

Oregon prepares to tackle a ‘cap and trade’ bill

An effort in Salem to reduce climate change

By AUBREY WIEBER
Oregon Capital Bureau

In two generations, Oregonians might drive along freeways and not see a single industrial smokestack. They might instead see solar panels or wind turbines. And they might see them from an electric vehicle.

That’s the goal of Oregon politicians trying to pass legislation to charge companies for polluting. The hope is to decrease carbon emissions in the state by nearly 80 percent over the next 30 years. Oregon producers now emit an estimated 65 million metric tons of greenhouse gasses per year.

The “cap and trade” policy would regulate oil companies, utilities and industrial emitters by essentially taxing those that don’t steadily decrease their pollution over time. Similar efforts have failed year after year.



Oregon Department of Forestry

State lawmakers will make another push for ‘cap and trade’ legislation.

As momentum builds ahead of the next session of the Legislature, the fight has turned to which industries should be sheltered from new state taxes and how much protection they really need.

Climate scientists continue to warn about the implications of a hotter planet with more extreme weather patterns. A 2018 report from U.S. Global Change Research Program

found the climate — forests, streams and a diversification of wildlife — is the foundation to how Oregonians make a living and recreate.

“Climate change is projected to continue to have adverse impacts on the regional environment, with implications for the values, identity, heritage, cultures and quality of life of the region’s diverse population,” the report said. That’s why those back-

ing cap and trade say society has waited too long to change ways of living, and further delay would be at the expense of future generations.

Others say it’s a complicated and expensive undertaking that will hurt everyday Oregonians now, especially in rural areas.

Lawmakers have built concessions into past and proposed legislation to soften the hit on polluters and keep from driving them from the state. But there is fear that too much generosity could render the concept toothless.

“The more free allowances you give, the more you ease people in, then we start to look at getting where we need to go in the next 30 years rather than the next decade,” said Meredith Connolly, Oregon director for Climate Solutions. “It does matter that we are really watchdogging how many allowances really need to be given for free, and we want to make sure legislators are evaluating that need over time.”

Climate Solutions is a nonprofit that advocates for climate policy reform. Past efforts to impose carbon restrictions limited annual emissions at any one site to 25,000 metric tons per year. That cap — 25,000 tons — is the equivalent of burning 136 railcars full of coal per year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Companies could exceed that limit, but would have to pay for the privilege by buying “allowances” through a state auction. The allowances would essentially serve as costly permission slips to break the state’s limits. In 2021, when the proposed policy would go into effect, the projected base cost to exceed the limit would be \$16 per ton.

But the proposed legislation is building in a system for the state to give such allowances at no cost, especially to industries vulnerable to the change. Proponents want to avoid having companies move out of state and continue their polluting ways elsewhere, which

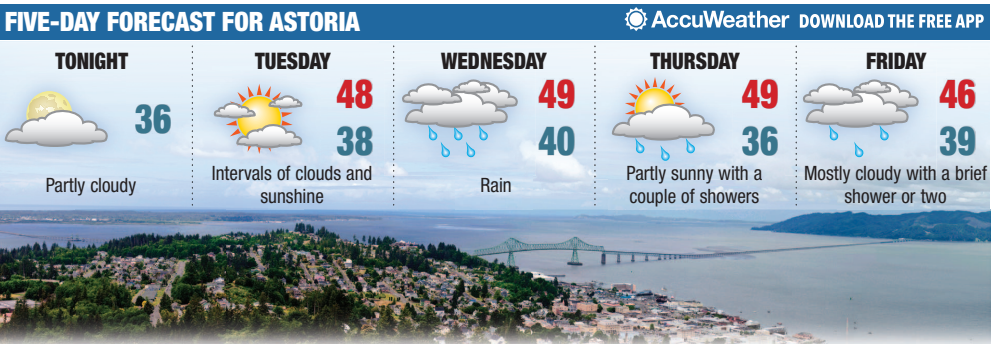
helps Oregon but not the overall climate.

Proposal materials introduced last week by governor’s office showed 30 companies could qualify for free allowances.

Shelly Boshart Davis, a Republican who takes office next month as a state representative, has been appointed to the joint committee that will shape the policy. She said there is a slight chance she would support the policy with enough concessions, but recent changes, such as Oregon’s clean fuels standard, need more time to show an impact.

