



## First deadline for historic Oregon Climate Action Plan

*Ten state agencies will submit first steps to Governor Brown*

SALEM, Ore. -- The bold vision for Oregon to reduce air pollution, transition to clean energy and transportation, and show leadership in the effort to curb global warming has its first deadline on Friday, May 15, 2020.

A majority of the 16 state agencies tasked with mobilizing the **Oregon Climate Action Plan** ([executive order 20-04](#)) will hand in their first homework assignment: preliminary reports outlining proposed plans and processes for curbing climate pollution across Oregon. The processes will culminate in state agencies forming new climate programs and regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our transportation, buildings, energy and natural systems.

“True leadership means managing more than one crisis at a time. While our state follows science and takes bold action to save lives during the pandemic, we’re also following science and saving lives as the climate crisis unfolds,” said **Tera Hurst, Executive Director of Renew Oregon**. “Governor Brown’s unwavering commitment to the Oregon Climate Action Plan, despite this challenging time, shows she understands the human suffering in store if we ignore the climate crisis.”

The sweeping Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) is a sector by sector approach for Oregon to shift transportation, businesses, and buildings to lower pollution over time across the state. Its centerpiece is new, mandatory targets to transition Oregon to a **Clean Economy**-- lowering climate pollution 45% below 1990 levels by 2035, and at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 statewide.

Meeting the targets will result in better public health from less air pollution, savings on energy bills because of less waste and cheaper renewables, and good-paying jobs for construction workers, electricians, manufacturing workers, salespeople, administrators and more.

“There are striking and shameful parallels between the communities hit hardest in the pandemic and those experiencing the worst of the climate crisis-- communities of color, people with low-income, elders and Tribes,” said **Hurst**. “We’ve had to pause our economy to save lives. As we consider reopening, we must look to how we will emerge better than before. The Oregon Climate Action Plan is the guide to rebuilding better, with short and long term benefits for our health and economy. The Renew Oregon coalition will be there at every step making sure OCAP lives up to its ambitions and directs benefits where they’re needed most.”

[Recent analysis by Portland State University](#) shows nearly 40% of people of color in Portland live near the top 10 worst polluters in the city. And a [Harvard study](#) found even a small increase in long-term exposure to soot (PM2.5 pollution) from burning diesel and industrial processes leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate.

The Oregon Climate Action Plan has many facets, but among the leading programs are: requirements to **limit and reduce** pollution from industrial facilities, an extension of the **Clean Fuels Standard** to reduce climate pollution from fuels by 25% by 2035 (from 2015 levels), and **strengthened building codes** to ensure new buildings across Oregon will use energy super-efficiently and be ready to produce all their own renewable energy by 2030, with technology already available today.

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[Renew Oregon](#) is a clean energy advocacy [coalition](#) of businesses and workers, healthcare professionals and parents, farmers and ranchers, faith and community organizations, and individuals coming together to move our state away from polluting energy to a clean energy economy. We are working to create good-paying jobs for all Oregonians, protect air and water from pollution, and help families stay healthy.