
SENATE BILL 5036

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator Boehnke

Prefiled 12/13/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to strengthening Washington's leadership and
2 accountability on climate policy by transitioning to annual reporting
3 of statewide emissions data; amending RCW 70A.45.005; and reenacting
4 and amending RCW 70A.45.020.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70A.45.005 and 2021 c 316 s 44 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The legislature finds that Washington has long been a
9 national and international leader on energy conservation and
10 environmental stewardship, including air quality protection,
11 renewable energy development and generation, emission standards for
12 fossil-fuel based energy generation, energy efficiency programs,
13 natural resource conservation, sustainable forestry and the
14 production of forest products, vehicle emission standards, and the
15 use of biofuels. Washington is also unique among most states in that
16 in addition to its commitment to reduce emissions of greenhouse
17 gases, it has established goals to grow the clean energy sector and
18 reduce the state's expenditures on imported fuels.

19 (2) The legislature further finds that Washington should continue
20 its leadership on climate change policy by creating accountability
21 for achieving the emission reductions established in RCW 70A.45.020,

1 participating in the design of a regional multisector market-based
2 system to help achieve those emission reductions, assessing other
3 market strategies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases,
4 maintaining and enhancing the state's ability to continue to
5 sequester carbon through natural and working lands and forest
6 products, and ensuring the state has a well-trained workforce for our
7 clean energy future. Climate policy leadership and full
8 accountability for achieving emission reductions includes consistent
9 tracking and annual reporting of statewide emissions in a greenhouse
10 gas inventory as required under RCW 70A.45.020.

11 (3) It is the intent of the legislature that the state will: (a)
12 Limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gas consistent with the
13 emission reductions established in RCW 70A.45.020; (b) minimize the
14 potential to export pollution, jobs, and economic opportunities; (c)
15 support industry sectors that can act as sequesterers of carbon; and
16 (d) reduce emissions at the lowest cost to Washington's economy,
17 consumers, and businesses.

18 (4) In the event the state elects to participate in a regional
19 multisector market-based system, it is the intent of the legislature
20 that the system will become effective by January 1, 2012, after
21 authority is provided to the department for its implementation. By
22 acting now, Washington businesses and citizens will have adequate
23 time and opportunities to be well positioned to take advantage of the
24 low carbon economy and to make necessary investments in low carbon
25 technology.

26 (5) It is also the intent of the legislature that the regional
27 multisector market-based system recognize Washington's unique
28 emissions and sequestration portfolio, including the:

29 (a) State's hydroelectric system;

30 (b) Opportunities presented by Washington's abundant forest
31 resources and the associated forest products industry, along with
32 aquatic and agriculture land and the associated industries; and

33 (c) State's leadership in energy efficiency and the actions it
34 has already taken that have reduced its generation of greenhouse gas
35 emissions and that entities receive appropriate credit for early
36 actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

37 (6) If any revenues, excluding those from state trust lands, that
38 accrue to the state are created by a market system, they must be used
39 for the purposes established in chapter 70A.65 RCW and to further the
40 state's efforts to achieve the goals established in RCW 70A.45.020,

1 address the impacts of global warming on affected habitats, species,
2 and communities, promote and invest in industry sectors that act as
3 sequesterers of carbon, and increase investment in the clean energy
4 economy particularly for communities and workers that have suffered
5 from heavy job losses and chronic unemployment and underemployment.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70A.45.020 and 2020 c 79 s 2, 2020 c 32 s 4, and
7 2020 c 20 s 1398 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) The state shall limit anthropogenic emissions of
9 greenhouse gases to achieve the following emission reductions for
10 Washington state:

11 (i) By 2020, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the
12 state to 1990 levels, or (~~ninety million five hundred thousand~~)
13 90,500,000 metric tons;

14 (ii) By 2030, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the
15 state to (~~fifty million~~) 50,000,000 metric tons, or (~~forty-five~~)
16 45 percent below 1990 levels;

17 (iii) By 2040, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in
18 the state to (~~twenty-seven million~~) 27,000,000 metric tons, or
19 (~~seventy~~) 70 percent below 1990 levels;

20 (iv) By 2050, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the
21 state to (~~five million~~) 5,000,000 metric tons, or (~~ninety-five~~)
22 95 percent below 1990 levels.

23 (b) By December 1, 2008, the department shall submit a greenhouse
24 gas reduction plan for review and approval to the legislature,
25 describing those actions necessary to achieve the emission reductions
26 in (a) of this subsection by using existing statutory authority and
27 any additional authority granted by the legislature. Actions taken
28 using existing statutory authority may proceed prior to approval of
29 the greenhouse gas reduction plan.

30 (c) In addition to the emissions limits specified in (a) of this
31 subsection, the state shall also achieve net zero greenhouse gas
32 emissions by 2050. Except where explicitly stated otherwise, nothing
33 in chapter 14, Laws of 2008 limits any state agency authorities as
34 they existed prior to June 12, 2008.

35 (d) Consistent with this directive, the department shall take the
36 following actions:

37 (i) Develop and implement a system for monitoring and reporting
38 emissions of greenhouse gases as required under RCW 70A.15.2200; and

1 (ii) Track progress toward meeting the emission reductions
2 established in this subsection, including the results from policies
3 currently in effect that have been previously adopted by the state
4 and policies adopted in the future, and report on that progress.
5 Progress reporting should include statewide emissions as well as
6 emissions from key sectors of the economy including, but not limited
7 to, electricity, transportation, buildings, manufacturing, and
8 agriculture.

9 (e) Nothing in this section creates any new or additional
10 regulatory authority for any state agency as they existed prior to
11 January 1, 2019.

12 (2) By December 31st of each (~~(even-numbered)~~) year beginning in
13 (~~(2010)~~) 2026, the department and the department of commerce shall
14 report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the senate
15 and house of representatives the total emissions of greenhouse gases
16 for the preceding (~~(two-years)~~) year, and totals in each major source
17 sector, including emissions associated with leaked gas identified by
18 the utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.88.160. The
19 report must include greenhouse gas emissions from wildfires,
20 developed in consultation with the department of natural resources.
21 The department shall ensure the reporting rules adopted under RCW
22 70A.15.2200 allow it to develop a comprehensive inventory of
23 emissions of greenhouse gases from all significant sectors of the
24 Washington economy.

25 (3) Except for purposes of reporting, emissions of carbon dioxide
26 from industrial combustion of biomass in the form of fuel wood, wood
27 waste, wood by-products, and wood residuals shall not be considered a
28 greenhouse gas as long as the region's silvicultural sequestration
29 capacity is maintained or increased.

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