



Climate Executive Order Announcement

April 29, 2014

Remarks as Prepared

Thank you, Shoubee Liaw, for welcoming us today.

Good morning. Thank you all for joining us here at Shoreline Community College.

Today, Washington state steps forward. Today we, step up to tackle the source of one of our greatest challenges – carbon pollution that is threatening our state.

And we're lucky here in Washington because we will tackle it with the irresistible power of an infinitely renewable resource – the innovative spirit and deep sense of commitment to our future that makes this great state what it is, for three reasons.

One, this is the right time to act. Two, this is the right place to act. And three, we are the right people to take this action.

This is the right time to act because the facts are clear and compelling. Climate change is already upon us. Ocean acidification threatens our shellfish industry. Loss of irrigation water threatens our apple industry. Wildfires and invasive pests threaten our forest products industry.

This is the objective physical reality of our circumstances. These are facts.

It's not too late but it's clearly not too early. *Right now* is the time to step up to the responsibility, and the enormous opportunity, of leading the way to solutions.





This is also the right place to act. It's the right place because Washington is a state where innovative spirit, entrepreneurial zeal, and a whole lot of good, honest, family-supporting work have produced world-changing advances.

It's the place where brains and brawn come together to produce revolutionary human progress. We can be just as successful in clean energy as we've been in aerospace, in software, in biotechnology.

I know we can turn this challenge into good jobs and strong communities. Washington is loaded with proof of that proposition.

And we are the right people to take action because Washingtonians value clean water, thriving forests, fertile farmland, and strong communities. We're proud of our quality of life. We stand up for this place.

As governor, I'm committed to my core to a healthy future with broadly-shared prosperity. We're just not going to settle for less.

And as a father and grandfather, I'm committed to doing the right thing for our kids and for future generations. This is a moral responsibility that connects us all.

Today isn't about ideals. It's not about aspirations. Because our grandkids won't much care about the preamble or the speeches. All they will care about is what was true, and what we did. So today, we act.

Today I'm signing an Executive Order that will determine how we reduce carbon pollution in our state.

Let's be clear: by my signature today we are not implementing any new programs. We are setting out a deliberative and public process to develop the best program possible.



Most of what emerges will likely need legislative approval, either in statute for a carbon market, for example, or with budget appropriations. There will be plenty of opportunity for legislative input to make this the best possible program.

We're doing this because the law requires it. In 2008, the Legislature passed a law saying Washington will reduce its carbon pollution but it didn't provide the tools to do it. That's what we're starting today.

The executive order I'm signing today says, over the course of this year, we will determine how best to reduce carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants. **And we will do it.**

We will decide how to accelerate our use of clean cars and clean fuels, and reduce emissions from our transportation system. **And we will do it.**

We will focus on saving costs and reducing emissions from our buildings, by improving their efficiency and taking advantage of clean power. **And we will do it.**

And we will decide how best to help Washington's brightest minds develop and deploy the technology we need to succeed in this challenge. **And we'll set them loose to do just that.**

I'm taking executive action to do this because we cannot wait any longer to get started.

I have asked members of my cabinet, together with others, to focus their attention and resources on getting this job done, and implementing strategies that will work for our state, for our businesses and for our families.





Last year, hundreds of citizens attended public hearings by the climate workgroup and thousands more submitted written comments, mostly urging bold action to combat climate change.

The workgroup listened.

This year, we will lead.

I am pleased and honored to be joined today by top leaders in our state, including business and labor leaders, leading advocates for public health, social justice and the environment, and senior representatives from all levels of government. I want to thank them for agreeing to stand up on this issue, and for their public service.

They are members of my new Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce, and I have asked them for recommendations on how best to unleash the immense power of the market in reducing carbon pollution. I will use their advice to shape and request legislation for action by the 2015 state legislature.

These are innovative, expert, caring, and successful people, focused on the best interests of our citizens, businesses and state.

We will move forward in the smartest way possible, and that means we will ask this diverse group of leaders to point the way to our best future. I expect all of them to bring their differing perspectives and their best ideas for moving forward.

Let me underscore – we will do this the Washington Way.

We will engage people, consider the best options, ask the right questions, and come to the answers that work for Washington.



To those who say Washington can't make a difference, I say: you don't know Washington.

We don't wait. We lead. We've led the nation – and the world – many times before when it comes to innovation. It's who we are.

Washington may produce a small fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions, but we produce a large share of the world's best ideas and most successful economic innovations. We produce more than our share of great businesses and technological breakthroughs.

And when it comes to our moral responsibility to our children and their future, we have *100 percent* of the obligation. *100 percent* of the determination. Whatever it takes to do our most important job.

When our kids ask why they can't just throw an empty pop can out the car window, since "other people do it," we tell them that throwing trash out the window is simply the wrong thing to do – period.

Wrecking our future and our home with carbon pollution is just wrong, no matter what anybody else does. We know we have clean, affordable alternatives to fossil fuel dependence. They work. We know we can build stronger economies and healthier communities on that foundation. And we're not going to let anyone stand between us and a prosperous clean energy future, because it's the only future worthy of our kids.

We are not alone in doing the right thing. Far from it. There are other communities and governments around the world stepping up to this challenge.





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And the best way to encourage everyone is to step up ourselves. Join our partners to the north and south in tackling carbon pollution. Show what it looks like. Be a proof point. Don't wait for *anybody*.

And it's not like we're starting from scratch. We already rely on renewable energy more than any other state.

Clean energy and energy efficiency are vital parts of our history and our energy strategy. And it's a good thing we've done so much to prove them out, because they are the energy future. It's our clean energy edge, and we're going to sharpen it.

It's how we control our destiny and deliver on our responsibility to our kids and grandkids.

So today I'm calling on all Washingtonians, on all leaders, and on all businesses. Be part of the solution. Capture the opportunities. Let's rise together and meet our shared responsibilities.

Now, I would like to call up the co-chairs of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce, Rod Brown and Ada Healy ...

