

September 23, 2021

Company Name
Attn Line
Address
City STATE, Zip

Take action now for Oregon DEQ climate rules.

Climate change is an issue that requires urgency and involvement by all of us, including elected leaders, utilities, businesses and community members. Today we are inviting the business community to participate in a statewide process that will help determine what Oregon's response to climate change will look like.

In March of 2020, Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order requiring state agencies to meet specific goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions. This is one of the most sweeping executive orders ever issued by a governor because it impacts every energy user in Oregon.

Following 18 months of stakeholder meetings and rulemaking, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released a draft rule to implement the executive order and create a new "Climate Protection Program (CPP)." We have analyzed the rule and believe the proposed program takes an unbalanced and costly approach to addressing statewide emissions.

Because this is a regulatory process, there is opportunity for public participation and comment.
An opportunity for you to help shape Oregon's response.

The input from businesses and individuals who use the natural gas system is also important for decision makers to consider when they are presented with proposals that could discourage renewable energy innovation in the Pacific Northwest and force communities to exclusively depend on the electric grid for all energy needs.

We believe there is a better way, and that working together on pragmatic solutions will lead to the most promising energy future. The key principles we think should be taken into account include:

- All forms of renewable energy – including renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen - are needed in a balanced, low-carbon future.
- Families and businesses should have a choice of resilient and dependable energy options to meet their needs.
- The affordability and reliability of energy must remain priorities of Oregon's energy system.

The stakes are high. Public input is likely to influence the final rule and decision makers need to hear from all stakeholders. To that end, we hope you will lend your voice to the discussion to provide more balanced perspectives. We encourage you to either submit written comments or sign up to testify at an upcoming public hearing.

Email comments may be sent to: GHGCR2021@deq.state.or.us
Please include "Rulemaking Comment" in the email subject line.

Mailed comments may be sent to:
Oregon DEQ
Attn: Nicole Singh
700 NE Multnomah St., Room 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

Thank you for taking a moment to provide your input into this process, which will impact decisions on energy use and our environment for generations to come.