“Let’s allow those to work before putting in an extremely complex and costly program on top of other programs already in effect,” she said.

Taxing oil companies trucking gas through the state is expected to be passed on to the consumer, with some projections showing a 10- to 16-cent increase per gallon on gasoline. Boshart Davis said that would cost her trucking business hundreds of thousands of dollars per year



ALMANAC

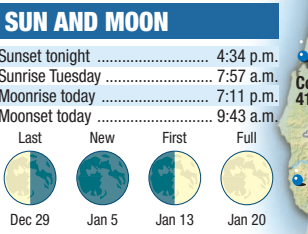
Astoria through Sunday.

Temperatures

High/low	52°/40°
Normal high/low	48°/36°
Record high	61° in 2005
Record low	13° in 1983

Precipitation

Sunday	0.49"
Month to date	7.24"
Normal month to date	7.38"
Year to date	60.63"
Normal year to date	64.75"



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Sculptor, the sculptor's workshop, passes across the southwest on December evenings.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

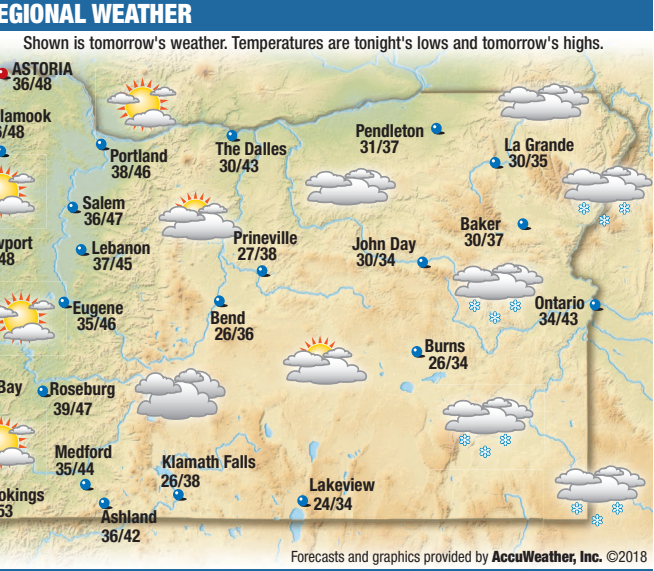
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
3:32 a.m.	8.6 ft.	9:02 a.m.	2.9 ft.
2:43 p.m.	10.0 ft.	9:47 p.m.	-1.0 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

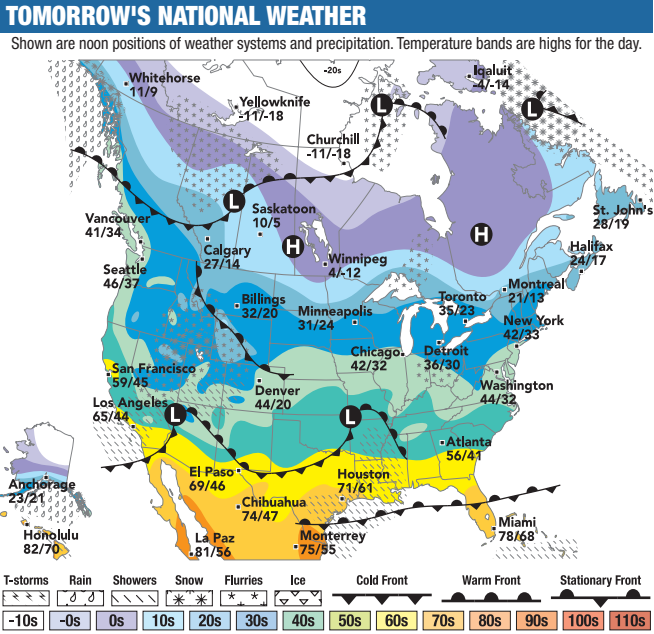
City	Today	Hi	Lo	Tues.	Hi	Lo
Atlanta	53 34 s	56	41	s		
Boston	40 28 sn	39	26	s		
Chicago	35 27 pc	42	32	c		
Denver	48 22 sf	44	20	c		
Des Moines	42 32 pc	43	32	pc		
Detroit	36 23 c	36	30	c		
El Paso	66 41 s	69	46	pc		
Fairbanks	-8 -19 pc	-9	-15	s		
Honolulu	83 71 pc	82	70	pc		
Indianapolis	40 31 pc	44	28	c		
Kansas City	48 33 pc	49	38	pc		
Las Vegas	62 44 s	56	43	c		
Los Angeles	68 51 pc	65	44	pc		
Memphis	53 39 pc	52	46	c		
Miami	75 62 s	78	68	c		
Nashville	46 31 s	51	38	pc		
New Orleans	60 51 pc	66	59	sh		
New York	45 32 sn	42	33	pc		
Oklahoma City	54 36 pc	55	49	c		
Philadelphia	46 30 pc	42	31	pc		
St. Louis	52 37 pc	50	35	c		
Salt Lake City	43 34 sn	39	27	sn		
San Francisco	58 48 r	59	45	pc		
Seattle	50 38 c	46	37	pc		
Washington, DC	48 33 pc	44	32	s		

