

The effects of climate change are here today, they are serious, and they are costing Oregonians money and affecting their lifestyles and health. The state is suffering through drought, reduced snowpack, increased wildfire and impacts to fisheries. Larger forest and grassland fires are now more frequent, a consequence of warmer, drier summers. The fire season begins earlier and ends later.”

CC is costing the state even if global greenhouse gas emissions came to a stop tomorrow, the impacts would continue and intensify for decades.

The time of probabilities is now past. The first tangible effects of climate change are upon us.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) submitted its Biennial Report to the 2019 legislative body. This is the first report to be published in an even-numbered year also drawing two new conclusions based on new data from Oregon’s largest electric utilities and from Oregon’s consumption-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory. The updated inventories indicate that Oregon’s contribution to global concentrations of greenhouse gases is not subsiding. The combustion of fossil fuel, whether occurring within Oregon or as a result of our consumption, is the key driver of greenhouse gas emissions. Statistics show that Oregon is not on track to reduce statewide emissions 10 % below 1990 levels by 2020, in accordance with its own goals. Rather, consumption-based emissions are rising, while sector-based emissions are not declining, especially in regards to transportation. The gap between the inventories has also grown over time. Consumption-based emissions were approximately 6 million MTCO_{2e} higher than sector-based.

We emitted 64-65 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) for the state’s total GHG emissions in 2017. This level is well above the state’s goal of 51 million MTCO_{2e} by 2020 and the Commission’s adopted interim goal of 32.7 million MTCO_{2e} by 2035, and it does not put Oregon on a path toward achieving its long-term goal of 14 million MTCO_{2e} by 2050. Volunteerism by large corporations is not working; they are not stepping up to the plate and doing their part. Unfortunately they need to be coerced into change and helping us reduces our GHG emissions. CC affects us all and especially the aged the young and the poor. It is time for Oregon to do the right thing. Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old student from Sweden Our civilization is being sacrificed for the opportunity of a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money.

Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many, which pay for the luxuries of the few.

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis.

We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself.

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