

Clean Energy Jobs Work Groups Charges/Questions

1. Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Communities and Tribes

Charge: Discuss the opportunities for agriculture and forestry industry and understand the options for offset design.

Policy Questions to Answer:

1. How does cap-and-invest affect these industries and communities?
2. How can an Oregon offsets program be designed to provide the most benefit to Oregon's rural economies?
3. What are the concerns related to development of, and use of, offsets, and how can a program be designed to address some of these concerns?
4. What investment opportunities exist in Oregon for agricultural and forestry sectors, and who would benefit? How will revenues be invested in rural communities? Examples?
5. How can a cap-and-invest program help advance Oregon's efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change?

First meeting goal: education on what offset projects are and what is required (additionality, quantifiable etc.); education on the general impacts of cap-and-invest programs on rural economies, plus some specific examples of industries or economies in Oregon.

2. Regulated Entities

Charge: Discuss compliance with cap-and-invest, flexibility, and cost containment.

Policy Questions to Answer:

1. How will cap-and-invest interact with regulated industries?
2. How are energy intensive and trade exposed (EITE) entities likely to be determined, and how would EITE determinations likely play out for some key Oregon industries?
3. How could cost containment mechanisms be designed fairly? For example, if we decide to offer free allowances to some industries for controlling leakage, what are the implications for auction revenue generation and for reducing emissions? Should free allowances be time-limited? How will we be assured that EITEs will in fact produce fewer emissions over time?

First meeting goal: education on the effects of a cap-and-invest program on industries – what has modeling and literature shown to be the effects on different industries (and overall state economy)? This meeting could cover explaining the mechanics of setting the cap and designing allocation.

3. Utilities and Transportation

Charge: Discuss compliance with cap-and-invest, flexibility, and cost containment.

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Utilities ~ Policy Questions to Answer:

1. How will compliance with cap-and-invest and existing policies interact for different power suppliers?
2. How can cap-and-invest be designed to be as complementary as possible to existing policies in the electricity sector?
3. What are potential interests and concerns related to allocation for utilities, especially the consignment methodology and process?
4. What policies are needed to ensure cost containment, flexibility, and stable energy prices?

First meeting goal: Explain how compliance with cap-and-invest will work for utilities, acknowledging the differences across utilities to tee up future discussion about potential interactions with other policies and allocation.

Transportation ~ Policy Questions to Answer:

1. How will cap-and-invest and existing policies interact for different fuel suppliers and different fuel users?
2. What mechanisms would or could be in place to ensure cost containment and flexibility?
3. How should committees and funds be structured, and what are investment opportunities using proceeds in the Highway Trust Fund? What investment opportunities might specifically mitigate higher fuel prices for certain fuel user groups (e.g. freight)?
4. How, if at all, will a cap-and-invest program affect the 2017 transportation package?

First meeting goal: Explain how a cap-and-invest program would cover transportation fuels, and the potential cost containment and flexibility mechanisms. It might also be worth noting the rough revenue generation reasonably anticipated from the program that would go to the Highway Trust Fund to tee up deeper exploration of question #3.

4. Environmental Justice and Just Transition

Charge: Discuss the impacts and potential opportunities for impacted communities and how to ensure a just transition.

Top Policy Questions to Answer:

1. What are benefits and concerns with the cap-and-invest model?
2. How should committees and funds be structured to ensure representation and transparency?
3. What are investment opportunities using proceeds in impacted communities and for a just transition? Will use of revenues be restricted to climate change response?

First meeting goal: Education on how cap-and-invest programs have affected and benefited low-income and minority communities, and a discussion on this topic to prepare the group for deeper conversations on questions #2 and #3 above.