



Current Climate Action

- No National Policy-Dozen climate bills were before U.S. Congress-none have passed
- Energy Bill-passed by Congress in 2007 called for vehicle efficiency improvements
- U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that carbon dioxide (heat-trapping gas) is a pollutant and can be regulated under the Clean Air Act

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Municipalities

- U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agenda
 - 884 cities in 50 states
 - Committed to meeting Kyoto Protocol of 7% reduction target of heat-trapping emissions by 2012 (December 2008 fourth meeting to be held to discuss new agreement that will replace Kyoto Protocol after 2012)

Note: Kyoto Protocol- agreement reached in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan/originally began with U.S. leadership in mid-90's; US signed, but did not ratify, and President Bush "unsigned" and withdrew U.S. from Kyoto process

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Lead Cities

- Seattle, Washington
- New York City
- Portland Oregon-considered to be ranked 1st in nation in terms of sustainability
- Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Chicago, Illinois

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States

- Massachusetts passed a comprehensive low carbon energy plan
- New York passed carbon limiting regulation and requires MPOs to quantify GHG emissions from transportation plans and transportation improvement programs
- Ten Northeastern states have joined to reduce emissions
 - Focused only on power plants and emissions trading
 - Future plans may go to other sectors including buildings and transportation

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States

- Renewable portfolio standards are in place for 24 states and DC for electric power generation plus 4 additional states that encourage renewable energy
- Washington and Oregon have major renewable energy initiatives
- California's Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and Senate Bill (SB) 375

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California Case Study

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California Case Study

- Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)
- Low Carbon Fuel Standard
- Million Solar Roofs Initiative
- Renewable Portfolio Standard
- Automobile Emissions Standards

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CA. Greenhouse gas emissions

- Autos and light trucks alone contribute almost 30%
- CA transportation sector contributes over 40%
- Transportation sector is the single largest contributor of greenhouse gases of any sector

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CALIFORNIA: Assembly Bill (AB) 32

- CA signed into law AB 32 in 2006
 - Major initiatives for reducing climate change/greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are outlined in the bill
 - Efforts aim to reduce GHG to 1990 levels by 2020 (30% reduction), then an 80% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050
 - Outlines strategies for making the reductions in the Scoping Plan
 - Makes the Air Resources Board (ARB) responsible for monitoring and reducing GHG emissions, Continues the existing Climate Action Team to coordinate statewide efforts
 - Authorizes the Governor to invoke a safety valve in the event of extraordinary circumstances, catastrophic events or the threat of significant economic harm for up to 12 months

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California: Senate Bill (SB) 375- Climate Change Smart Growth Act of 2008

- To reduce GHG emissions from cars and light trucks through incentives for curbing sprawl
- Nation's first law to control greenhouse gas emissions by curbing sprawl.
- Legislation directly affects the long-range planning functions of the 18 MPOs in the State by providing regional greenhouse gas emissions-reduction targets to be achieved from autos and light trucks for 2020 and 2035
- Provides incentives for local governments and developers to follow new growth patterns

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CA. Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets

- State Air Resources Board working in consultation with MPOs will have greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2035 by September 30, 2010
- Regional Targets Advisory Committee-recommend factors and methodologies for setting targets and to update targets every 8 years



CA. Regional GHG Targets

- Targets are limited to emissions from the car and light truck sector
- Air Resources Board sets GHG Reduction Targets for each region
- Targets must take into account other CARB strategies for reducing GHG emissions from this sector





Regional Transportation Planning

- Existing law requires regional transportation plans to include a development pattern for the region
- SB 375 provides that the development pattern should be designed to achieve regional GHG reduction targets set by CARB

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Regional Transportation Plans

- Under current law, RTP's must have the following elements:
 - A Policy Element
 - An Action Element
 - A Financial Element

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CA. State Air Resources Board Review

- Review each MPOs sustainable communities strategy and/or an alternative planning strategy to determine whether the strategy would achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets



Regional Transportation Plans

- Under SB 375: Adds a new element to the Regional Transportation Plans
- Sustainable Communities Strategy





Alternative Planning Strategy

- If an agency cannot achieve the GHG Reduction Targets with the constraints of realistic funding and realistic land use plans, it must prepare an ALTERNATIVE PLANNING STRATEGY showing how the Targets could be achieved

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Incentives

- Future transportation would be directed to projects that implement the regional transportation plan
- New provisions of California Environmental Quality Act would be available to local governments with local plans consistent with the regional plan

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Current FTA Climate Change Activities

- FTA Transit and Sustainability Website
- DOT Climate Change Center Support
- Proposals for addressing climate change in reauthorization
- Improving assessment of transit environmental benefits in New Starts process
- Transit greenhouse gas impacts programmatic review for NEPA documents
- APTA Standards Development Program, Climate Change Group-developing standard for measuring transit agency carbon footprint (FTA Funded)
- Engaging transit agencies/operators to address sustainability in transportation planning, and in transit-focused sustainability
- National Fuel Cell Bus Program and other technology research
- Moving Cooler Study (FTA is a co-sponsor)

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Resources

- www.fta.dot.gov
(FTA Transit and Sustainability Webpage)
- www.climatechange.gov
(U.S. Climate Change Science Program)
- www.epa.gov/climatechange
(U.S. EPA Climate Change Website)
- www.climate.dot.gov
(U.S. DOT Climate Change Center)

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