



Global Warming Solutions for the Golden State

California Climate Choices

A Fact Sheet of the Union of Concerned Scientists



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CALIFORNIA IS THE WORLD'S 12th largest source of carbon dioxide emissions, the primary contributor to global warming. The state has a responsibility to reduce its share of emissions, and by doing so can lead the United States—and the world—in developing the innovative policies and technologies needed to avoid the most dangerous consequences of global warming.

In June 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order that sets the following goals for lowering the state's share of global warming pollution. California will:

- reduce emissions to 2000 levels (an 11 percent reduction) by 2010;
- reduce emissions to 1990 levels (a 25 reduction) by 2020; and
- reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Achieving these targets will not only yield meaningful progress in reducing the state's global warming impact, but also

deliver important economic benefits. Two independent teams of the state's top economists calculate that significantly reducing global warming emissions can boost the state's economy by billions of dollars and create tens of thousands of jobs in the coming decades.

The California legislature and administration have been at the forefront of efforts to reduce global warming, passing precedent-setting policies such as aggressive standards for tailpipe emissions, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. However, existing policies will not be sufficient to meet the ambitious emission reduction goals set by the governor.

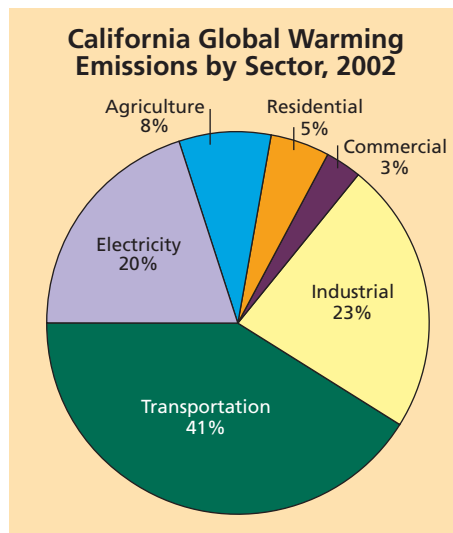
California must now build on its legacy of policy leadership to deliver new strategies to reduce emissions. Existing programs can and should be accelerated to achieve greater emissions savings from the state's highest-emitting sectors: vehicles, electricity, and industry. But the administration and legislature must work together to develop additional policies to reduce emissions from all of California's major

sources, such as an enforceable cap on global warming emissions.

Global warming poses significant risks to California's economy, health, and environment. Fortunately, the emerging evidence suggests that global warming action can be profitable for California. Doing nothing is likely the most costly decision the state can make. ■



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Source: California Energy Commission. *Inventory of California Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990 to 2002 Update*

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