



SB 32: Climate Pollution Reduction Beyond 2020

PURPOSE:

To promote healthier communities and a stronger economy by setting a climate pollution reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

BACKGROUND:

California's landmark climate law, AB 32 (Núñez-Pavley, 2006) requires a reduction in statewide greenhouse gas pollution to 1990 levels by 2020. Since 2006, the state has reduced nearly 100 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to the pollution from burning 11 billion gallons of gasoline. California has reduced more than half the pollution required to meet the 2020 goal.

In the process of reducing pollution, California has attracted over \$27 billion in private investment in clean energy businesses, which now employ more than 400,000 people. The state is on track to cut pollution-related health costs by \$8.3 billion in the next decade. California is also ensuring that energy remains affordable. The average residential electrical bill has dropped \$44 since 2006 when adjusted for inflation, and the average Californian spends \$305 less overall on energy each year than the national average.

Setting clear, achievable climate pollution reduction targets in law and identifying priorities to guide implementation will provide critical accountability, as well as certainty to businesses investing for the long term in California. The state also has an opportunity to build on its first mover advantage as a technology and policy innovation leader as the federal government, international trading partners such as China and Mexico, and neighboring states, begin charting their own pathways to a low carbon economic future.

PROPOSAL:

This legislation sets an overarching climate pollution reduction target of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, which the California Air Resources Board has determined to be not only technologically feasible, but scientifically necessary to stave off the costliest effects of climate change. The target is guided by science, but this bill provides flexibility to adjust strategies to meet the target based on changing technological and economic conditions. The bill is designed to integrate with complementary policies—such as standards for renewable power, energy efficiency in buildings, and petroleum reductions—to achieve four goals: job creation, improved public health, innovation and regional policy collaboration.