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Tues.	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	38 30 sn	37	18	sf				
Bend	38 26 sn	36	20	pc				
Brookings	53 41 r	52	38	pc				
Eugene	48 35 r	46	33	pc				
Ilwaco	50 38 sh	47	42	pc				
Klamath Falls	39 26 sn	38	17	pc				
Medford	48 35 r	44	29	pc				
Newberg	48 34 r	44	36	pc				
Newport	50 38 r	48	40	pc				
North Bend	53 40 r	51	38	pc				
Olympia	47 34 c	43	33	pc				
Pendleton	42 31 r	37	27	c				
Portland	49 38 r	46	37	pc				
Roseburg	50 39 r	47	35	pc				
Salem	50 36 r	47	35	pc				
Seaside	50 38 r	48	41	pc				
Spokane	36 23 c	32	22	pc				
Springfield	48 36 r	44	33	pc				
Vancouver	49 37 r	44	36	pc				
Yakima	39 24 sn	41	24	pc				



DEATHS

Dec. 21, 2018
AYA, Alfred Anthony, 94, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Lay-

ton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.
PARDEE, Dr. Lawrence John, 87, of Warrenton, died

in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY
Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning and Advisory Committee, 1 to 3 p.m., fourth floor, 800 Exchange St.
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON Sunday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 7-4-8-9 4 p.m.: 4-7-9-9 7 p.m.: 7-2-5-8 10 p.m.: 5-0-1-1 Sunday's Lucky Lines: 03-06-12-14-FREE-20-24-26-31 Estimated jackpot: \$24,000 Saturday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 6-7-6-0 4 p.m.: 8-8-6-5 7 p.m.: 3-4-8-6 10 p.m.: 2-6-2-7 Saturday's Lucky Lines: 03-05-11-13-FREE-18-22-26-31 Estimated jackpot: \$23,000 Saturday's Megabucks: 06-08-35-36-39-40 Estimated jackpot: \$5.8 million Saturday's Powerball: 21-28-	30-40-59, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$281 million Friday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 3-2-5-2 4 p.m.: 1-4-7-7 7 p.m.: 8-8-6-1 10 p.m.: 0-4-2-9 Friday's Lucky Lines: 04-08-09-16-FREE-18-24-25-32 Estimated jackpot: \$22,000 Friday's Mega Millions: 10-13-61-62-70, Mega Ball: 5, Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$305 million WASHINGTON Sunday's Daily Game: 3-3-9 Sunday's Keno: 08-10-16-22-24-31-34-36-37-40-42-44-46-	47-52-62-63-69-78-80 Sunday's Match 4: 02-07-09-15 Saturday's Daily Game: 5-2-1 Saturday's Hit 5: 03-20-26-29-39 Estimated jackpot: \$270,000 Saturday's Keno: 03-12-15-17-20-29-35-38-39-40-43-47-48-53-55-58-59-63-72-77 Saturday's Lotto: 01-03-06-15-29-43 Estimated jackpot: \$1.9 million Saturday's Match 4: 05-11-20-24 Friday's Daily Game: 5-2-7 Friday's Keno: 01-04-09-15-18-28-31-38-42-45-50-51-55-56-59-61-63-69-74-77 Friday's Match 4: 09-10-17-18
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