

The Climate Trust, Oregon Environmental Allies Applaud Plan to Curb Carbon Pollution

PORTLAND, Ore. – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a proposal for the first-ever national protections from dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants. Carbon pollution causes climate disruption and is already costing American communities billions of dollars from flooding, super-storms, wildfires, and extreme heat.

This new standard, which is part of the President's Climate Action Plan, will clean up the industries that create the lion's share of carbon pollution in our country. The new protections will also help reduce other life-threatening air pollution including mercury, soot, and smog.

In response, Congressman Blumenauer and Oregon groups issued the following statements.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer

"If you accept modern science, you cannot deny the combined weight of over 10,000 peer-reviewed, published scientific studies which tell us climate change is happening. The United States is a major contributor to global carbon pollution, and has a moral responsibility to place sensible limits on our emissions. Transitioning to a low carbon future will not just help stave off the worst impacts of climate change, it will also transform our economy by creating thousands of jobs and saving money in the long run.

"The Administration is taking an important step forward with new clean air safeguards that will cut carbon pollution from existing power plants for the first time. While we will eventually need a permanent legislative solution - such as a carbon tax - EPA's action is a positive move towards a low carbon, energy efficient future."

Oregon Sierra Club Senior Campaign Representative Amy Hojnowski

"The Obama Administration's first-ever protections from carbon pollution for power plants will improve the health of our children, curb the worst effects of climate disruption, and move the nation closer to what Governor Kitzhaber is working to achieve here in Oregon: a modern clean energy economy that promotes innovation and local job growth.

"Governor Kitzhaber has taken major strides to modernize Oregon by rejecting dangerous coal exports and emphasizing clean energy investments. But Oregon still has a long way to go, with utilities like Pacific Power still relying primarily on energy from polluting coal plants to power Oregonians' homes.

"Using the Obama Administration's new safeguards, we look forward to working with Governor Kitzhaber and all Oregonians to create a strong state implementation plan that protects families from harmful air pollution. We are confident that Governor Kitzhaber will continue to be a leader for clean air and healthy children."

Angus Duncan, Pacific Northwest Representative for the Natural Resources Defense Council and Chair, Oregon Global Warming Commission

"While Congress dithers on the real, immediate, disruptive and costly threat of climate change, the President and EPA are acting to bring US greenhouse gas emissions under control. Building on his first term doubling of vehicle fuel economy standards - to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 - the President last summer directed EPA to do its statutory duty by requiring sharp reductions in carbon emissions from existing coal-fired power plants.

"The draft rule issued today by EPA will not just cut these destructive emissions; it will also stimulate investment in the new technologies and the jobs that will come from replacing old coal with new and clean forms of energy to power America's future economic prosperity. Like the federal policies that drove development of renewable hydropower in the Pacific Northwest of the 1940's and 50's, stirring yesterday's regional economic pot, this rule is the essential first step in the remaking of the region's energy base, and our environmental and economic future."

Sean Penrith, Executive Director for The Climate Trust

"The ability for states to take an active role in choosing how best to meet their compliance obligations under EPA's §111(d) will offer the kind of systematic flexibility necessary for existing power plants to attain these aggressive emission reduction targets. We are hopeful that states will be able to exercise full flexibility to leverage best systems of emission reduction in complying with the rule. We applaud Oregon investor owned utilities for their past proactive work in allowing customers to offset their greenhouse gas emissions and leading the nation in the overall number of customers that signed up for renewable energy. The Climate Trust is optimistic that Oregon and the state's power industry will leverage this federal rule to advance the larger regional goals outlined in Governor Kitzhaber's 10-Year Energy Action Plan and the Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy. We look forward to building on the good work of these regional power providers to meet future benchmarks, while addressing the far-reaching implications of climate change."

Jana Gastellum, Climate Program Director, Oregon Environmental Council

"Climate change is a real and urgent issue that is already impacting Oregon: acidifying oceans are harming oyster hatcheries and the snow pack that provides water to our farms and homes is under threat. Federal carbon pollution standards are a logical next step in our effort to protect the health and well-being of communities and businesses throughout the country and here at home in Oregon.

"We have known about the damage from carbon pollution for decades, and now it's time to hold polluters responsible. I am glad to see the Obama administration step up to the plate to hold them accountable. We owe it to our children to provide them with the quality of life we have all come to love here in Oregon - the clean, plentiful water, the beautiful natural areas - and these regulations take us in the right direction. These new rules will help us all conserve energy, reduce our use of fossil fuels and do what we can to slow global warming and prepare for a better future for our children."

KC Golden, Policy Director, Climate Solutions

"Our national leaders have been too slow and too timid in responding to the climate crisis, and too willing to defer to the power of fossil fuel interests. Today, the Obama Administration proposes a significant and vitally necessary step toward solutions, the beginning of the end of the era of free and unlimited carbon dumping. To deliver real climate solutions - at the scale of the problem -- we'll have to keep picking up the pace from here forward through federal and state actions."

The Climate Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with over 16 years of carbon financing experience. Our mission is to provide expertise, financing, and inspiration to accelerate innovative climate solutions that endure. In order to arrest the rise in greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change, The Climate Trust works to accelerate project implementation, develop financing solutions, and establish a supportive policy environment in the renewable energy, agriculture, and forestry sectors.

Additional information at www.climatetrust.org | @ClimateTrust | facebook.com/TheClimateTrust