

CALIFORNIA'S 2030 CLIMATE COMMITMENT

REDUCING EMISSIONS OF SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS

Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) include methane, black carbon, tropospheric ozone, and fluorinated gases (F-gases). They are especially powerful climate forcers and harmful air pollutants that remain in the atmosphere for much less time than CO₂ and are responsible for about 40 percent of current global warming. Slashing SLCP emissions immediately is necessary to address climate change and realize tremendous economic, food security, health, and water benefits.

CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS

Direct benefits from cutting SLCP emissions can be substantial and immediately tangible. California can maximize these benefits as part of an integrated strategy to reduce SLCPs, CO₂, and other pollutants.

Significant Health Benefits

- » Current and past progress in California prevents about 5,000 premature deaths and provides billions in health benefits each year.
- » Similar reductions worldwide would save millions of lives and deliver trillions of dollars in health benefits each year.

Immediate Climate Benefits

- » Only way to immediately slow global warming
- » Immediate global reductions necessary to limit warming below 2°C through at least 2050
- » Cost-effective strategies applied globally can cut the current rate of global warming in half by 2050 and by two-thirds in the Arctic by 2040, reducing sea level rise by 25 percent.

Agricultural, Economic, Health, and Water Benefits in California

- » Reduce asthma risk, hospitalization, and premature death
- » Reduce crop losses and improve soil health
- » Improve health of forests and watersheds
- » Increase availability of renewable natural gas, electricity, and fuels
- » Reduce disruption to precipitation patterns
- » Reduce melting of snowpack

HOW WE GET THERE

Already on Our Way

- » Black carbon levels are 90 percent lower than the 1960s
- » Cutting methane from landfills and oil and gas
- » Will reduce F-gas emissions by 25 percent below expected levels by 2020

Strengthen California Climate Leadership

Pursuant to Senate Bill 605 (Lara, Statutes of 2014, Chapter 523), the State is developing a comprehensive strategy in 2015 to further reduce SLCP emissions. The strategy will be developed through a public process and will describe specific measures to overcome stubborn barriers and significantly cut SLCP emissions, such as:

- » Reducing methane from dairies and utilize it for renewable energy or fuel
- » Diverting organic waste from landfills and convert it to energy and compost
- » Replacing high global-warming potential (GWP) refrigerants with low-GWP alternatives
- » Reducing black carbon from biomass burning with cleaner burning fireplaces and using woody waste for energy or fuel production