the coming biennium – is due from the Commission by September 15<sup>th</sup> every year.
  - Biennial Commission Report now due to the legislature by December 1, of even years including new responsibilities for periodically including a detailed forecast of greenhouse gas emissions reduction; and a longer N&WL report.
- DEQ Consumption-based GHG Inventory and recommendations due to the Legislature by September 15, 2024
- Report on the N&WL Inventory – December 1<sup>st</sup> odd years – 2025 is the first year.
- Nonbinding biological carbon sequestration and storage goals for Oregon’s natural and working lands no later than January 1, 2026.
  - A net biological carbon sequestration and storage baseline for natural and working lands;
  - Activity-based metrics in accordance with subsection (3) of this section; and
  - Community impact metrics in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.
- Workforce Report – due September 15, 2025.
- Periodically (no later than 18 months after the date on which the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change publishes a synthesis report or the United States Global Change Research Program publishes a national climate assessment<sup>1</sup>), prepare a detailed forecast of expected greenhouse gas emissions reductions; and evaluate and update recommendations on the State’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Finally, interesting climate action work other states or the private sector are advancing would make good topics for Commission meetings. As we have discussed over the past six months, we could empanel an Ad Hoc Commission Committees to investigate a topic in advance of a Commission meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> The latest National Climate Assessment was published Nov 14, 2023.