



Executive summary

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

for the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area



September 2025

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan executive summary

Together, governments, businesses and community groups can reduce climate pollution. The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) lays out a plan to dramatically reduce emissions in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area while saving people money and creating healthier communities.

Climate change is the defining global challenge of the twenty-first century. As the recent increase in climate-induced wildfires and extreme weather events have demonstrated across the globe and here at home, climate change is impacting everyone and will continue to do so.

It is not too late. The Portland-Vancouver area can join communities worldwide in taking action to reduce climate emissions. This could slow the pace of climate change and minimize its impact on people, communities and the environment upon which we depend. Many climate actions also result in cleaner air, cost savings for households, good jobs and safer, healthier communities.

The region is ready to act. Both Oregon and Washington have adopted targets to reduce climate pollution, and local and regional plans and projects help to meet these targets. Many cities, counties and organizations in the metropolitan area have climate action plans for their communities. However, climate change is a global challenge. Agencies have the greatest impact and deliver the most benefit to their communities when they work across city, county and state lines. The CCAP clarifies how state, regional and local governments can best work together to combat climate change.

What is climate change?

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns due to heat trapped in the atmosphere.

That heat comes from the carbon pollution — known as greenhouse gases — emitted when people burn fossil fuels like coal and gasoline for energy.



The CCAP charts a course for reducing the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area's climate pollution. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the CCAP is the first plan to cover the entire 7-county metropolitan area (see map) and all major sources of climate pollution including transportation; building energy; and food, goods and services.

Government agencies across the metropolitan area are working on plans and projects to reduce climate pollution, and the CCAP provides information and analysis to guide these efforts. The plan includes:

- Local and regional actions that can help the metropolitan area do its part to meet Oregon and Washington’s climate targets
- Information on the costs and benefits of these actions
- Recommendations to guide successful implementation of each action in the plan, including information on potential state and federal funding sources

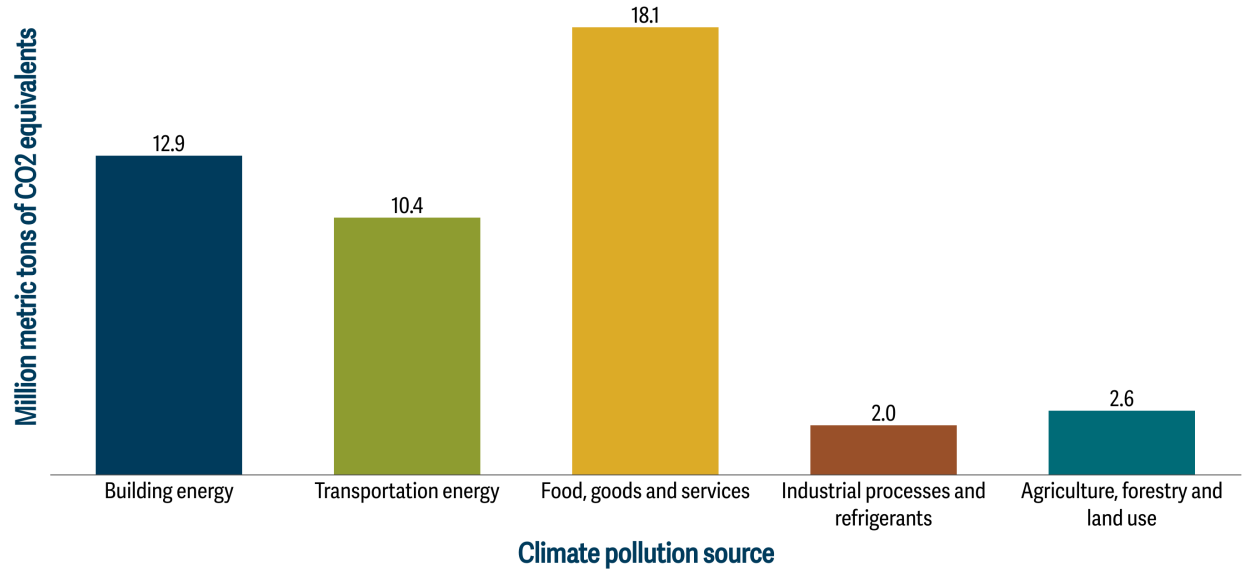
Metro developed the CCAP by:

