



To: Oregon Global Warming Commission  
From: Catherine Macdonald, Chair  
RE: Mission, Vision, Values and Operating Procedures  
Date: 01/25/2021

In 2008, the Oregon Global Warming Commission established a mission statement, priorities and principles as shown below. In July, I proposed that we consider reviewing these statements to determine if they should be updated to guide our work going forward. Commissioners Magnera, Pardue and Pope volunteered to join me on a subcommittee to advance this work.

The Subcommittee met in August and agreed that we should consider updating the Mission statement and that we should create a vision and values statement and operating principles. To determine how we can best add value, we agreed to review our statutes and directives (see Appendix), take stock of what others in Oregon are charged with doing regarding climate change, and gather input from diverse stakeholders. The purpose of the discussion at the Commission meeting on January 29th is to gather preliminary input from Commissioners to guide the work of the subcommittee. Commissioner Magnera volunteered to lead us through an exercise during the meeting to gather input. Please come prepared to share your thoughts on the following questions:

- What has changed since the Commission was formed?
- What from the current mission, priorities and principles should we consider retaining?
- What is missing from the current mission, priorities and principles that we would like to have reflected in our Vision and Values.
- What factors should we consider as we develop a draft for the Commission to consider?
- How should we integrate environmental and climate justice? What is our role in this work?
- What next steps should we take to advance this work?

## 2008 MISSION STATEMENT

Recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, and to help the state, local governments, businesses, and Oregonians prepare for the effects of climate change.

## 2008 COMMISSION PRIORITIES

- **Decrease greenhouse gas emissions** – both reductions and removals from the atmosphere – in order to meet Oregon's greenhouse gas goals. It is recognized that these reductions may not occur immediately, but over time. Reductions should begin with the most cost-effective solutions, broadly defined to include near-term and long-term environmental, social, and economic considerations, as well as those that have the capacity to decrease in cost as their deployment becomes more widespread.

- **Protect the health and well-being of Oregonians** and the health and resiliency of Oregon’s ecosystems impacted by climate change. This priority includes developing and devising adaptation plans and strategies to prepare for the threats directly posed by global warming.
- **Ensure that Oregon’s economy remains vibrant and healthy;** that Oregon’s key economic sectors have the tools, information, and assistance they need to plan for and adapt to a changing climate; that they be better positioned economically to withstand the negative consequences of climate change; and that they participate in the benefits.

## 2008 COMMISSION PRINCIPLES

The following general principles will guide Oregon Global Warming Commission actions:

A. Oregon’s greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and solutions must be meaningful, firmly grounded in best available science and technology (and modified as the science evolves), and lead to effective reductions in Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Oregon’s GHG emissions reduction goals should be commensurate with the state’s emissions relative to global emissions.

C. Oregon should first begin with the most cost-effective solutions, construing “cost” broadly to include near-term and long-term environmental, social and economic considerations, fairly weighing demand and supply options, and not neglecting actions that may have small near-term benefits but significant long-term potential.

D. Oregon should seek solutions that afford environmental and other co-benefits such as reducing other pollutants or assisting businesses and households to cope with rising energy prices.

E. To the fullest extent possible, Oregon’s actions should be designed to serve both the long-term economic well-being of the State and the goal of stabilizing GHG atmospheric concentrations at manageable levels.

F. Recognizing that there are always tradeoffs between a long-term investment strategy and near-term costs and cash flow, the Commission believes Oregon can and should be a leader - but not so far ahead of other jurisdictions that Oregon’s businesses are disadvantaged. The State will need to build flexibility into its market and regulatory tools to relieve short-term competitive pressures if others aren’t living up to their responsibilities.

G. Oregon should be creating long-term economic well-being with an “investment strategy” that buys efficiency savings, new technologies, energy price stability and a long-term competitive edge in selling – and profiting from – the tools developed, and the lessons learned.

H. Oregon’s actions will be guided by the need to protect access to reliable and affordable energy, and to needed goods, services and markets.

