

PACIFIC COAST COLLABORATIVE



STATEMENT OF COOPERATION ON LEADING THE TRANSITION TO AN EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS LOW-CARBON, CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURE

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG-STANDING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE STATES OF WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA, WE JOINTLY ADVANCE THIS STATEMENT OF COOPERATION.

PREAMBLE

Rapidly accelerating climate change threatens our communities along the Pacific Coast of North America with cascading impacts to economic livelihoods, public health and safety, cultural and social practices, and natural systems from wildfire, drought, heat waves, ocean change, and flooding. This moment demands West Coast leaders once again step up and demonstrate regional leadership to strengthen physical, social, and natural infrastructure to meet the compelling and undeniable challenge of climate change. We need to continue to inspire accelerated efforts regionally, nationally, and at a global scale. For current generations, kids, and grandkids, we must act now in a way that gives everyone opportunity and security.

This agreement builds on a decade of collaboration through the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) to deliver innovative climate leadership that is improving economic opportunity and prosperity, protecting public health and safety, and ensuring community and ecosystem resilience. It leverages our strong record of regional cooperation to aggressively reduce emissions across all sectors, lead a global effort against ocean acidification, and innovate new carbon reduction efforts in areas like food waste and clean construction.

We can't do this alone. Our PCC city partners have been critical to our shared success. We need them and all of our partners—local governments, Tribal and Indigenous Nations, community representatives, labor partners, and business champions—to accelerate an equitable transition to a resilient and low-carbon economy and transform our communities. Our efforts complement the actions and investments of our federal governments, and we will work together to channel federal funding to our region to invest in our communities, infrastructure, and natural systems.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Accelerate the transition to a resilient low-carbon economy, ensuring all residents participate and benefit from the transition:** Move quickly to create a reliable clean energy system, decarbonize industry, switch to zero-emission vehicles, decarbonize and increase climate resilience of buildings, and shift where needed to renewable fuels, all while ensuring equity is centered in our decision-making.
- 2. Ensure our low-carbon economy supports public health, creates jobs, and lowers the cost of living:** Create programs and incentives to lower costs for consumers and address price volatility by transitioning to cleaner energy in ways that ensure that all residents benefit from the transition and avoid inequitable burden. Create good jobs and economic opportunities that include rural and historically-disadvantaged communities.
- 3. Champion economic and technology innovations:** Strengthen partnerships between governments and the private sector and harness world-leading innovation to assess and scale the most promising climate solutions. Position the West Coast as a market leader for resilient and low-carbon business investment and job opportunities.
- 4. Ensure accountability for carbon emission reductions and climate risk reduction and adaptation measures:** Match our commitment to invest in a resilient low-carbon future with accountability, to ensure that the public and private sectors are doing their part.
- 5. Respect, learn from, and engage with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples:** Respect the rights of Tribes and First Nations and learn from the experience and expertise of Tribes and Indigenous Peoples; strengthen partnerships between Tribes and Indigenous Peoples and state, provincial, and local governments to deliver solutions.

6. **Preserve and rebuild the health of natural systems to a climate solution as we experience increasing wildfires and other climate impacts:** Enhance the ability and resilience of our natural and working lands to sequester carbon, support healthy natural systems, and protect communities in the face of a changing climate.
7. **Continue West Coast leadership to inspire the world to accelerated action:** Amplify our ambition and leadership to demonstrate how the West Coast is building the thriving low-carbon and climate-resilient economy of the future.

WE HEREBY AGREE TO THESE COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS

Commitment 1: Support an equitable and just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

The ravaging effects of a warming climate are not equally distributed among people and communities. Communities that are overburdened, such as Tribal and Indigenous communities; people experiencing poverty; and communities of color, as well as rural areas, face unique challenges from climate impacts and climate-related disasters. These challenges are even more acute for elderly, disabled, and other vulnerable populations within these communities. Some communities depend on healthy, resilient, natural systems for their physical and cultural survival. These same communities are also less likely to accrue the economic benefits flowing from the transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon economy.

Through policy and investments, governments play a necessary role in driving a more just and equitable transition to a resilient and low-carbon economy. We must ensure that all communities have access to and benefit from the low-carbon economy, especially historically disenfranchised communities. In line with US federal Justice40 targets, investments to address climate impacts, create low-carbon solutions, and build resilient communities will enable all our residents to participate equitably in this transition.

The Pacific Coast region is already implementing innovative approaches and programs to deliver an equitable and just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future, but more must be done. We commit to partnering with these communities to develop programs that meet their needs. Equitable, accountable structures for community participation are essential for successful deployment of new strategies by, with, and for the people most affected by climate change and the transition to a low-carbon future.

