



Catalog of State Climate Actions: Cross-Cutting Issues

A catalog of sample state-level GHG-reducing actions and policy options based on actions undertaken or considered by state, local, and private actors.

Example State Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Policy Actions

Inventory and Forecasting

- Establish and fund state GHG emission inventory function
- Establish and maintain state GHG emission forecasting function

GHG Reporting

- Establish or adopt a GHG emissions reporting program
- Provide assistance in reporting GHG emissions

GHG Registry

- Participate in the development of a multistate GHG emissions reduction registry
- Provide assistance in registering GHG emissions

Statewide GHG Reduction Goals and Targets

- Establish goals or targets for statewide GHG emission reductions
- Institute an accountability program to measure and report progress in reducing GHG emissions

State and Local Government GHG Emissions (Lead By Example)

- Lead by example by establishing targets for reductions in state GHG emissions
- Create a multiagency body to oversee ongoing state climate efforts

Example State Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Policy Actions

- Disaggregate the state's own GHG emissions to the agency level and require annual agency-specific reports on GHG reduction progress
- Institute an accountability program to measure and report progress in reducing GHG emissions
- Establish climate-neutral bonding
- Require evaluation of GHG emissions in Environmental Impact Statements and similar environmental studies
- Review sources of renewable energy
- Apply pollution prevention principles to GHG emission reductions
- Promote carpooling by state employees

Comprehensive Local Government Climate Action Plans (e.g., Counties and Cities)

- Encourage and assist in the development of local government planning efforts to reduce GHG emissions and establish targets.

Public Education and Outreach— See Appendix A for Details on Each Audience Category

- State government education and outreach actions
The state should lead by example (i.e., walk the talk) regarding education and outreach.
- Target Audience: Policy makers (legislators, regulators, executive branch, agencies)
Implementation of climate actions hinges on policy makers' approval.
- Target Audience: Future generations
Integrate climate change into educational curricula, post-secondary degree programs, and professional licensing.
- Target Audience: Community leaders and community-based organizations (e.g., institutions, municipalities, service clubs, social and affinity groups, and non-governmental organizations [NGOs])
Recognize leadership, share success stories and role models, expand involvement and participation within civic society.
- Target Audience: General public
Increase awareness and engage in climate actions in personal and professional lives.
- Target Audience: Industrial and economic sectors
Sector-specific climate change education and outreach.

Example State Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Policy Actions

Market-Based Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Policies

- Emissions cap-and-trade program
- Carbon tax incentives and disincentives
- Explore other regional opportunities, both public and private

Seek Funding for Implementation of Climate Action Panel Recommendations

- Seek and stimulate funding and investment in climate solutions

Adaptation and Vulnerability

- Undertake a comprehensive planning effort to assess and address the state's vulnerability to climate change and adaptation opportunities

Participate in Regional and Multistate GHG Reduction Efforts

- Identify opportunities for the state to join with other state or regional GHG reduction efforts
- Implement regional climate reduction initiatives

Create a Clearinghouse To Facilitate Investment in Climate-Related Business Opportunities

- Create an entity to promote business development opportunities in climate protection

Encourage the Creation of a Business-Oriented Organization To Share Information and Strategies, Recognize Successes, and Support Aggressive GHG Reduction Goals

- Promote development of a business-oriented entity to help promote and recognize business efforts to reduce GHG emissions

Dedicate Greater Public Investment to Climate Data and Analysis

- Consider formation of a state climate data and analysis center to develop and provide objective, state-specific information regarding climate data

Facilitate the Development of an Effective Carbon Credit System for the State

- The state could purchase carbon credits associated with its own activities, function as a purveyor of credits to others, or act as a certification entity of others carbon exchanges
- Consider establishing a "Market Advisory Group" consisting of experts to provide guidance to the state on the design of market-based compliance programs to manage GHG emissions. Look at the California system as a potential model.