I. Oregon will act to broaden Oregonians’ employment, housing, transportation and energy choices so lower greenhouse gas alternatives are available and affordable. Oregonians preferring choices that result in higher greenhouse gas emissions must be prepared to pay the costs of those choices.

J. Oregon will look for ways to support innovation, especially if it leads to marketable products and services.

K. Oregon will partner with other states, Canadian provinces, tribal nations and other nations, where doing so will enhance the effectiveness of state actions and their co-benefits for Oregonians, recognizing that our actions will be most effective when they align corresponding actions by others.

L. Oregonians will strive to take responsibility for emissions from their purchasing decision and waste disposal choices.

M. Reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions won't eliminate the need to adapt to the warming climate that will result from changes to both human and natural ecosystems already fixed in the atmosphere. Oregon's adaptation strategies must continually evolve, be integrated into long-term planning, and address whole systems rather than individual effects

N. Oregon is committed to equity in allocating both costs and benefits of this enterprise, paying special attention to those businesses and households least able to respond with their own resources. We recognize that emissions reductions will not be captured proportionately across all sectors, or across urban, suburban and rural communities. Cost effectiveness will condition allocation of responsibilities.

## Appendix: Oregon Global Warming Commission Duties

### **Statutory Duties of the Commission:**

#### **Coordination of State and Local Efforts: 2017 ORS 468A.235**

The Oregon Global Warming Commission shall recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon consistent with the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by ORS [468A.205 \(Policy\)](#) and shall recommend efforts to help Oregon prepare for the effects of global warming. The Office of the Governor and state agencies working on multistate and regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions shall inform the commission about these efforts and shall consider input from the commission for such efforts. [2007 c.907 §9]

Note: See note under [468A.200 \(Legislative findings\)](#).

#### **Make Recommendations: 2017 ORS 468A.240**

The Oregon Global Warming Commission shall recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon consistent with the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by ORS 468A.205 (Policy) and shall recommend efforts to help Oregon prepare for the effects of global warming. The Office of the Governor and state agencies working on multistate and regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions shall inform the commission about these efforts and shall consider input from the commission for such efforts. [2007 c.907 §9]

Note: See note under 468A.200 (Legislative findings).

In furtherance of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by ORS 468A.205 (Policy), the Oregon Global Warming Commission may recommend statutory and administrative changes, policy measures and other recommendations to be carried out by state and local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations or residents. In developing its recommendations, the commission shall consider economic, environmental, health and social costs, and the risks and benefits of alternative strategies, including least-cost options. The commission shall solicit and consider public comment relating to statutory, administrative or policy recommendations.

(2) The commission shall examine greenhouse gas cap-and-trade systems, including a statewide and multistate carbon cap-and-trade system and market-based mechanisms, as a means of achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by ORS 468A.205 (Policy).

(3) The commission shall examine possible funding mechanisms to obtain low-cost greenhouse gas emissions reductions and energy efficiency enhancements, including but not limited to those in the natural gas industry. [2007 c.907 §10]

#### **Outreach Strategy: 2017 ORS 468A.245**

The Oregon Global Warming Commission shall develop an outreach strategy to educate Oregonians about the scientific aspects and economic impacts of global warming and to inform Oregonians of ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ways to prepare for the effects of global warming. The commission, at a minimum, shall work with state and local governments, the State Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and businesses to implement the outreach strategy. [2007 c.907 §11; 2013 c.768 §143c]

Note: See note under [468A.200 \(Legislative findings\)](#).

