

Appendix E



West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative Staff Recommendations to the Governors¹

November, 2004

Executive Summary

Global warming will have serious adverse consequences on the economy, health and environment of the West Coast states. These impacts will grow significantly in coming years if we do nothing to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Fortunately, addressing global warming carries substantial economic benefits. The West Coast region is rich in renewable energy resources and advanced energy-efficient technologies. We can capitalize on these strengths and invest in the clean energy resources of our region.

Recognizing these facts, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington launched the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative in September 2003. They committed the states to acting "individually and regionally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions" through strategies that "provide long-term sustainability for the environment, protect public health, consider social equity, and expand public awareness." They directed their staffs to develop joint policy recommendations focused on, among other things, ways the West Coast states can:

- Use the states' combined purchasing power to obtain fuel-efficient vehicles and low-rolling resistance tires for motor pool fleets.
- Reduce emissions from diesel fuel in transportation through reductions in the use of diesel in ships and trucks.
- Remove barriers to and encourage the development of renewable electricity generation resources and technologies.
- Improve efficiency standards with the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develop consistent and coordinated greenhouse gas emission inventories and reporting protocols and collaborate on scientific tools to measure the impact of climate change.

¹ This report was prepared by the Executive Committee of the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative, comprised of Carol Jolly and Ron Shultz from Washington; David Van't Hof and Stephen Schneider from Oregon; and Bob Therkelsen and Anne Baker from California.

This initiative was well-received by the public and the media around the world. It is widely considered one of the top two or three state initiatives on climate change in the United States. (See Appendix A for selected press clippings.)

Workgroups with representatives from the three states were created to address each of the five areas. An additional sixth group on hydrogen was created later. Draft recommendations from the original five groups were made available for public review and comment in April 2004. The final list of recommendations includes, among other things:

1. Set new targets for improvement in performance in average annual state fleet greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Collaborate on the purchase of hybrid vehicles.
3. Establish a plan for the deployment of electrification technologies at truck stops in each state on the I-5 corridor, on the outskirts of major urban areas, and on other major interstate routes.
4. Set goals and implement strategies and incentives to increase retail energy sales from renewable resources by one percent or more annually in each state through 2015.
5. Adopt energy efficiency standards for eight to 14 products not regulated by the federal government, establishing a cost-effective efficiency threshold for all products sold on the West Coast.
6. Incorporate aggressive energy efficiency measures into updates of state building energy codes, with a goal of achieving at least 15 percent cumulative savings by 2015 in each state.
7. Organize a West Coast Governors' conference in 2005 to inform policy-makers and the public of climate change research concerning the West Coast states.

The Executive Committee recommends that the three Governors direct the staffs of their states to implement the recommendations in this report.

It also is clear that significant policies beyond the workgroup recommendations will be needed to meet the Governors' goal of reducing the states' greenhouse gas emissions below current levels. In addition to working together on the workgroup topic areas, each state has created its own stakeholder process to develop a more comprehensive list of recommendations for state-based climate protection strategies. These processes are in different stages in each state, and many significant new policies and measures are under consideration. Going forward, activities under this regional initiative should be coordinated with what emerges from those stakeholder groups.

The Governors should give careful consideration to four actions under consideration in one or more of the stakeholder processes that offer the most promise for achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions:

- Adopting comprehensive state and regional goals for greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
- Adopting standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles;
- Developing a regional market-based carbon allowance program; and,
- Expanding the markets for efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative fuels.

The Executive Committee recommends that the Governors continue the efforts of this West Coast Initiative over the coming year and direct the Initiative to focus its efforts on assessing the feasibility of regional greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies that arise out of the state stakeholder processes, with particular emphasis on those listed above.

We are confident that by working together, the West Coast States can take a global leadership position in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating global warming—while setting the stage for strong, long-term economic growth.

