



Washington Rural Electric
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

**Policy Position of the
Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Climate Change**

Climate change is an important international issue with global ramifications.

In Washington State, laws addressing climate change have been implemented, such as mandating the use of bio fuels, requiring automobile manufacturers to reduce CO₂ emissions from vehicles and requiring CO₂ mitigation for new and expanding power plants.

Western states governors have entered into an agreement supporting market-based policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and providing credit for actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Emissions of greenhouse gases in Washington State are significantly lower than most other states. This is due in part to our successful hydropower system, and its zero emissions of CO₂.

Washington State businesses and industries nationwide have initiated their own efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, ahead of potential legislation and regulatory requirements. These voluntary efforts, which include increasing energy efficiencies, reducing greenhouse gases, using lighter weight materials and increasing the recyclability of manufactured products, have resulted in a net reduction of billions of metric tons of greenhouse gases.

The electric cooperatives and mutual companies in Washington believe that:

- Climate change is a global issue with no single solution and should be addressed at a national level to avoid placing businesses in Washington at a competitive disadvantage. State government actions to address climate change will only confound a reliably functioning economic system and thwart individual efforts by businesses to adapt to the demands of society.
- Climate change policies should balance environmental and economic objectives, and be based on sound science.
- Climate change policies should recognize that Washington State's greenhouse gas emissions are significantly lower than most other states and should not place unduly burdensome mandates and regulations on the State's economy.

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