

Resolution of the Oregon Global Warming Commission

Resolution Number: 2008-4-002

Origin: Energy, Utilities, Stationary Source Committee

Recommendations from the Energy Efficiency Working Group

Resolved, that the Oregon Global Warming Commission recommends that the Oregon legislature and the Governor adopt and implement the proposed program elements developed by the Energy Efficiency Working Group (EEWG), and adopted by the Governor in his climate change package, subject to the qualifications noted below. These program elements include:

- **Education.** Provide information and education so individuals and businesses can make appropriate behavioral changes and purchasing decisions to reduce their energy use and carbon footprint. The Commission places particular emphasis on development of an Energy Performance Standard, subject to the qualification noted below.
- **Financing and incentives.** Provide the financial tools and assistance to help people and businesses afford major energy efficiency improvements in their homes and buildings. The Commission places particular emphasis on the following program elements: (1) Local Improvement District Financing, subject to the qualification noted below; (2) increase BETC to 50% for industrial energy efficiency projects.
- **Affordable housing/low-income weatherization.** Expand tools that effectively address energy efficiency for low-income households, including the EEWG-supported “Energy Matchmakers” initiative addressing low-income housing efficiency improvements..
- **Standards and regulations.** Improve codes and other standards for new homes and buildings and major renovations and, where appropriate, for consumer equipment and appliances used in homes and buildings. It could also include requirements for utilities, although the group did not move forward with any particular proposal in that context. The Commission places particular emphasis on the “2030 carbon neutral Buildings” State goal, subject to the qualifications noted below.
- **Work force training.** Provide work force training to ensure Oregon has the skills and capacity to deliver energy efficiency required to meet its reduction goals.

Qualifications

Research, Development, and Demonstration. In support of meeting Oregon’s greenhouse gas reduction and energy efficiency goals, and to promote economic development in this key cluster area, the Commission urges that the State – agencies and university system –coordinate closely with the private sector to identify targeted opportunities for creating, leveraging, or expanding energy efficiency research, development, and demonstration efforts in Oregon. This will require Legislative support

for key research initiatives in agency budgets, and in the higher education budget, while recognizing that constrained State revenues have put a premium on prioritizing initiatives. The Commission, in collaboration with the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, will report to the Legislature in 2009 on progress in setting Oregon's research efforts within a strategic framework, with priorities and complementary funding strategies.

Education. The Commission recommends modifying the proposed Energy Performance Standard to permit the Departments of Energy, Transportation and Land Conservation and Development to develop and provide consumer information on locational (transportation and land use) as well as building efficiency characteristics as the agencies' ability to fairly represent these characteristics evolves.

Standards and regulations The Commission supports linking an aspirational goal for new construction to the state's adopted carbon targets. Milestones for code development will help ensure this goal is attainable. If stair stepping towards this goal with reach codes unduly burdens homeowners in times of economic difficulties such as we're now experiencing, there must be well articulated off ramps to protect buyers from economic hardship. Even during these periods, when code advances may be delayed, the aspirational goal may still help drive new technologies and incentives that in better times permit us to recover the lost ground and stay on course to meeting the State's GHG reduction goals..

Work force development. Work force development and the creation of green jobs should be a key element considered by the 2009 Legislature.

Outcomes

In forwarding these recommendations, the Commission urges upon the Legislature the paramount importance of energy efficiency in meeting the State's Greenhouse Gas reduction goals, strengthening consumer abilities to cope with rising energy costs, and developing business products and workforce skills that will advantage Oregonians in a climate-constrained economy. All credible analysis describes energy efficiency as the keystone in any mitigation strategy that seeks to insulate consumers and businesses from the effects of predictably higher energy prices. Beginning with the 2004 Report of the Advisory Group on Global Warming, Oregon has been urged to build its 21st Century jobs, products and services strategies on the foundation of new green infrastructure and efficiency retrofits of existing buildings and processes. This Commission believes the needs and opportunities previously identified have become only more urgent and potentially advantageous with the intervening years.