

# WEST COAST PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONS' JOINT ACTION FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

California Public Utilities Commission  
Washington Utility and Transportation Commission  
Oregon Public Utility Commission





---

## WEST COAST PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONS' JOINT ACTION FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Global warming is a serious and growing threat to the health, safety and welfare of all peoples. Fossil fuel-based electricity generation is a major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, and policy makers at all levels are recognizing the need to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change resulting from continued reliance on fossil fuels. Moreover, climate change itself may lead to a significant increase in demand for energy as well as significant decreases in hydropower resources on which all three states depend.

The Washington, Oregon and California Public Utilities/Transportation Commissions (“Commissions”) provide regulatory oversight of energy utilities, the policies and practices of which determine the extent to which utilities contribute to the emission of greenhouse gases. Vigilant regulatory oversight ensures that the utilities operate in a manner that protects the environment and human health and safety, and protects ratepayers from economic risks of failure to plan for future regulation of emissions that cause climate change.

While the Commissions operate under distinct state laws and jurisdictional constraints, they are committed to regional cooperation where appropriate to address climate change and to implement the principles set forth in the September 2003, West Coast Governors’ Global Warming Initiative. The Governors of Washington, Oregon and California launched the Initiative to develop regional policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including greater reliance on energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

## **STATEMENT OF SHARED PRINCIPLES**

These Shared Principles serve as a general guide for energy resource oversight by the Commissions as well as planning by the regulated utilities and the investment communities.

- Regional cooperation to address climate change.
- Development and use of low carbon technologies in the energy sector.
- Promotion of conservation and demand response programs.
- A strong, continued commitment to renewable energy resources.
- Reliance upon Integrated Resource Plans to inform utility and Commission decisions.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

The Commissions will work cooperatively on the following actions to implement the Shared Principles:

- Review best practices for energy efficiency and pursue joint opportunities to identify and secure cost-effective conservation. Develop policies to recognize energy efficiency as an energy resource, including strong evaluation, measurement and verification standards and protocols, and integration of energy efficiency into utility resource portfolios.
- Review best practices for demand response and develop joint activities to increase beneficial demand response capability.
- Explore ways to remove barriers to the development of advanced, low-carbon technologies for fossil fuel-powered generation capable of capturing and sequestering carbon dioxide emissions.
- Explore the development and implementation of greenhouse gas emissions standards for new long-term power supplies.
- Examine opportunities to further support and implement renewable energy development to serve the West Coast states, including policies to encourage the development of transmission that provides access to prime resource sites.
- Commit to outreach with neighboring states.

## IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The Commissions direct their respective staffs to implement this Statement and provide an annual workplan and summary of progress for their consideration commencing in 2007. The Commissions also commit to schedule joint workshops to address the action items set forth in this document. For cost-efficiency and convenience such workshops will be coordinated when practical with the schedule of other meetings regularly attended by the states.

Signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2006 in San Francisco, California.

### **California Public Utilities Commission**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Peevey, President  
  
John Bohn  
Geoffrey Brown  
Rochelle Chong  
Dian Grueneich  
Commissioners



### **Washington Utility and Transportation Commission**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Sidran, Chair  
  
Phillip Jones  
Patrick Oshie  
Commissioners



### **Oregon Public Utility Commission**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Beyer, Chair  
  
Ray Baum  
John Savage  
Commissioners