Together, we will:

- Accelerate strategies to engage and empower underserved communities to meet their needs and benefit from the resilient and low-carbon economy.
- Ensure affordability is at the center of a just transition to a resilient and low-carbon economy.
- Align climate goals with goals of equitable and affordable housing, mobility, and health and vice-versa.
- Leverage regional markets and investments to increase the availability and lower the costs of climate-resilient and zero- and low-carbon products and services.
- Learn from each other and continuously improve equitable and effective deployment of investment and incentive strategies, with the engagement and input of impacted communities.
- Support capacity building for communities to build low-carbon solutions, manage climate risks, and pursue resilience planning projects and funding.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS:

1.1. Invest in or directly support overburdened communities in our jurisdictions to expand access to low-carbon, climate-resilient technologies. Examples could include programs that fund zero emission transportation, electric heating and cooling, energy efficient housing, renewable energy sources, and protection from climate disasters through access to cooling centers, safe and reliable water supplies, and wildfire supports for citizens, as appropriate.

1.2. Greatly expand the ability of overburdened communities to be engaged and empowered in how investments are determined, programs are developed and implemented, and how access to investments and programs can best ensure equitable participation.

1.3 Collaborate and align our work to take full advantage of federal investment, including by advocating that federal investments are designed and implemented in ways that support the equitable investments and engagement outlined in Commitments 1.1 and 1.2.

Commitment 2: Invest in climate infrastructure at a regional scale.

Throughout the West Coast region, significant infrastructure investment is needed to create the resilient low-carbon economy of the future. We are transitioning to 100% clean electricity and low-carbon fuels, including meeting growing demand as buildings and vehicles replace fossil fuels with renewable and carbon-free electricity and low-carbon fuels. We are making our urban and rural energy infrastructure more resilient to increasing threats caused by extreme heat, flooding, drought, and wildfires. Each of our jurisdictions is investing in new clean electricity generation, expanded transmission, reliable access, and resilience.

Building on the long-standing success of the West Coast Electric Highway, we need to continue investing in zero-emission vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure to match our ambitious commitments to phase out new fossil fuel vehicle sales in our region. ZEV infrastructure provides a critical foundation for the transition to zero-emission vehicles that is needed to reduce fossil fuel emissions polluting the air. Community charging options will be especially important to ensure ZEV vehicles are feasible and convenient for people in rural communities and communities with significant multi-family housing.

We support the efforts of our maritime ports to invest in decarbonizing and modernizing their infrastructure. West Coast ports are a vital engine of regional economic prosperity. They are world-leading examples of ambitious plans and agreements to decarbonize and modernize their land-based operations, technologies, and logistics, and to catalyze emissions reductions from ships. Our collective efforts can help our ports achieve their emissions goals while maintaining a competitive edge globally and ensuring a continued race to the top within the region.

While we are making much progress on infrastructure in our own states, province, and cities, we can go faster and farther working together as a region.

Together, we will:

- Invest in clean energy and related infrastructure to support the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Invest to support regional low-carbon transportation networks, support mode shift options, and increase zero-carbon public transportation.
- Invest in climate-ready public and private infrastructure that adapts to the climate of tomorrow.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS:

2.1. Accelerate our progress in creating a regional zero-carbon, reliable, and resilient electricity grid by understanding shared needs and solutions, coordinating planning, and sharing lessons. Specifically:

- Provide leadership, direction, and support for analysis of a zero-carbon, reliable, and resilient electricity grid via siting and permitting of long-term transmission needs over the next 20 years.
- Coordinate on long-term regional transmission planning.

2.2. Accelerate the transition to regional zero-emission transportation by investing in electric vehicle charging and hydrogen refueling stations. Specifically:

- Ensure geographically connected access to electric vehicle fast charging across primary and secondary corridors throughout the region within the next five years.
- Introduce medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle targets and strategies in all jurisdictions, including exploring the creation of a zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicle corridor along I-5 from Southern California to British Columbia within the next 10 years.
- Coordinate investments, planning, standards, and policy to ensure interoperability of ZEV charging and fueling so that all of our residents and businesses can move emissions-free throughout the region affordably, conveniently, and predictably.

2.3. Support our region's maritime ports in their work to decarbonize and modernize equipment and operations. Specifically:

- Launch a regional dialogue with ports and other levels of government where appropriate about how to achieve our collective decarbonization goals through strategies such as electrifying drayage and cargo handling equipment; investing in infrastructure for shore power that helps reduce emissions from ships; and pursuing strategies to advance low- and zero-carbon shipping, including increased dialogue and coordination with shippers to advance green shipping and the supply chain.

Commitment 3: Protect communities and natural and working lands and coasts from wildfire, drought, heat waves, ocean acidification, and flooding.

As wildfire, smoke, drought, heat waves, ocean changes, and flooding harm and displace our communities, they also degrade and destroy our natural and working lands and coasts, often one exacerbating the other. The onslaught of climate events is accelerating the nature crisis, feeding the climate crisis, and worsening the equity crisis. Even as our region thrives economically under the transition to a resilient low-carbon economy, residents are suffering from the health, safety, and cost impacts of successive severe wildfires, droughts, coastal acidification, and flooding. The impacts to our natural and working lands and waters cascade down to important species, such as our beloved salmon, orcas, and shellfish. Chronic climate impacts such as coastal acidification and sea level rise require our region to act now to prevent worsening impacts and to improve community and ecosystem resilience.

