

MEMORANDUM



To: Oregon Global Warming Commission
From: Catherine Macdonald, OGWC Chair
Zachariah Baker, Senior Climate Policy Analyst
Date: August 8, 2023
Re: Draft Workplan Through 2024

As noted in the [End of Session Legislative Memo](#), the Legislature passed a Climate Resilience Package in the 2023 Session – House Bill 3409 and House Bill 3630. The bills include a long list of actions recommended in the Commission’s Roadmap to 2030 including actions to address emissions in the building, transportation and natural and working lands sectors among others.

House Bill 3409 includes the contents of two of the bills that were particularly relevant to the Commissions’ responsibilities – SB 522 (OGWC Modernization) and SB 530 (Climate Solutions on Natural and Working Lands). The provisions from SB 522 take effect January 1, 2024 and the provisions from SB 530 take effect earlier – on September 24, 2023.

HB 3409 makes several changes relevant to the Commission – starting with a change to our name – from Oregon Global Warming Commission to the Oregon Climate Action Commission (effective January 1, 2024). HB 3409 also provides new resources to support the Commission’s work. This memo includes a summary of the additional responsibilities and resources assigned to the Commission as well as a draft workplan through 2024 to carry out existing and new responsibilities.

Summary of Key Changes/Additional Responsibilities

Key changes and additional responsibilities assigned to the Commission via HB 3409 include:

- *HB 3409 Sections 39-52/SB 522*
 - **Changes Commission name to Oregon Climate Action Commission**
 - **Adds to the Commission mandate:**
 - Prepare detailed forecasts of emissions and emissions reductions
 - Expands mandate to track and evaluate the carbon sequestration potential of Oregon’s forests to natural and working lands
 - Periodic evaluation of GHG goals based on best available science – at a minimum within 18 months of IPCC Synthesis Report or National Climate Assessment
 - **Expands Commission membership from 25 members to 35 members:**
 - Voting member additions – youth, environmental justice, fishing industry
 - Non-voting member additions – Business Oregon, DAS, DCBS, DLCD, ODFW, OHA, OHCS, and OWEB
 - **Requires regular agency reporting to the Commission**
 - **Requires DEQ, in consultation with the Commission to evaluate opportunities to address consumption-based emissions** (report by September 15, 2024).
 - **Changes date of biennial report submission** from March 31 of odd-numbered years to December 1 of even-numbered years.

- **Provides fiscal resources:**
 - 2 full-time positions – an Operations and Policy Analyst and a Research Assistant (limited duration)
 - \$250,000 for forecast modeling consultant
- *HB 3409 Sections 53-67/SB 530*
 - **Declares state policy** to implement and incentivize strategies to advance natural climate solutions and improve understanding of natural climate solutions
 - **Requires development of carbon sequestration and storage data, metrics, and goals:**
 - Establish a net carbon sequestration and storage baseline
 - Develop a net carbon sequestration and storage inventory
 - Update and provide biennial report on it (by Dec. 1 of even-numbered years)
 - Develop activity-based metrics for evaluating progress and community impact metrics for evaluating impacts on landowners, land managers, and communities
 - Establish non-binding carbon sequestration goals (by Jan 1, 2025) and periodically update as new information becomes available
 - Agency consultation and coordination and public comment opportunities
 - **Establishes Natural and Working Lands Fund** for allocation to certain state agencies to provide incentives and conduct research related to natural climate solutions:
 - OCAC to determine annual Fund allocations to agencies (ODA, ODF, ODFW, and OWEB)
 - Annual report summarizing uses of the Fund and identifying additional funding needs (by Sept. 15)
 - Biennial Report on funded and planned projects, projects in environmental justice communities, and funding sources (state, federal, and private) for projects funded by the Fund (by Dec. 1 of even-numbered years)
 - Agency consultation and coordination and public comment opportunities
 - OCAC and agency rulemaking in coordination with OCAC (if needed)
 - **Requires study and report on the workforce and training programs needed to support adoption of natural climate solutions** (by Sept. 15, 2024)
 - **Discretion to appoint a Natural and Working Lands Advisory Committee** (at least 15 members)
 - **Requires consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes in the state**
 - **Provides fiscal resources:**
 - \$10 million to the Natural and Working Lands Fund
 - 2 full-time positions – an Operations and Policy Analyst and Research Assistant
 - \$400,000 for consultant on the inventory
 - \$250,000 for consultant on metrics (one-time)
 - \$250,000 for consultant on workforce study (one-time)

Draft Workplan Through 2024

As can be seen above, there is a lot of new work ahead for the Commission as a result of HB 3409. To help structure and facilitate conversation around the work ahead, staff put together a draft work plan. The draft work plan not only includes the new responsibilities assigned in HB 3409, but also the Commission’s existing responsibilities and related Commission work including Commission efforts to support the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Oregon received.

A high-level summary of the work plan is included here with a more detailed draft workplan provided in Appendix A attached to this memo. This work plan is the best estimate at the moment – there are many details still to be discussed and worked out, not the least of which is how quickly the new staff can be brought on board.

