

State of Washington's New Carbon Tax Plan – Washington Climate Collaborative

While Washington's economy has more than doubled in the last 25 years, our carbon emissions are lower than they were in 1990. That's no accident. Our state has been a national leader in protecting the environment, while creating jobs for Washington families.

When it comes to reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to clean energy, Washington is already leading the pack. We now have the 7th cleanest state economy in the country and boast over 100,000 green jobs. Because of our current efforts, Washington's carbon dioxide emissions are lower than they were 25 years ago, and account for less than 0.3% of the global emissions. Despite that, Governor Inslee is requiring Department of Ecology to write a rule to create a new Cap and Trade Tax on businesses.

In the 2015 Legislative Session, Governor Inslee was unsuccessful with getting his bill passed, which would cost taxpayers, and a list of 130 "major polluters in Washington" a total of \$1.3 Billion. Thankfully, this bill was unsuccessful, but it has now incentivized Gov. Inslee to instruct the Department of Ecology, through Executive Order, to create a rule that sets caps on carbon emissions further than already accomplished.

Yet....

- Washington is the 7th cleanest economy based on lowest CO₂ emissions/GPD
- Washington has the 7th highest percentage of public transit use
- Our commuters are the 7th fewest solo auto commuters in the country
- 3rd in the most carbon storage in forests
- 4th in lowest CO₂ emissions per capita for electric power generation
- 8th lowest per capita CO₂ emissions
- 9th in fewest miles driven
- 8th in energy efficient building policies
- 9th in total megawatts of installed wind generation
- and we are 1st in electric vehicle charging stations per capita

And here is the best statistic yet. Washington's CO₂ emissions in 1990 were 72.18mmt, and in 2012, they were LESS... at 71.05mmt produced. So why is Inslee so hell-bent on climate change?

While we applaud the governor's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, we disagree with this newest top-down regulatory scheme. While the DOE is short on details, what we do know signals that the governor would put limits on the amount of allowable carbon emissions. Employers who anticipate they will exceed those limits would be expected to trade credits amongst themselves or purchase credits. Sound familiar? Have we not already gone down this path with RINS?

The Washington Oil Marketers stand firm that taxing our industry out of business does not reduce carbon emissions. And we remain concerned that changes will be forced on consumers at a high cost. Details of those costs (estimated at up to \$1 per gallon) have yet to be revealed.

Industry is leading the way - not government. They are not hiding their heads in the sand, but instead suggesting that there is a collaborative approach to reducing carbon emissions. In fact, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, carbon emissions from Washington-based industry decreased 21% from 1990 to 2001. Our state is on the right track. Our Governor is not. WOMA will continue to fight against regulatory and legislative actions that are not good for consumers or marketers of our products.

Holiday Party at Safeco Field

Join us on December 10th at Safeco Field for our annual Holiday Party and Celebration! This year's dinner will be held in the Diamond Club right behind home plate. Parking is included in our event. You can find our registration form online at www.wpma.com/washington