
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5100

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Environment (originally sponsored by Senators Poulsen, Fraser, Kline and Kohl-Welles; by request of Governor Locke)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to state greenhouse gas emissions; and adding new
2 sections to chapter 70.94 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Greenhouse gases trap heat and thus warm the earth because they
6 prevent a significant proportion of infrared radiation from escaping
7 into space. Concentration of greenhouse gases, especially carbon
8 dioxide, have increased substantially since the beginning of the
9 industrial revolution.

10 (2) The National Academy of Sciences has indicated that the
11 increase is due in large part to human activity. While scientific
12 uncertainties remain, the state should start addressing the factors
13 that contribute to climate change.

14 (3) Climate change has profound impacts on the state, including
15 loss of snow pack, reduction in summer irrigation water, hardships for
16 salmon and forests, and coastal erosion and flooding.

17 (4) Numerous other states have established greenhouse gases
18 reduction goals including Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey, New York, and

1 Oregon, as well as regional goals by the New England states and the
2 eastern Canadian provinces.

3 (5) Goals provide a clear performance target for statewide
4 activities to address greenhouse gases and climate change.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply to
6 sections 1 and 3 through 5 of this act, unless the context clearly
7 requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Center" means the Washington State University climate and
9 rural energy development center as defined in RCW 28B.30.640.

10 (2) "Greenhouse gases" means carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide
11 (N₂O), methane (CH₄), ozone (O₃), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆),
12 hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs).

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following shall be the goals of the
14 state of Washington to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases throughout
15 the state and across all major sectors:

16 (1) By December 1, 2010, the state of Washington will reduce its
17 total greenhouse gas emissions to a level that does not exceed the
18 total annual production of greenhouse gases produced within the state
19 in 1990.

20 (2) By December 1, 2020, the state of Washington will reduce its
21 total greenhouse gas emissions to a level that is at least ten percent
22 below the total annual production of greenhouse gases produced within
23 the state in 1990.

24 (3) Beyond 2020, the state of Washington will continue to reduce
25 its total greenhouse gas emissions to levels consistent with long-term
26 stabilization of greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere and consistent
27 with the recommendations of the intergovernmental panel on climate
28 change.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The Washington State University center
30 for climate and rural development in cooperation with the department of
31 ecology, the department of community, trade, and economic development,
32 and other government entities, including local air pollution control
33 agencies, shall report to the legislature and governor every three
34 years on greenhouse gas emissions produced within the state and total

1 greenhouse gas emissions produced out of state as a result of in-state
2 energy demands. The report shall describe progress toward achieving
3 the goals set forth in section 3 of this act.

4 (2) The report shall cover all major sources of greenhouse gas
5 emissions and shall put particular emphasis on state government-related
6 emissions.

7 (3) The center, in cooperation with the department of ecology, the
8 department of community, trade, and economic development, the energy
9 facility site evaluation council, and other interested parties, shall
10 create a greenhouse gas emissions registry by December 31, 2006. The
11 registry should provide a process for reporting emissions and a
12 mechanism to determine the state's status in attaining the emission
13 reduction goals. To the maximum extent possible, the center shall
14 coordinate with other states that have or are developing such
15 registries. The center may determine that Washington state
16 participation in an existing or proposed multistate climate registry is
17 sufficient to meet the requirements of this act.

18 (4) To the extent that there are state mandatory greenhouse gas
19 emissions reduction requirements for new power plants or other
20 emissions sources as required under chapter 80.70 RCW, those entities
21 that are bound by the requirement shall report their emissions
22 characteristics to the registry every three years, beginning no later
23 than December 31, 2007.

24 (5) The center may develop guidelines necessary for implementation
25 of this section. The guidelines shall make provisions for both
26 mandatory reporting by those entities covered by subsection (4) of this
27 section and voluntary reporting for all other entities that may wish to
28 use the registry.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The center together with the department
30 of community, trade, and economic development shall investigate
31 greenhouse gas reduction strategies for the state and report its
32 findings to the governor and legislature. The center shall make use of
33 all reports and analyses of state or region-specific greenhouse gas
34 reduction strategies. The report shall emphasize those strategies that
35 offer the potential to reduce overall costs and, in particular, could
36 result in economic development benefits to the state. The report shall
37 be delivered to the governor and legislature by July 1, 2006.

1 (2) The center, together with the department of ecology and the
2 department of community, trade, and economic development, shall
3 investigate the feasibility of a greenhouse gas cap and trade system
4 for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The center shall produce a
5 report to the governor and legislature by December 31, 2006, that
6 includes explicit consideration of:

7 (a) Any existing system or proposed state or regional greenhouse
8 gas cap and trade systems;

9 (b) The feasibility and potential benefits of participating in a
10 multistate cap and trade system;

11 (c) Cap and trade systems that include, but are not limited to,
12 electricity load-based emissions.

13 (3) The center shall consult with agriculture, forestry,
14 conservation, and other interested parties on steps that the state can
15 take to promote viable and economically attractive greenhouse gas
16 trading markets for Washington companies.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are each
18 added to chapter 70.94 RCW.

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