Staff identified and organized the workplan around 12 overall tasks which can be seen in the Summary Table below. Most of these tasks will require sustained effort over the planning period – ideally starting in September. Some of the tasks are dependent upon each other (e.g., the forecast of emissions/emissions reductions will inform the OCAC Biennial Report). Some of the tasks overlap (e.g., the Natural and Working Lands Inventory is both a legislative deliverable and a deliverable for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant). In addition, almost all of the tasks will require substantial agency coordination and public engagement. Further, there will likely be issues and tasks that surface that may require adjustments as the work and timeline proceeds.

ACTIVITY	2023				2024												
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
General OCAC Administration																	
Staff Hiring and Onboarding																	
Roadmap Oversight and Tracking																	
Forecast of Emissions/Emissions Reductions																	
OCAC Biennial Report																	*
Oregon Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)																	
Emerging Issues																	
NWL Advisory Committee																	
NWL Baseline, Metrics, and Sequestration Goals																	^
NWL Inventory																	*
NWL Fund Allocation and Reporting														*			*
NWL Workforce Study														*			

* = Legislatively mandated due date for OCAC work product

^ = Legislatively mandated due date is Jan 1, 2025

Feedback Requested

At the August 11th Commission meeting we hope to get initial input from the Commission regarding:

- 1) Are there key elements missing from the work plan?
- 2) Are there specific considerations you want to make sure are covered as part of the provisions in the work plan?
- 3) How should the Commission manage the work plan elements? Should we set up subcommittees to help refine and manage the work in the work plan over time, or host more meetings of the Commission writ large?

We also welcome public and agency input on the Commission’s draft work plan through **Friday, September 1.**

APPENDIX A – OGWC/OCAC DRAFT Work Plan Through 2024

ACTIVITY	2023				2024											
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	General OCAC Administration															
Regular meetings																
Appoint and onboard new members																
Discussion of agency "regular reporting" needs																
Website updates																
Legislative tracking																
Email/public comment tracking																
Current Work Plan management																
Workplanning for 2025-2026																
Staff Hiring and Onboarding																
OCAC General - Operations and Policy Analyst																
OCAC General - Research Analyst																
OCAC NWL - Operations and Policy Analyst																
OCAC NWL - Research Analyst																
Roadmap Oversight and Tracking																
Agency coordination																
Legislative tracking																
Facilitate development of priority Action Implementation Plans																
Facilitate development of other Action Implementation Plans																
Public comment																
Forecast of Emissions/Emissions Reductions																
Agency coordination																
Develop and post RFP																
Review proposals and hire consultant																
Develop and agree on actual project scope/timeline																
Consultant oversight																
Generate forecast																
Publish forecast and associated data																
Public comment																
OCAC Biennial Report																
Agency reporting and review																
Develop and discuss Report outline																
Develop and discuss recommendations																
Draft Report																
Finalize Report																
Deliver Report to Legislature																*
Public comment																
Oregon Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)																
Track/provide input on Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)																
Support applications for CPRG competitive grants as needed																
Track/provide input on Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)																
Support CCAP Emissions Reduction Policy Gap Analysis Work (TBD)																
Support CCAP NWL Carbon Sequestration Inventory Work (see NWL Inventory) (TBD)																
Emerging Issues																
Consult with DEQ on their consumption-based emissions study and recommendations																
Analysis of Fifth National Climate Assessment																
Address other emerging climate topics/issues as needed (TBD)																

ACTIVITY	2023				2024											
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	NWL Advisory Committee															
Wrap-up of current grant work																
Outreach regarding new members																
Appoint and onboard new members																
Regular meetings																
Review of Draft NWL Baseline and Metrics																
Review of Draft NWL Inventory																
Consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon regarding NWL work																
NWL Baseline, Metrics, and Sequestration Goals																
Agency coordination																
Develop and post RFP																
Review proposals and hire consultant																
Develop and agree on actual project scope/timeline																
Consultant oversight																
Draft Baseline, Activity-Based Metrics, and Community Impact Metrics																
Public/Agency/NWL AC comment/engagement on draft baseline and metrics																
Finalize baseline and metrics																
Recommend non-binding carbon sequestration goals																^
Public comment																
NWL Inventory																
Agency coordination																
Develop and post RFP																
Review proposals and hire consultant																
Develop and agree on actual project scope/timeline																
Contractor work oversight																
Draft Inventory																
Public/Agency/NWL AC comment/engagement on Draft Inventory																
Finalize Inventory																
Develop associated report for packaging to Legislature																
Deliver Inventory/report to Legislature																*
Public comment																
NWL Fund Allocation and Reporting																
Agency coordination																
Scope whether OCAC rulemaking needed																
Develop and recommend allocations																
Agency reporting of fund expenditures to OCAC																
Annual Legislative report summarizing Fund use and funding needs														*		
Biennial Legislative report on current and planned Fund projects/funding																*
Public comment																
NWL Workforce Study																
Review RFI responses																
Develop and Post RFP																
Review proposals and hire consultant																
Develop and agree on actual project scope/timeline																
Oversight of consultant work																
Draft Report																
Develop and discuss recommendations																
Finalize Report																
Deliver Report to Legislature															*	
Public comment																

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