



The Center for Climate Strategies

Helping States and the Nation Tackle Climate Change

Catalog of State Climate Actions: Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Sectors

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

Energy Efficiency Programs, Funds, and Goals

- Utility demand-side management (DSM) for electricity (including expansion of same)
- Utility demand-side management (DSM) for natural gas, propane, and fuel oil
- Non-utility demand-side management (DSM) programs for electricity
- Energy efficiency funds (e.g., public benefits funds) administered by state agency, utility, or third party (e.g., Energy Trust)
- Regional market transformation alliance
- Reduced cost or free residential energy audits
- Reduced cost energy audits for businesses
- Low-cost loans for energy efficiency improvements
- Saving energy, savings sales tax
- Reduce energy use by 10% in state-owned buildings

Buildings

- Improved building codes for energy efficiency
- Training of building code officials and other officials in energy code enforcement
- Improved design and construction, “government lead-by-example”
- Increased use of blended cement (substituting fly ash or other pozzolans for clinker)
- Support for energy-efficient communities planning, “Smart Growth”

- Promotion and incentives for improved design and construction (e.g., green buildings, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System™ [LEED]) in the private sector
- Feebate program to encourage energy efficiency in building design
- Incentives for retrofit of existing residential buildings
- Training and education for builders and contractors (e.g., heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC], sizing, duct sealing)
- Energy management training / training of building operators

Appliance Standards

- Expansion of state-level appliance efficiency standards
- Support for federal-level appliance efficiency standards
- Require high-efficiency appliances in new construction and retrofits

Education and Outreach

- Consumer education programs
- Energy efficiency in the school curriculum
- Truth-in-advertising campaign
- In-home energy displays

Pricing and Purchasing

- Green Power purchasing for consumers
- Net-metering for distributed generation
- Time-of-use rates
- Tiered (increasing block) rates for electricity and natural gas use
- Bulk purchasing programs for energy efficiency or other equipment

Customer-Sited Distributed Energy and Combined Heat and Power

- Incentives to promote implementation of renewable energy systems
- Incentives and resources to promote combined heat and power (also known as cogeneration or cogen)
- Efficient transformers on the customer side of the meter
- Incentives for passive solar heating
- White roofs, rooftop gardens, and landscaping (including shade tree programs)

- Focus on specific end-uses and technologies
- Passive solar heating design
- Solar hot water heating
- Appliance recycling and pick-up programs

Non-Energy Emissions (hydrofluorocarbons [HFCs], perfluorocarbons [PFCs], sulfur hexafluoride [SF₆], and carbon dioxide [CO₂] process emissions)

- Voluntary industry–government partnerships
- Promotion and funding for leak reduction and capture, recovery, and recycling of process gases
- Promotion and funding for process changes and optimization
- Use of alternative gases (other HFCs, hydrocarbon coolants and refrigerants)

GHG Emissions—Specific Goals and Policies

- Support for switching to less carbon-intensive fuels (coal and oil to natural gas or biomass)
- Industry-specific emissions cap-and-trade program
- Negotiated emissions or energy savings agreements
- Local government program for voluntary emissions targets by businesses
- Provide tools and information for residents, businesses, and communities to perform GHG inventories

Other

- Government agency requirements and goals
- Reduce energy use by 10% in state-owned buildings
- State building carbon-neutral requirement
- Municipal energy management
- Statewide effort to retrofit existing buildings (residential, commercial, public, and industrial) for energy efficiency
- Focus on specific market segments
- Energy efficiency reinvestment funds
- Industrial audits
- Focus on industrial ecology and by-product synergy