- Reviewing local and regional climate-related plans to identify actions from these plans for potential inclusion in the CCAP
- Engaging community to understand which climate actions people see as most beneficial and are most supported
- Engaging agencies and non-profit organizations that do climate-related work to understand the opportunities and challenges involved in implementing different actions
- Analyzing the costs and benefits of each action based on research, best practices and relevant plans

The CCAP identifies cost-effective, implementation-ready climate projects, policies and process changes and describes how to move them forward. Addressing climate change requires action at all levels of the public and private sector — from international agreements to neighborhood efforts. The CCAP focuses on actions that can be delivered locally and regionally, that will have significant impact on climate pollution and that benefit people in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region by helping them save money and improve their quality of life. The CCAP also identifies which climate actions best advance equity and which actions risk negatively impacting vulnerable communities, drawing on extensive outreach and engagement conducted by both Metro and other organizations.

Transportation, building energy use, and food, goods and services are responsible for most of the metropolitan region’s carbon emissions — and there are ample opportunities to reduce these emissions through local and regional action. As shown in the chart below, these three sectors each contribute over a quarter of the region’s climate pollution, and they are the focus of the climate actions in the CCAP.

2022 Portland-Vancouver area greenhouse gas emissions



The actions in the CCAP reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 166 million metric tons from 2025 to 2050 and save the region \$105 billion by reducing household costs and avoiding damage to the economy, environment and the region's health. This represents substantial progress toward meeting state climate goals in all three of the sectors that generate most of the metropolitan area's emissions. The CCAP includes multiple climate actions in each of these three sectors that work together to reduce emissions, save people money, and improve quality of life.

Reducing climate emissions by 166 MMT is the equivalent of removing 2.5 million cars from the road or planting 221 million trees.

Transportation (11 actions)

Transportation actions produce significant and long-lasting climate benefits and broad co-benefits. They also cost a lot, but the region has some dedicated resources for transportation that help to cover these costs. And local and regional agencies already collaborate extensively to identify transportation projects that advance climate and other goals, which helps us prepare to implement these actions.

Transportation actions reduce climate pollution by:

- Creating compact communities where people don't need to travel far
- Making it easier to take transit, bike, walk, roll and work from home
- Pricing roads, both to fund new transit and active transportation options and to encourage people to use them

Building energy (8 actions)

Building energy actions can produce significant climate benefits, be very cost-effective and can save people money. There are many state and local programs that provide incentives for property owners to reduce energy use in buildings. However, there are no existing regional processes or funding sources to support climate efforts that are focused on buildings, which can make these actions more challenging to implement these actions quickly and at scale.

Building energy actions will reduce climate pollution by:

- Installing better windows, water heaters and heating and cooling systems in homes and businesses and planting street trees to passively cool buildings
- Requiring more efficient water heaters and heating/cooling systems and other energy efficient design features in new buildings
- Installing more solar panels on rooftops and generating or purchasing additional renewable energy to power public buildings

Food, goods and services (5 actions)

Food, goods and services actions focus on reusing products (especially high-carbon ones like electronics and clothing), using low-carbon alternatives to high-carbon products where available, reducing food waste, and keeping that waste out of landfills. Many of these actions focus on addressing the growing share of emissions that come from producing the goods that we use in this metropolitan area. Metro's Regional System Facilities Plan identifies some opportunities to reduce these emissions, and ongoing work led by both Oregon and Washington reveals further opportunities to reduce these emissions.

