



Lincoln County Climate Action Plan Executive Summary



Carbon neutral by 2035

Why do we need a climate action plan

Climate action plans are typically developed by city and/or county governments. In this situation, Lincoln County citizens stepped forward to fill the void. Citizens Climate Lobby - Newport group (CCL) and 350 Oregon Central Coast (350 OCC) have been sponsoring public meetings and work sessions throughout the county to educate the public about climate change for the past three years.

7 ja UY VX Ub[Y g fj Ym In August 2018, the two groups circulated a 10-question survey. In August 2019, the groups circulated a 31-question survey. Results of the surveys are displayed throughout this plan.

7 ca a i b]mWUfVcb Zchdf]bh The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality generated an EPA computer model for us which projected that mobile and non-mobile emissions total approximately 507,000 metric tons of CO2. We used this model as our baseline to determine how much CO2 would need to be reduced or sequestered to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035.

- 7 ja UY aWjcb p`Ub`cca a]HYY.** We formed a voluntary committee composed of Lincoln County citizens who wrote the key sections of this report. This draft plan was made available to the public for comment.
- Di V]WYb[U[Ya Ybh** The groups sponsored a robust community involvement strategy, including a climate action fair, many community meetings, work groups and online surveys.
- GfUY[mUbX`d`Ub`XYj Y`cda Ybh** 350 Oregon Central Coast and the Citizens for a Better Lincoln County have created this plan to show how this county can become carbon neutral by the year 2035.

What we learned from our climate survey

74.5% of our respondents agreed that climate change is reducing the amount of snowpack and summer rains which are drying out the forests and making the forests more prone to wildfires.



Representative Dave Gomberg speaking before a joint CCL 350 OCC presentation at the Newport Public Library in August 2019 about the 2019 legislative session including HB 2020, the proposed climate bill



Bill Kucha starting a Waldport climate meeting with a song in February 2020



Brian Ettling, volunteer for Citizens Climate Lobby - Portland, speaking about proposed national and state climate legislation in February 2020 at the Newport Public Library

Public engagement

350 OCC and CCL sponsored numerous public engagement meetings which were essential to developing a compelling, realistic and implementable Climate Action Plan. As part of the planning process, we sponsored a climate survey questionnaire. Our groups typically held one or two public education meetings per month in Waldport, Lincoln City, and Newport.



What we learned from our survey: 73% of local survey respondents agree that climate change is a serious threat to the current generations while 8% believe that climate change is a mild threat. Only 6% believe that climate change is not a current threat.

- Lincoln County is already experiencing the impacts of climate change—we need to make a change quickly.
- Lincoln County residents want to be a leader in this space, inspiring other communities to follow suit.
- Community members have ideas for translating strategies into meaningful action. They want to be a part of this community-wide effort.
- Our survey shows that that people who live and work in Lincoln County need support to make these changes part of their daily routine. This support includes:
 - Education and awareness-raising
 - Accessible, easy to understand implementation resources
 - Demonstration projects and modeled behavior
 - Community assistance

Community engagement

%&

Public education meetings

%

News articles and opinion pieces

+))

2019 Earth Day Fair attendees

85

2020 Earth Day virtual attendees

%&)

Valid survey responses

Climate Survey

65% of our respondents believe that the Sixth Mass Extinction is happening now (ongoing extinction of other species by human activity).

Lincoln County's carbon footprint

Unfortunately, there has been no county-wide estimate of the amount of annual greenhouse gases generated. We contacted the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality which graciously agreed to run an Environmental Protection Agency mobile and non-mobile computer-generated model. The model projected approximately 489,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalents annually of mobile emissions (transportation). The chart on the right shows projected emissions by type of vehicle in Lincoln County.

An additional 17,000 metric tons of CO2 are generated by non-mobile sources such as construction and other mobile business activities. Further study needs to be completed to better refine the amount of CO2 equivalent emissions throughout the county.

