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78<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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## POTENTIAL 2015 HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ISSUES

### Air Quality

- Clean Fuel. The 2009 Legislature enacted the Clean Fuel Program with the goal of reducing the average lifecycle emissions of greenhouse gases from transportation fuels by 10 percent over a 10-year period. The program has a sunset date of December 31, 2015.
- Diesel Emissions. Diesel engines can operate for 20 to 30 years, leading to the continued use of many older diesel engines that do not comply with current technology standards. California is now requiring diesel trucks and buses to be upgraded or replaced to reduce emissions.
- Woodstoves. Smoke from a wood stove can be a significant source of air pollution. Oregon currently requires woodstoves and fireplace inserts to be certified as meeting emissions performance standards when a home is sold.

### Climate and the Economy

- 111(d) Rule. The committee will hear an informational presentation on the proposed federal Clean Air Act 111(d) rule. Other topics related to carbon regulation include coal-to-clean proposals.
- Carbon Pricing. The 2013 Legislature approved funding for a study of the feasibility of a clean air fee (Senate Bill 306 – 2012). The House Revenue Committee has identified the next step in this study as a more detailed analysis on potential implementation issues and strategies for mitigating negative effects of a carbon tax. Informational topics include information on programs and proposals in neighboring states and British Columbia.

### Energy

- Renewables. Oregon has been a national leader in the development of renewable energy sources. The committee will discuss issues related to further development of a variety of renewable resources, including solar, ocean, and bioenergy.
- Renewables/Incentive Programs
  - Tax Credits. Tax credit programs for energy conservation projects, alternative energy devices, and biomass collection and production are scheduled to sunset in 2018.
  - Net Metering. The 1999 Legislature required Oregon utilities to offer net metering to customers with onsite solar systems and directed the Public Utility Commission to establish a pilot program to examine the effectiveness of volumetric incentive rates to develop solar PV systems.

- **Energy Conservation and Efficiency.** The 10-Year Energy Action Plan calls for Oregon to meet all new electric load growth through energy efficiency and conservation. Programs to be addressed this session include Cool Schools, a program begun in 2011 to offer financing for energy efficiency upgrades in schools.

### **Water Quality**

- **Septic Systems.** Over 30 percent of Oregonians rely on septic systems to treat wastewater from their homes and businesses. Failing or malfunctioning septic systems have the potential to pollute nearby water systems. Replacement of these systems can be very expensive.
- **Farm/Forest Buffers.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and US Environmental Protection Agency recently ruled that Oregon has not submitted a fully approvable Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program. The ruling is based, in part, on concerns related to state riparian protection measures.
- **Infrastructure Funding.** Aging water infrastructure is very expensive to replace. In 2010, the Department of Environmental Quality estimated that Oregon's publicly owned wastewater systems need \$456 million to protect water quality and public health. The state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund received \$23 million in federal funding in 2010; this was estimated to finance five percent of what was needed at that time.

### **Materials Management**

- **Brownfields.** The redevelopment of brownfields is a topic of continuing interest, including funding and liability issues.
- **Product Stewardship.** The 2013 Legislature made permanent both the Oregon Paint Stewardship and the Bottle Redemption Center Programs. The committee may receive information and consider issues related to those programs, including an update on the development of new redemption centers.