

2007 Legislative Priorities

Environment Oregon

Oregon's Energy Future

Oregon has the resources to be a national leader in using renewable homegrown energy (like wind, solar, and biomass) and energy conservation to take control of our energy future and cut our dependence on fossil fuels, which is causing global warming and rising energy prices. Environment Oregon supports legislation to:

- ✓ Establish a Renewable Energy Standard requiring utilities to generate 25 percent of their electricity from new renewable energy sources by 2025.
Status: SB 838 passed the Senate 20-10 and will be voted on the House Energy & the Environment Committee April 30
- ✓ Set energy-efficiency standards for home and commercial appliances.
Status: SB 375 passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and is waiting for a floor vote in the Senate
- ✓ Expand tax credits for businesses and homeowners to invest in renewable energy systems.
Status: HB 2211 and HB 2212 passed the House unanimously and passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and are waiting for a hearing in the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee.
- ✓ Encourage the use of renewable homegrown biofuels by establishing a Renewable Fuels Standard and creating tax incentives for producers of biofuels.
Status: HB 2210 passed the House unanimously and passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and are waiting for a hearing in the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee.
- ✓ Increase the public purpose charge that funds the popular and effective Energy Trust of Oregon and extend its authorization to 2025 to help Oregonians install clean energy systems.
Status: SB 87 was not voted on in Committee, but extension of the public purpose charge was included in SB 838 (see above), as was a new policy for utilities to put more than the mandatory 3% into energy conservation programs.
- ✓ Support development of wave energy on the Oregon Coast.

Curb Global Warming

Scientists agree that global warming is already affecting Oregon's coastline and snowpack, with impacts on irrigation, salmon migration, and hydropower. Environment Oregon supports legislation to:

- ✓ Enact power plant pollution standards so that any new power generation does not cause significant increases in global warming pollution.
HB 2259 has started hearings in the House Energy & the Environment Committee.
- ✓ Set state goals to cut global warming pollution to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and develop a regulatory program to meet those goals.
Status: SB 3543 sets state goals for cutting global warming pollution; SB 3545 establishes a "cap and trade" program for global warming pollution; both have started hearings in the House Energy & the Environment committee.
- ✓ Implement the state's Clean Cars program which requires manufacturers to sell cars with reduced global warming pollution.
Status: HB 2272 passed the House 48-8 and is waiting for a hearing in the Senate.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Oregon's Bottle Bill has set a national standard for effective recycling programs. But Oregon's programs have not been updated in decades, and new waste management challenges have emerged. OSPIRG supports legislation to:

- ✓ Establish a program to require manufacturers to take back and recycle the large and growing waste stream of electronic products, which contain toxic materials.

Status: HB 2626 passed the House Energy & the Environment Committee and the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources and is now waiting for action in the full Ways and Means committee.

- ✓ Update the Bottle Bill to include products like plastic water bottles, and to increase the deposit, which has been 5 cents since the Bottle Bill was passed more than 30 years ago.

Status: SB 707, which adds water bottles but leaves the deposit at 10 cents, passed the Senate 23-7 and is now starting hearings in the House Energy & the Environment committee.

Protect Oregon's Farm and Forest Lands

Measure 37 has had damaging consequences for Oregon, including efforts by timber companies to develop subdivisions on forest lands and proposals for development that would damage neighbors' property value. Environment Oregon supports legislation to:

- ✓ Reform Measure 37 to provide the fairness that voters intended and limit damage to Oregon's farm and forest lands.

Status: HB 3540 refers a measure to voters to limit development under measure 37 and protect forests and farmlands. The Joint Special Committee on Land Use voted in favor of the bill April 26 and it will be heard in the Ways and Means committee April 30.

Protect the Oregon Coast

Despite bipartisan support for keeping the West Coast off-limits to oil and gas drilling, energy companies are pressing Congress for permission to drill. Environment Oregon supports legislation to:

- ✓ Renew the moratorium on oil and gas drilling off state waters.

Status: SB 790 will be heard in the Joint Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Ocean Policy on May 1.

Clean Air and Water

The Willamette River is so polluted that major stretches are unsafe for fishing and swimming. Air pollution in parts of Oregon exceeds health standards for pollutants that exacerbate asthma, lung disease, and cancer. OSPIRG supports legislation to:

- ✓ Provide for Oregonians' right to know about toxic pollution by funding expanded water quality monitoring, and develop a plan for requiring water pollution permits to meet water quality standards.

Status: SB 707 requires DEQ to conduct a statewide study on toxic discharges into waterways, and dischargers of toxic pollution to develop and implement pollution prevention plans. It passed the Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources April 26 and now goes to Ways and Means.

- ✓ Restore critical funding for the Department of Environmental Quality, whose resources have been reduced to such a level that basic implementation of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act is threatened.

Status: the DEQ budget has started hearings in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

- ✓ Reduce air pollution by offering incentives to clean up diesel engines (HB 2172) and increase air pollution permit fees to fund adequate oversight (SB 107).

Status:

HB 2172 passed the Energy and the Environment committee and is scheduled for hearings in the Revenue committee.

SB 107 passed the Senate Environment & Natural Resources committee and the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resource and is now waiting for action in the full Ways and Means committee.