Lincoln County mobile emissions (metric tons)

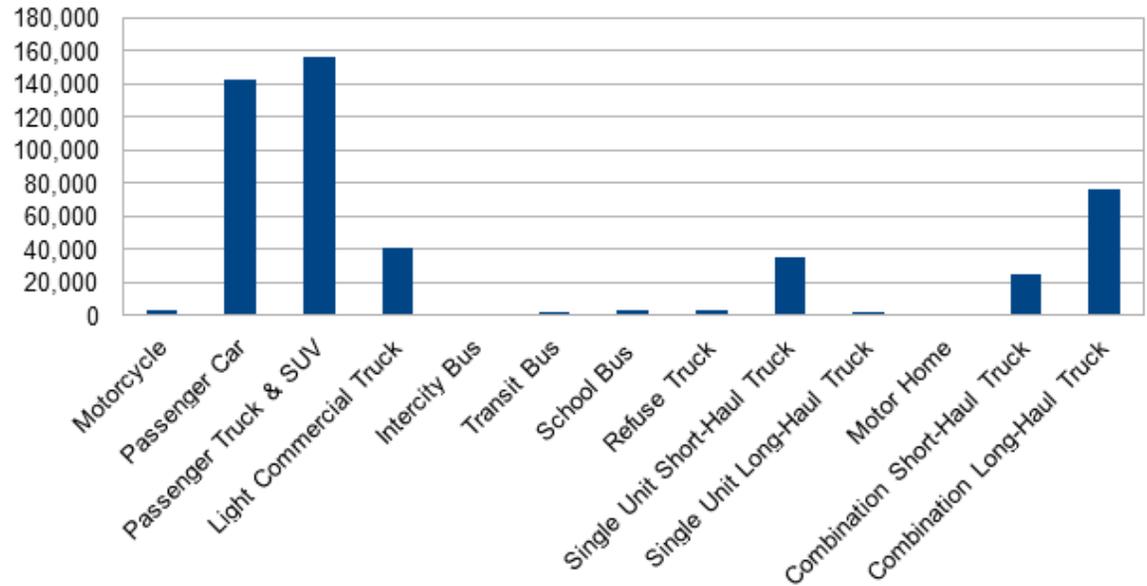
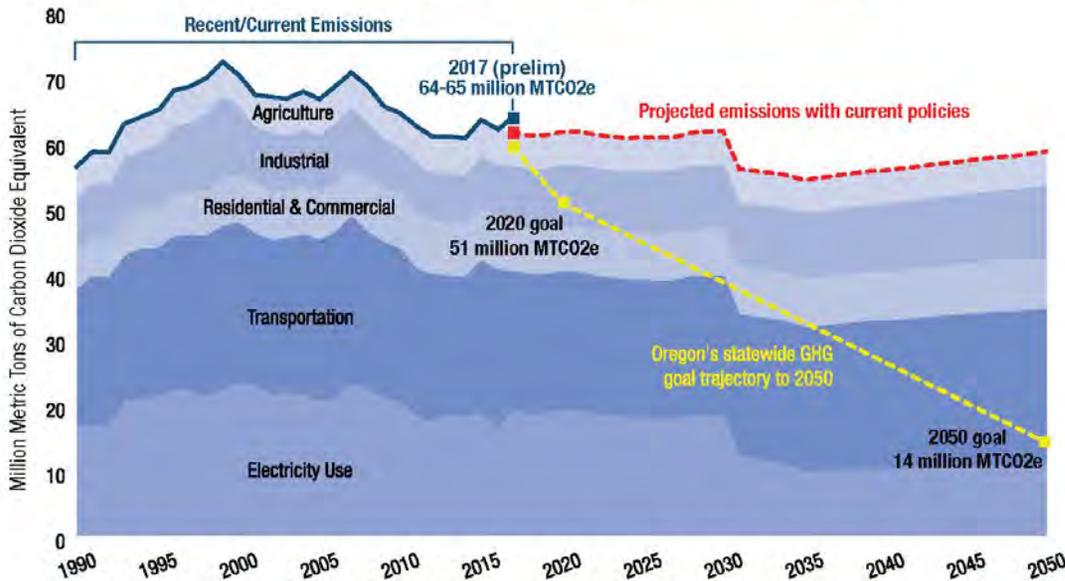
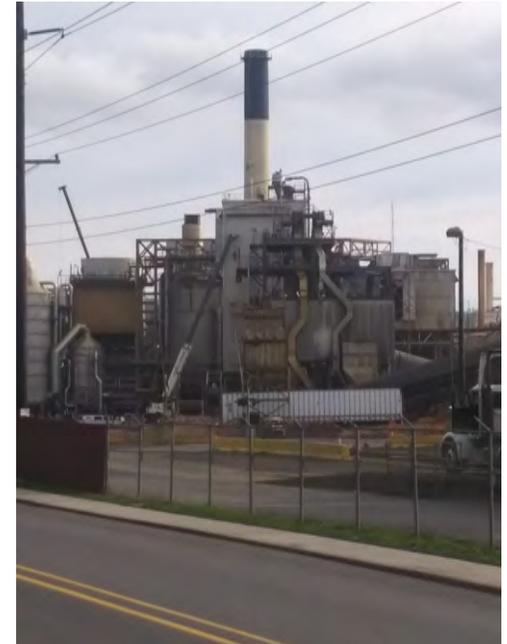


