

# Oregon

## Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming

March 24, 2005

The Honorable Ted Kulongoski  
Governor of the State of Oregon  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

As co-chairs of the Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming, we are pleased to transmit to you the *Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions*. This Strategy contains the recommendations of the 28-member Advisory Group that you convened in February 2004. In your charge to the Advisory Group, you emphasized the important role of states in addressing climate change. You challenged the group to be informed by current scientific knowledge and consider the best interests of all Oregonians. You instructed us to develop a climate change strategy for Oregon that would provide long-term sustainability for the environment, protect public health, consider social equity, create economic opportunity and expand public awareness.

The Advisory Group took your charge to heart. To help guide it in developing the recommendations, the Advisory Group adopted a set of principles that emphasized a firm grounding in science, meaningful reductions in Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, cost-effective actions, investment in entrepreneurial opportunities, and not taking actions that might impair power system reliability. The final recommendations meet those criteria.

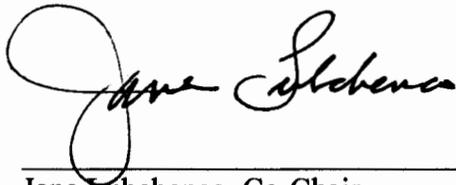
Our recommended actions would meet our primary goal: reversing the upward trend of Oregon's greenhouse emissions. These actions include making homes, offices and factories more energy efficient; developing new renewable energy resources from wind, the sun, and crops harvested as biofuels; developing new cars that produce low greenhouse gas emissions; sequestering carbon, reducing waste, and increasing recycling. Many of these actions would generate positive economic returns by stimulating new businesses and providing Oregonians with reliable, low-cost energy.

We are proud of the breadth and depth of the recommendations, but we acknowledge that there is much more to be done. Additional reductions are needed. New business opportunities should be encouraged. Greater public awareness will be required. Strong leadership by many must set the stage.

In addition to achieving meaningful reductions in our emissions, Oregonians must prepare to adapt to the effects of the warming already underway. Scientists tell us that in the Pacific Northwest global warming is most likely to affect activities that depend on precipitation and stream flow, including fishing, outdoor recreation, hydropower, agriculture and barge transport. In short, essential elements of Oregon's economy are at risk. Many scientists believe that global warming is the primary reason we've already lost 50 percent of the Cascades' snow pack since 1950. The Strategy recommends developing an education and outreach program that will engage the public in the global warming issue.

The Advisory Group asks that you embrace and implement the recommended goals and actions. The Strategy demonstrates that risks to Oregon of our failure to act – and the economic benefits to Oregonians of moving forward – argue for the decisive actions in the Advisory Group's recommendations.

Sincerely,



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Jane Lubchenco, Co-Chair  
University Distinguished Professor of Zoology  
Wayne and Gladys Valley Professor of Marine Biology  
Oregon State University



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Mark Dodson, Co-Chair  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
NW Natural