

Kittitas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 4437
Ellensburg, WA 98926

22 Jan 2022

Washington Department of Ecology
Rule-making Comment for the Climate Commitment Act

Dear Department of Ecology:

We offer our compliments on your significant work as you continue to develop the rules for the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). This is necessary and urgent work and is the only path to reaching climate goals as described by our State.

We believe universal participation is paramount in rule-making if we are to meet 2030 milestones of 45% emissions reductions. Universal participation will also prevent any unwanted results that occur if some communities are left behind, especially if those communities represent rural and/or equitability considerations.

These reduction milestones are described in the CCA: 45% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 95% by 2050.

It is imperative that we meet the 2030 emissions reduction goals. This is a broad-scoped and mandatory milestone. We include here some suggestions for achieving those 2030 45% reduction goals.

Communities, especially in rural areas such as Kittitas County, may need technical support due to lack of public staff to develop tools and training to do the necessary planning. For instance, communities may need 'template style' education outreach materials from Commerce and Ecology for their residents. If there is a local natural gas utility, what will 7% reductions each year look like? How will equipment transitions be paid for? Will 7% reductions each year enable us to reach the 2030 milestone emissions reduction goal? Outreach will be informative and quantifying for the general public, as each community begins to decarbonize in an urgent manner. We believe that education materials templates, which can be customized easily for each community, would help facilitate community support and understanding.

We are grateful for our State's important work in beginning climate emissions reductions with the Climate Commitment Act, in the ongoing rule-making, and in the 2021 State Energy Strategy. We need this transformative work to commence, and to continue on an urgent basis.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Judy Hallisey, President
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