Figure 1. Oregon past and projected greenhouse gas emissions compared to goals



The Georgia-Pacific mill in Toledo is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases of any manufacturing facility in the state of Oregon. According to the Department of Environmental Quality, the facility generated 866,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases in 2018. To put this figure in perspective, the GP facility emits more greenhouse gases than the combined emissions of all car and truck driving in Lincoln County on an annual basis.

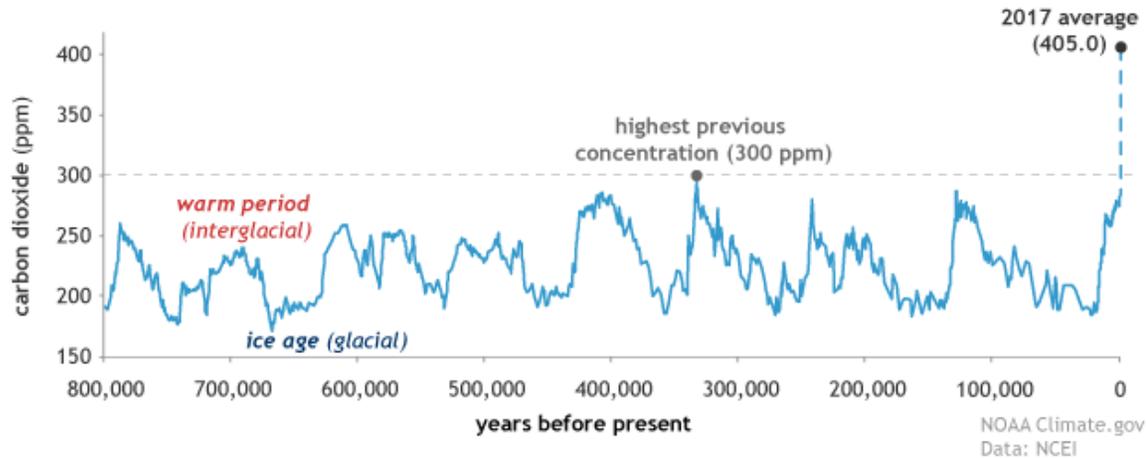


Topic-specific strategies

The following topic-specific strategies are covered in detail and the page in which the topic can be found in our 66-page report:

- Human rights in our plan - page 30*
- Solar and wind energy potential - page 37*
- Public outreach and education - page 42*
- Household strategies - reducing food waste - page 45*
- Household strategies - other strategies - page 46*
- Business and organization strategies - page 47*
- Public health and emergency preparedness - page 48*
- Natural climate forest solutions - page 50*
- Water use strategies - page 54*

