



Summary

Climate Change & Transportation Related Impacts by 2009 Legislation & Governor's Climate Change Executive Order 09-05

What bills passed?

The following bills have been signed into law and are the primary climate change and transportation related legislation for the 2009 legislative session.

2SHB 1481 – Electric Vehicles

Signed by Governor: 05/12/2009

Effective date: 07/26/2009

The requirements for this bill are:

- Directs the state and the Puget Sound Regional Council to seek federal or private funding to develop and plan for implementation of an electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Specifically, directs WSDOT to pursue partnerships with public and private entities to establish an alternative fuels corridor pilot project along I-5.
- Directs the state to install charging outlets for electric vehicles in areas such as rest stops and state parking and maintenance facilities.
- Provides tax incentives for electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Additionally, state agencies and local governments, to the extent practicable, must achieve 40 percent fuel usage using electricity or biofuel for publicly owned vessels, vehicles, and construction equipment by June 1, 2013.

SSB 6088 – Commute Trip Reduction for State Agencies

Signed by Governor: 05/08/2009

Effective date: 07/26/2009

The requirements for this bill are:

- Transfers current responsibilities related to commute trip reduction (CTR) programs for state agencies from the Department of General Administration to the WSDOT.
- Requires WSDOT to develop a joint comprehensive commute trip reduction plan for all state agencies within the Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater urban growth areas (including institutions of higher education).
- Requires these state agencies to implement a CTR program that is consistent with the objectives and strategies of the joint comprehensive CTR plan.
- Funding is provided for WSDOT to implement the bill in the capital budget.

E2SSB 5560 – Agency Climate Leadership

Signed by Governor: 05/15/2009

Effective date: 07/26/2009

The non-vetoed requirements for this bill are:

- Requires all state agencies to meet targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its buildings, vehicles, and operations. Meeting these targets will demonstrate that the reductions are achievable, cost-effective, and will help to promote innovative energy efficiency technologies and practices.
- Requires all state agencies to report their estimated greenhouse gas emissions and the strategies taken to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Requires the Governor to designate an existing position as the single point of accountability for all energy and climate change initiatives within state agencies.
- Requires the state agencies to develop strategies to reduce fuel consumption and emissions from all classes of vehicles.
 1. Phase in fuel economy standards for motor pools and leased vehicles to achieve an average fuel economy standard of thirty-six miles per gallon for passenger vehicle fleets by 2015;
 2. Achieve an average fuel economy of forty miles per gallon for light duty passenger vehicles purchased after June 15, 2010; and
 3. Achieve an average fuel economy standard of twenty-seven miles per gallon for light duty vans and sport utility vehicles purchased after June 15, 2010.
- State agencies must report annually on the progress made to achieve the goals under bullets (1) through (3) above beginning October 31, 2011.
- Requires all state agencies, beginning in 2010, to consider when distributing capital funds whether the entity receiving the funds has adopted policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- State agencies shall strive to incorporate adaptation plans of action as priority activities when planning or designing agency policies and programs. Agencies shall consider the integrated climate change response strategy when designing, planning, and funding infrastructure projects. Agencies should also consider incorporating natural resource adaptation actions and alternative energy sources when designing and planning infrastructure projects.
- The bill also directs the Department of Ecology in consultation with WSDOT and other agencies to develop a response strategy to climate change impacts.

Governor Gregoire's Executive Order 09-05 on Climate Change

Signed by Governor: 05/21/2009

Effective date: 05/21/2009

The following is a summary of the transportation related elements in the Governor's Executive Order on Climate Change 09-05. You can view the executive order at:

http://www.governor.wa.gov/execorders/eo_09-05.pdf

The Executive Order directs:

The Director of the Department of Ecology to:

(a) Continue to participate in the Western Climate Initiative to develop a regional, and potentially a national, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction program that reflects Washington State priorities.

(b) Determine each facility in Washington that is responsible for 25,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.

By December 1, 2009, provide each facility with:

- (1) the Department's best estimate of each facility's baseline GHG emissions;
- (2) each facility's proportionate share greenhouse gas emission reduction necessary to achieve the state's 2020 emission reduction in RCW 70.135.020; and
- (3) a request for any recommended strategies to achieve the needed reductions.

By October 1, 2010, the Department of Ecology shall develop emission reduction strategies and actions, including complementary policies, to achieve the state's 2020 emissions reduction targets.

(c) By July 1, 2011, submit to the Governor recommendations on industry emission benchmarks that could be used in a federal or regional cap and trade program. Emission benchmarks should be developed in consultation with stakeholders, based on industry best practices.

(f) By July 1, 2010, provide to the Governor a recommendation regarding which low-carbon fuel standards or requirements should be adopted for Washington, either by rule or legislation. The Department of Ecology, in consultation with the Departments of Commerce and Transportation shall assess various fuel standards and determine which standards or alternative requirements to reduce carbon in transportation fuels would best meet Washington's GHG emissions reduction targets.

The Director of the Department of Transportation to:

(a) In consultation with the Departments of Ecology and Commerce, local governments, business, and environmental representatives:

- estimate current and future state-wide levels of vehicle miles traveled,
- evaluate potential changes to the vehicle miles traveled benchmarks established in RCW 47.01.440 as appropriate to address low- or no-emission vehicles, and
- develop additional strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector; and

By December 31, 2010, report vehicle miles traveled (VMT) findings and recommendations to the Governor.

(b) Work with the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council and the Thurston

Regional Planning Council to cooperatively develop and adopt regional transportation plans that will, when implemented:

- provide people with additional transportation alternatives and choices,
- reduce greenhouse gases and achieve the statutory benchmarks to reduce annual per capita vehicle miles traveled in those counties with populations greater than 245,000

By December 1, 2011, report to the Governor:

- which regional transportation planning organizations have developed, or are developing, plans with greenhouse gas strategies,
- which strategies appear to have the best potential to achieve the benchmarks, and
- what policy or funding issues need to be resolved to ensure implementation.

The Office of the Governor to:

Work with affected state agencies to develop and seek federal funds to implement a project for the electrification of the West Coast interstate highway including:

- request for federal funding to purchase electric vehicles, and
- install public infrastructure for electric and other high-efficiency, zero- or low-carbon vehicles.

The Office shall invite the collaboration of the states of Oregon and California and participation by the private sector in developing, implementing, and seeking federal support for this project.

The Director of the Department of Ecology to:

Invite the Washington State Association of Counties and the Association of Washington Cities to collaborate in conducting an evaluation and develop recommendations for addressing climate change impacts

Evaluate the potential impacts of sea level rise on the state's shoreline areas, including:

- the potential increases in storm surge and coastal flooding,
- increased erosion,
- loss of habitat and ecosystems, and

develop recommendations for addressing these impacts.