Appendix A. Public Education and Outreach Third-Level Sub-Options by Audience for Option 7 of Catalog

7	Public Education and Outreach
7.1	State Government Education and Outreach Actions The state should lead by example (i.e., walk the talk) regarding education and outreach.
	Establish an education and outreach committee to educate audiences regarding climate plan policies and to oversee those relating to education.*
	Include state public education and higher education officials in the committee established above.
	Create and maintain one or more “outreach coordinator” positions specifically tasked with climate outreach and coordination among state agencies and outside entities.
	Educate state employees across the board and assign “point persons” to do so on an ongoing basis.
	Institute annual Governor’s Awards to recognize climate action of several types or categories.
7.2	Target Audience: Policy Makers (Legislators, Regulators, Executive Branch, Agencies) Implementation of climate actions hinges on policy makers’ approval.
	Educate policy makers on recommended policy options, climate change in general, scientific and technological advances, and progress toward state goals through regular briefings to promote acceptance and implementation of mitigation and adaptation policies.
	Provide continuing outreach and assistance on a regular basis to Governor’s office, legislature, and implementing agencies.
7.3	Target Audience: Future Generations Integrate climate change into educational curricula, post-secondary degree programs, and professional licensing.
	Add climate change to public education performance standards for science and social studies; identify (a) gaps in climate change education, and (b) specific curricula to fill any gaps.
	Organize groups of educators to identify, assemble, and employ climate change curricula appropriate to age groups
	Integrate “best practices” into public school design and construction to educate students (and parents) first-hand in their communities and colleges (i.e., walk the talk).
	Integrate climate change into core college curricula.
	Promote research into climate change and solutions at state universities; develop university “Centers of Excellence” on climate issues, new approaches, and technologies.

	Integrate climate change into existing and/or new educational competition programs.
	Work with science centers, zoos, and museums to include a climate science focus appropriate to their core mission.
	Introduce core competencies on climate change into professional licensing programs (e.g., energy efficiency in building design and construction and use of recycled materials).
7.4	Target Audience: Community Leaders and Community-Based Organizations (e.g., institutions, municipalities, service clubs, social and affinity groups, and non-governmental organizations [NGOs]) Recognize leadership, share success stories and role models, expand involvement and participation within civic society.
	Educate community planning and zoning officials about climate change, impacts, and opportunities.
	Identify individual community leaders who are acting effectively on climate change and showcase and share their successes.
	Identify individual community leaders who are not yet acting on climate change and make a special effort to educate and encourage them to act.
	Engage associations and attend their periodic meetings to reach out on climate change, impacts, sector-specific mitigation actions, and adaptation opportunities.
	Identify, assist, and leverage community-based organizations that have expertise or interest in climate-related issues.
	Work with community-based organizations to identify and build upon climate issues related to their core mission.
	Develop and coordinate a network of community-based organizations acting on climate change so they can link up, organize, and conduct joint events.
	Support and facilitate outreach and education within community-based organizations regarding climate change issues and actions.
	Develop and provide concrete information on co-benefits to entities to use in boosting their climate efforts.
	Help communities across the state implement local Climate Wise programs.
	Organize and host events that focus on leading by example, sharing “how-to’s,” and illuminating financial risks, opportunities, and co-benefits.
	Encourage municipal leaders to join ICLEI’s ¹ Cities for Climate Protection program and/or the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement ²

¹ ICLEI is the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. See www.iclei.org.

² See <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate/>.

7.5	Target Audience: General Public Increase awareness and engage in climate actions in personal and professional lives.
	Educate broadcasters, reporters, and editorial boards about climate change, the risks it imposes, and solutions.
	Work with state broadcasters and print media associations to develop and run climate change public service announcements.
	Conduct public polling to benchmark strength and depth of climate understanding.
	Keep a high profile on climate change issues and actions through regular public mention by the Governor and other public leaders.
	Develop and use a state-based “brand” on climate awareness and action.
	Develop and maintain a state climate change Web site for the public, including a clearinghouse of climate change information and resources.
	Work with existing company outreach efforts to customers to enhance awareness of climate change issues and opportunities.
	Undertake a concerted planning effort to identify and address climate adaptation issues and needs in the state.
	Work to educate consumers—and home designers, builders, and contractors—to ensure that they are aware of the different choices they have for space heating and cooling (e.g., evaporative vs. refrigerative) and the impacts of those choices.
	Develop a statewide voluntary program to structure and assist individuals in undertaking actions to reduce GHG emissions.
7.6	Target Audience: Industrial and Economic Sectors Sector-specific climate change education and outreach.
	Residential, Commercial, and Industrial*
	Transportation and Land Use
	Energy Supply, Demand and Use
	Agriculture and Forestry
	Implement a state program of voluntary business actions to reduce GHGs.
	Institute a “business incubator” program to attract and support new business development relating to the new energy economy.
	Attempt to reach audiences outside the state, too.