

Program Development to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Guide

September 2020



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Why is a new greenhouse gas emissions reduction program needed?

Programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions are a key tool to help address the worsening effects of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Oregon is already experiencing effects such as:

- More frequent and intense wildfires
- Sea level rise, which can cause coastal flooding, impacting homes, habitats and infrastructure
- Drought and more frequent heat waves
- Reduced snowpack that supplies fresh water for rivers, streams, and reservoirs

On March 10, 2020, Governor Brown signed Executive Order 20-04, directing state agencies to take actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to climate change. One specific directive to the Environmental Quality Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality is to develop program options to reduce emissions.

DEQ is conducting a process to design an emissions reduction program shaped by input from stakeholders and the public in time for the program to begin by January 2022. Emission sources likely to be included in this program are large stationary sources, such as facilities and manufacturing; transportation fuels, such as gasoline and diesel; and other liquid and gaseous fuels, such as natural gas-fired furnaces and heating oil.

How can Oregonians get involved?

DEQ is committed to communicating with Oregon residents, businesses, environmental justice organizations, impacted communities and interested parties and providing meaningful opportunities to engage. Public input will help DEQ and the EQC design a responsive program, meeting the goals of emissions reduction and the people of Oregon.

DEQ has been actively engaging the public and stakeholders through:

1. Online listening sessions and public comment opportunities in May through July 2020
2. Discussions with environmental justice organizations, industry, environmental groups, and potentially regulated entities
3. Technical workshops via webinar to discuss specific program design elements in August and September 2020

Virtual town halls: save the date

Please join DEQ in October 2020 for a series of virtual town halls. These meetings are an opportunity to provide comments and to discuss:

Office of
Greenhouse Gas
Programs
700 NE Multnomah St.
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5696
800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6124

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

- The purpose of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction program
- How this program will compliment other state initiatives to combat climate change
- Key policy questions under consideration for the emissions reduction program
- What to expect during the formal rulemaking process

DEQ would like Oregonians’ comments on why an emissions reduction program matters to you and what program success means. DEQ is also seeking public input on community priorities and experiences and how this program should be designed to meet Oregon’s needs. Meeting materials will be posted in advance on the DEQ website.

- Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

How is DEQ developing the program?

DEQ is conducting a three-phase process through 2021 to invite public ideas and comments. DEQ is currently in the second phase, gathering public input to help identify and frame key policy proposals and issues prior to formal rulemaking.

DEQ is responsible for developing proposed rules for the EQC’s consideration. The EQC is a five-member commission appointed by the governor charged with adopting rules and establishing policies within its authority as established by the legislature.



The rulemaking process includes a rulemaking advisory committee convened by the EQC to provide input on proposed policy options and opportunities for public comment. The future committee is intended to represent a variety of perspectives from the regulated community, the business sector, interest groups and must have adequate representation from environmental justice organizations and impacted communities. The EQC will make final decisions about the membership of the RAC. The formal rulemaking will have continuing opportunities for the public to engage and provide input.

Learn more

Please visit DEQ’s webpage on this GHG emissions reduction program for updates and more information: www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Pages/capandreduce.aspx.

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.