CO₂ during ice ages and warm periods for the past 800,000 years

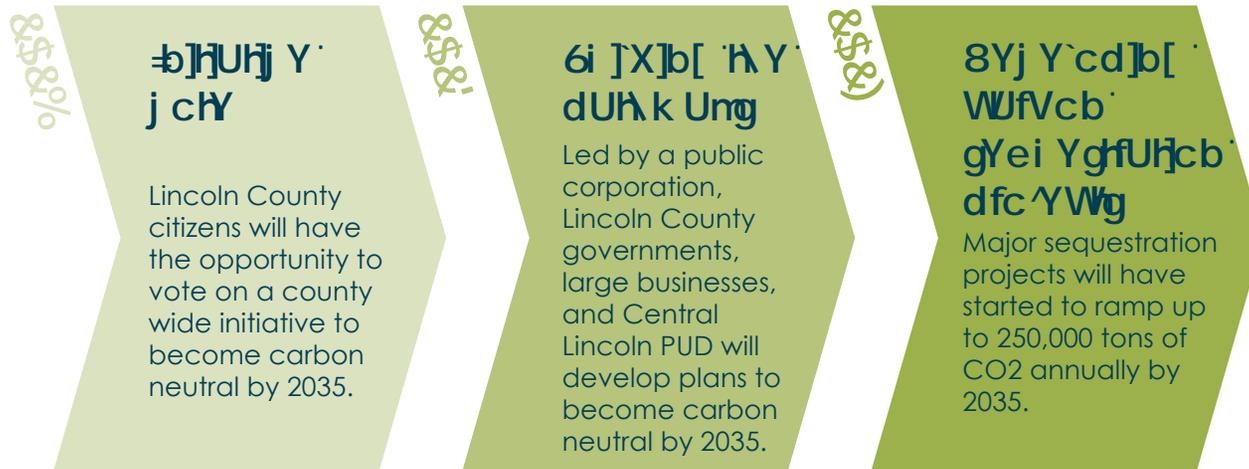


250 concerned citizens and elected state senators and representatives attend a rally in support of SB 1530 and to protest the walkout by the Republican House and Senate members at the State Capital in Salem on February 25, 2020.

Sea level rise will flood low lying parts of Lincoln County such as this parking lot at Alsessa Bay in Waldport.



Our 15-year initiative to become carbon neutral by the 2035



Why there is a need for a carbon neutral by 2035 initiative and a declaration of climate emergency

Climate change in the decades to come will render the Covid 19 pandemic as a mere asterisk in history books. History will likely record the failure of the human race as a catastrophic failure to take action to reduce gas emissions when the scientific evidence was irrefutable.

Lincoln County citizens should be given the opportunity to vote on whether they want to adopt a goal to become carbon neutral by 2035. The state of Oregon has a goal to achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Our effort is certainly much more ambitious.

There is a need for this initiative given the lack of action on the part of Lincoln County and its cities and towns to address climate change. Passage of a carbon neutral goal would send a message to both governments and industry that the citizens of Lincoln County want action taken to address climate change.

The initiative process will take time and effort. According to the Lincoln County clerk's office, depending upon the language of the initiative, either 1,454 signatures for the 6% threshold or 1,938 signatures for the 8% threshold, depending upon the language. We will be targeting to get enough signatures on the ballot for the November 2021 election. In the meantime, climate emergencies declarations should be passed by all of the municipal governments in Lincoln County.



Earth Day Celebration - April 22, 2019 at the Newport Public Library. Newport middle school students present their climate change information to a packed room sponsored by Citizens Climate Lobby - Newport and 350 Oregon Central Coast.



For more information on how you can become involved, please contact Martin Desmond at martinjdesmond@gmail.com or Bill Kucha at billkucha@gmail.com