Recognizing the urgency of regional collaboration, we commit to increase and accelerate current programs that lessen the occurrence and severity of wildfire, drought, heat waves, ocean acidification, and flooding. Together, we will increase regional coordination, share resources, and build our knowledge surrounding these impacts to better prepare our residents and provide them with the tools and infrastructure

needed to better respond, withstand, and recover from climate-fueled events and impacts.

Together, we will:

- Increase resilience of natural systems to reduce risk of—and impacts from—wildfire, drought, heat waves, ocean change, and flooding.
- Protect communities through investments and shared regional capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and slow-onset events like sea level rise and ocean acidification.
- Improve capacity to sequester carbon in the long term, preserve intact ecosystems, and sustain biodiversity.
- Apply Tribal and Indigenous knowledge in managing natural systems.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS:

3.1. Invest in and increase forest and community resiliency across the region to minimize the occurrence, impact, and spread of devastating wildfire and smoke.

This will be done by directing support, including local and federal funding, to these activities and by developing targeted programs that cultivate a forest resilience workforce, a sustainable bioeconomy, and communities resilient to wildfire. Actions to advance this commitment are:

- Accelerate forest resiliency treatments, such as thinning and prescribed fire, on high-risk lands and improve knowledge of climate change impacts on wildfire behavior and on forest change across the region.
- Utilize and prevent the build-up of dense forest biomass through investment in innovative advanced wood products, advanced biofuels, associated infrastructure and technologies, and workforce development.
- Protect intact natural and working lands that store carbon, prevent land loss and conversion in high-risk areas, and embed climate in land-use planning decisions to better address changing impacts.

3.2. Work together to drive regional resilience to heat events and impacts by investing in programs and activities that decrease the burden of heat impacts on people and infrastructure and by improving community awareness of risks of severe heat events and associated health impacts.

Actions to advance this commitment are:

- Improve public notification and develop communication tools for climate events that track smoke and extreme heat events and alert communities.
- Invest in and coordinate research to increase understanding of impacts of severe heat and smoke events on communities, including human health, socioeconomic, cultural, and infrastructure impacts.
- Invest in resilient infrastructure that drives down emissions, increases affordability and safety of homes and buildings, lowers ambient temperatures to bring immediate relief to citizens and communities, and provides more community resilience and refuge centers for heat and smoke.

Commitment 4: Re-confirm ongoing successful PCC efforts.

Through this agreement, the PCC jurisdictions commit to continuing work that has helped deliver on the promise of creating a thriving, resilient, and low-carbon economy in our region. Our new efforts build on this ongoing foundation of success. Critical to our success have been PCC partner cities who have played a critical role in implementing actions to realize our regional goals. Specifically, we confirm our ongoing collaboration to:

- Advance markets for low-carbon building materials through the **Low Carbon Construction Task Force**.
- Reduce the climate footprint of building heating and cooling through the **Thermal Decarbonization Working Group**.
- Advance regionally-aligned energy efficiency standards through the **Codes and Standards Working Group**.
- Advance transportation electrification through the **Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Working Group**.
- Achieve low carbon fuels goals and aligned regional strategies through the **Low Carbon Fuels Working Group**.
- Help public and private institutions electrify their fleets through the **West Coast Electric Fleets** initiative.
- Increase regional climate resilience through the **Climate Resilience Risk and Business Case Working Group** and **Climate Resilience Carbon Sequestration Working Group**.
- Advance coordination of scientific efforts and policy actions on reducing ocean acidification and climate impacts on the ocean through the **Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Working Group** and **International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification**.
- Reduce the climate impacts of food loss and waste in the region through the **Pacific Coast Food Waste**

Commitment, a multi-jurisdictional public-private partnership between food businesses, nonprofits, and jurisdiction partners dedicated to jointly exploring and implementing food waste solutions along the West Coast through a unique voluntary agreement.

LIMITATIONS

This document shall have no legal effect, impose no legally-binding obligation enforceable in any court of law or other tribunal of any sort, nor create any funding expectation; nor shall Pacific Coast jurisdictions and cities be responsible for the actions of third parties or associates. This document does not change, influence, or create new legal relationships among Pacific Coast jurisdictions and cities.

TERM

This agreement is effective when signed by all parties. Progress will be assessed and the agreement reevaluated in three years. It may be amended at any time by agreement among the signatories, including adding signatories and adding or revising commitments. Any signatory government may withdraw upon written notice to the others.

SIGNED

GAVIN NEWSOM

Governor of California

JAY INSLEE

Governor of Washington State

KATE BROWN

Governor of Oregon

JOHN HORGAN

Premier of British Columbia