

State Climate Action Across the Country

Oregon House Committee on Energy and Environment

May 25, 2021

1:00pm

What is NCEL?

- Nationwide network of over 1,000 legislators from all 50 states and both major parties.
- Serves as a connector for legislators to collaborate across the country.
- Your remote environmental staff. NCEL staff provide research, resources, and materials on policy areas of your interest.
- Created by and for state legislators.

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NCEL's Primary Issue Areas



Climate & Energy



Conservation



**Environmental
Health**

Overview: State Climate Action in 2020 & 2021

- **New Jersey**

- S 2607: Climate vulnerability assessment for land use planning (2021)



- **New Mexico**

- HB 233: Grid Modernization (2020)
- HB 15: Sustainable Building Tax Credit (2021)



- **Virginia**

- SB 851: 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2045 (2020)
- HB 981/SB 1027: directs carbon pricing revenue towards flood resilience and low-income energy efficiency programs (2020)



- **Washington**

- SB 5141: HEAL Act (2021)
- HB 1050: Reducing HFCs (2021)



Spotlight: Transportation

- **Arkansas**
 - SB 632: Creates the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Grant Fund (2021)
- **New Jersey**
 - S 2252/A 4819: Sets a target of 2 million light duty EVs by 2035 and provides rebates (2020)
- **Virginia**
 - HB 1965: Adopts California Low and Zero Emissions Vehicle Standards (2021)
- **Washington**
 - HB 1091: Low Carbon Fuel Standard (2021)



Emissions Reduction Targets

Net-zero emissions targets require all economic sectors to cease or fully offset emissions. They allow states to identify the sectors that need the most policy attention and set the stage for future action.

- In 2021, **Massachusetts (S 9)** and **Rhode Island (SB 78)** passed bills requiring the state to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- In 2020, **Vermont (H 688)** set an 80% emissions reduction requirement by 2050.



Spotlight: Massachusetts S 9 (2021)

- requires the state to reach **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050** and mandates emissions limits every 5 years.
- **sector-specific limits** for transportation, buildings, and other emissions sources.
- defines and requires protections for **environmental justice communities**.
- establishes a more robust building energy code that municipalities can opt into, which includes **net-zero building performance standards**.
- directs utility regulators to balance priorities between system safety, security, reliability, affordability, **equity, and, significantly, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions**.



Cap & Invest

Cap & invest policies set a declining cap on greenhouse gas pollution from regulated entities. Those entities must purchase allowances to pollute and they can trade allowances among themselves. The revenue from the allowances gets reinvested by the state into projects that promote climate mitigation, resilience, and community benefits.

- In 2020, **Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island**, and **DC** joined the regional Transportation and Climate Initiative to cap transportation pollution.
- **Washington** passed SB 5126, which creates a state carbon market.

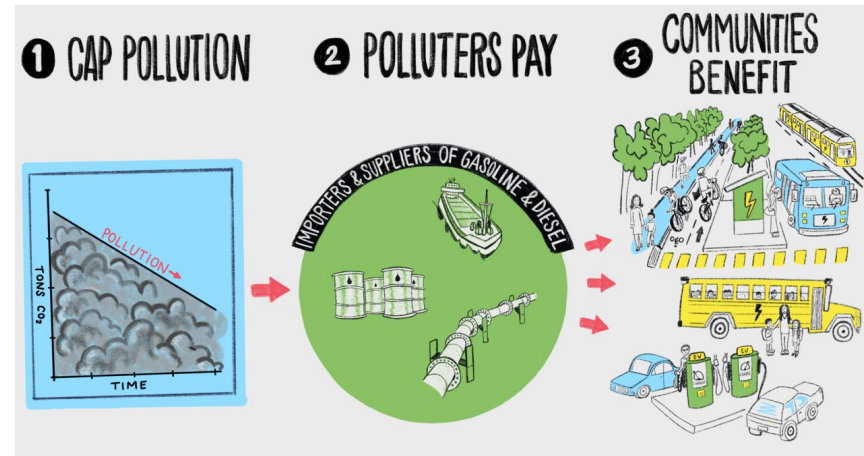


Image: Jessica Russo, NRDC

Spotlight: Washington SB 5126 (2021)

- **creates a carbon market** to achieve the state's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.
- **reinvests revenue into sustainable transportation and climate change resilience.** The revenue may only be spent on projects that meet certain **labor standards**, and some funds will be directed towards implementing the Working Families Tax Rebate.
- **requires improvement to air quality** in communities disproportionately overburdened by pollution, and **directs a minimum of 35% of investments to such communities.**
- requires consultation with tribes regarding any projects that may impact their lands, and **directs 10% of investments towards projects formally supported by a tribe.**

Emerging Trends: Decarbonizing Industry in 2021

- **Low-Carbon Concrete**
 - California SB 596
 - New Jersey S 3091
 - New York S 542
- **“Buy Clean” Building Materials**
 - Colorado HB 1303
 - Washington HB 1103/SB 5366
- **Deforestation-free Procurement**
 - California AB 416
 - New York S 5921/A 6872



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