**Mandate: 2017 ORS 468A.250**

- (1) The Oregon Global Warming Commission shall track and evaluate:
- a) Economic, environmental, health and social assessments of global warming impacts on Oregon and the Pacific Northwest;
  - b) Existing greenhouse gas emissions reduction policies and measures;
  - c) Economic, environmental, health and social costs, and the risks and benefits of alternative strategies, including least-cost options;
  - d) The physical science of global warming;
  - e) Progress toward the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by ORS [468A.205 \(Policy\)](#);
  - f) Greenhouse gases emitted by various sectors of the state economy, including but not limited to industrial, transportation and utility sectors;
  - g) Technological progress on sources of energy the use of which generates no or low greenhouse gas emissions and methods for carbon sequestration;
  - h) Efforts to identify the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the residential and commercial building sectors;
  - i) The carbon sequestration potential of Oregon's forests, alternative methods of forest management that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce the loss of carbon sequestration to wildfire, changes in the mortality and distribution of tree and other plant species and the extent to which carbon is stored in tree-based building materials;
  - j) The advancement of regional, national and international policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
  - k) Local and regional efforts to prepare for the effects of global warming; and
  - l) Any other information, policies or analyses that the commission determines will aid in the achievement of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by ORS [468A.205 \(Policy\)](#).
- (2) The commission shall:
- a) Work with the State Department of Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality to evaluate all gases with the potential to be greenhouse gases and to determine a carbon dioxide equivalency for those gases; and
  - b) Use regional and national baseline studies of building performance to identify incremental targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to residential and commercial building construction and operations. [2007 c.907 §12]
- Note: See note under [468A.200 \(Legislative findings\)](#).

**Citizen Advisory Committees: 2017 ORS 468A.255**

The Oregon Global Warming Commission may recommend to the Governor the formation of citizen advisory groups to explore particular areas of concern with regard to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of global warming. [2007 c.907 §13]

Note: See note under [468A.200 \(Legislative findings\)](#).

**Report to the Legislature: 2017 ORS 468A.260**

The Oregon Global Warming Commission shall submit a report to the Legislative Assembly, in the manner provided by ORS [192.245 \(Form of report to legislature\)](#), by March 31 of each odd-numbered

year that describes Oregon's progress toward achievement of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established by ORS [468A.205 \(Policy\)](#). The report may include relevant issues and trends of significance, including trends of greenhouse gas emissions, emerging public policy and technological advances. The report also may discuss measures the state may adopt to mitigate the impacts of global warming on the environment, the economy and the residents of Oregon and to prepare for those impacts. [2007 c.907 §14]

Note: See note under [468A.200 \(Legislative findings\)](#).

## Commission Duties in Executive Order: 20-04

### General Directives

3. **General Directives to State Agencies.** From the date of this Executive Order, the state commissions and state agencies listed in paragraph 1 are directed to take the following actions:
  - A. **GHG Reduction Goals.** Agencies shall exercise any and all authority and discretion vested in them by law to help facilitate Oregon's achievement of the GHG emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order.
  - B. **Expedited Agency Processes.** To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall prioritize and expedite any processes and procedures, including but not limited to rulemaking processes and agency dockets, that could accelerate reductions in GHG emissions.
  - C. **Agency Decisions.** To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions. While carrying out that directive, agencies are directed to:
    - (1) Prioritize actions that reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective manner;
    - (2) Prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities adapt to climate change impacts; and
    - (3) Consult with the Environmental Justice Task Force when evaluating climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and actions.

### Specific Directives to OGWC

- E. **Participation in Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities.** The Governor's Office will convene an interagency workgroup on climate impacts to impacted communities to develop strategies to guide state climate actions, with participation by the following agencies and commissions: DEQ, DLCD, ODA, ODF, ODFW, ODOE, ODOT, OHA, OWEB, OWRD, PUC, Environmental Justice Task Force, Oregon Global Warming Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Sustainability Board.

12. **Directives to Oregon Global Warming Commission.** In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, the Global Warming Commission is directed to take the following actions:

- A. In coordination with ODA, ODF, and OWEB, the Oregon Global Warming Commission is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021.
- B. Consistent with its reporting requirements in House Bill 3543 (2007), the Oregon Global Warming Commission shall also include reporting on progress toward the GHG reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order, and the zero-emission vehicle adoption goals set forth in SB 1044 (2019).