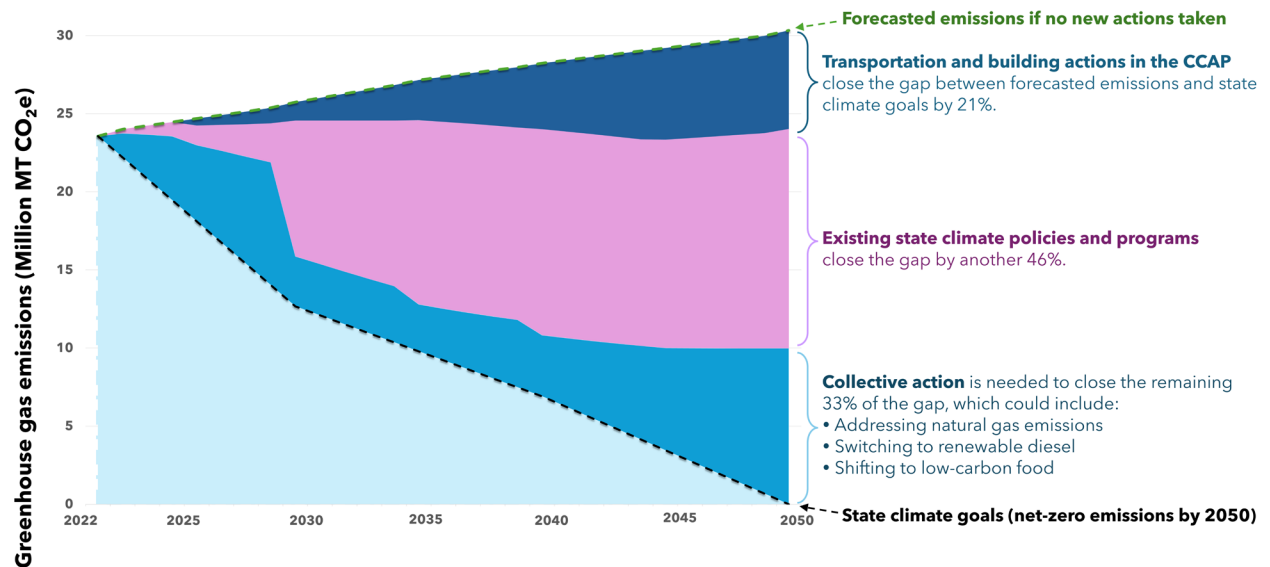
Food, goods and services actions will reduce climate pollution by:

- Expanding residential composting
- Reusing and/or reducing waste from food and from high-carbon goods like electronics and clothing
- Requiring and/or encouraging the use of low-carbon materials in new buildings and low-carbon goods in government procurements

The actions in the CCAP don't just benefit the climate, they save people money, clean the air and preserve natural areas, connect people to jobs and opportunities, create more resilient communities and improve quality of life for everyone. Though many actions in the CCAP involve significant up-front costs to implement, the savings often outweigh the costs. Many of these actions can help save households money on energy, food and goods at a time when the price of these things is rising.

Collective action is key

Oregon and Washington's climate targets call for reducing climate pollution to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050. By implementing the actions in the CCAP, the Portland-Vancouver region can make significant progress toward meeting state climate targets. However, local and regional governments cannot reach the targets alone, even with the states of Oregon and Washington taking complimentary action to reduce climate pollution. Meeting our targets will likely require collaboration between the public and private sector and across multiple states to tackle emissions from tough-to-address sources like diesel, natural gas, and high-carbon food without increasing people's costs.



**Emissions from food, goods and services are not shown in this chart, because accounting for these emissions requires a different approach than the one used here.*

The CCAP will guide public agencies in taking smart steps forward to reach climate goals and keep the region a great place to live, work and play for everyone. The CCAP identifies how government agencies across the metropolitan area can take action on reducing climate pollution from transportation, buildings, and food, goods and services. Different agencies have authority over different sources of emissions in different communities, and many organizations and agencies will need to come together to implement this plan.

The CCAP is a practical, action-oriented resource for local and regional agencies and organizations. The plan identifies the sources of climate pollution, the actions that are most successful at reducing climate pollution, and how to best advance these actions given current policies and available resources.

For more information on the CCAP and on the other climate work funded by the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG), please visit [Metro's project website](#). The states of Oregon and Washington are also creating their own CCAPs, which compliment Metro's CCAP by outlining state-led actions to reduce climate pollution. Visit [Oregon](#) and [Washington's](#) project websites to learn more.