



Climate Policy as Economic Stimulus: Evidence and Opportunities from the States

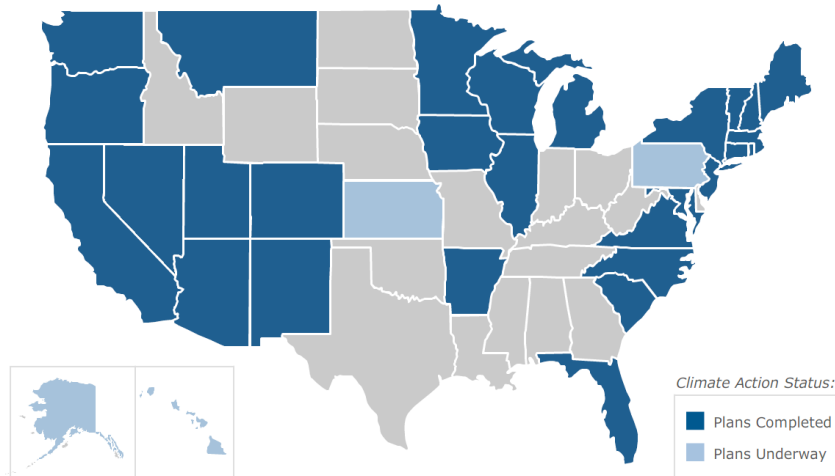
Key Finding

Done properly, sector-based climate change mitigation policies can cut pollution, save money and create jobs. State opportunities can be scaled to the national level.

Abstract

Twenty U.S. states have completed and begun implementation of comprehensive multi-sector greenhouse gas reduction plans with quantified costs and emission reduction benefits that cover more than two thirds of the United States economy and population. Results from individual states, economic sectors, and policies vary; but all indicate a consistent pattern for cost effective achievement of near term and mid term greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets at science based levels (1990 levels or below by 2020). Preliminary national projections of this data suggest a net savings of \$85 billion in 2020; and from 2009 to 2020 cumulative savings of \$535.5 billion by implementing a climate plan involving all U.S. states and economic sectors. (For perspective, the federal economic stimulus being discussed for 2009 is \$100-200 billion.) The savings estimates do not include the potential for additional co-benefits such as energy independence, health and environmental protection. Economic benefits would begin accruing as soon as actions are implemented. Macroeconomic analysis of a sample of state climate action plans indicates that sector-based climate mitigation actions have the potential to immediately expand employment, income and investment, thus contributing to national economic recovery.

States with Climate Action Plans Completed or Underway





About The Center for Climate Strategies

The Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit partnership organization that helps government entities and their stakeholders develop and implement actions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and adapt to a changing climate. We support leadership actions and build effective solutions by integrating consensus building and cutting-edge technical assistance. Our interdisciplinary team has a full range of experience and expertise in environmental, economic, energy, transportation, and natural resource policy issues for addressing complex problems related to global warming. Our support of climate actions by U.S. states is particularly important because those states provide critical leadership and proven solutions to climate change for our nation's leaders. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, CCS mobilizes resources from private donors to support our work with partners and ensure success. Please contact us with any questions or with requests for assistance.

Our Mission

CCS helps states, regions, and national governments tackle climate change by fostering leadership action toward solutions, enabling deliberative democracy on policy and governance choices, and providing advanced technical assistance for stakeholders and policy makers.

Contact The Center for Climate Strategies

For more information on the Center for Climate Strategies, the state processes, macro- and micro-economic analysis, specific policies and quantifications or anything else, please contact us at any of the methods below:

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