



States Have Led the Way in Curbing Carbon Pollution from New Power Plants

During the past several years states across the nation have adopted performance-based greenhouse gas emission standards for new fossil fuel fired power plants and tax incentives for carbon capture and sequestration to reduce climate destabilizing emissions and spur innovation in energy generation. These state policies provide a strong foundation for national carbon pollution emission standards.

- ✓ **Oregon enacted legislation in 1997** requiring new baseload gas power plants to meet a carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission standard that is 17% below the most efficient combined cycle gas plant in operation in the United States. Plants can meet the standard by investing in off-site CO₂ reductions or combined heat and power. **In 2009, Oregon enacted legislation** establishing a greenhouse gas emissions standard of 1100 lbs CO₂/megawatt hour (MWh) for all new utility long-term financial commitments to secure baseload electricity generation.
- ✓ **California enacted legislation in 2006** requiring new long-term contracts, new plant investments, or new ownership interest in baseload generation to meet a greenhouse gas performance standard based on the emission rate of combined cycle natural gas baseload generation, set by the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission at 1100 lbs CO₂/MWh. CO₂ captured and permanently sequestered is not considered as emissions.
- ✓ **Montana enacted a law in 2007** requiring the Public Service Commission to limit approvals of new equity interests in or leases of a facility used to generate coal-based electricity to facilities that capture and sequester at least half of their CO₂ emissions.
- ✓ **Minnesota enacted the Next Generation Energy Act in 2007** which requires increases in power sector greenhouse gas emissions from any new large coal energy facilities built in Minnesota or the import of electricity from such a facility located out-of-state to be offset by equivalent emission reductions.
- ✓ **Washington enacted legislation in 2007** requiring the adoption of a statewide Emissions Performance Standard (EPS), set by the Department of Ecology at 1100 lbs CO₂/MWh for all new long-term utility financial commitments to secure baseload generation. The state will review and adjust this standard every five years to match the emission of combined cycle natural gas power plants. CO₂ captured and permanently sequestered is not considered as emissions.
- ✓ **New Mexico enacted legislation in 2007** authorizing tax credits and cost recovery incentives for qualifying coal-fired facilities. To qualify, plants must capture and store emissions so that they emit less than 1100 lbs CO₂/MWh, among other requirements.
- ✓ **New York enacted the Power New York Act in 2011** which directs the establishment of carbon dioxide emission standards for new power plants. The recently proposed regulations by the Department of Environmental Conservation would set a carbon limit of 925 lbs CO₂/MWh for new and expanded baseload combined-cycle or internal combustion fossil fuel-fired plants; and of 1,450 lbs CO₂/MWh for new and expanded single-cycle combustion turbines (which generally provide electricity for peak demand periods).