



Climate solutions board

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The Climate Solutions Board of Directors recently adopted our new strategic plan to map out our direction for the next four years. This is the third time since I started here in 2008 that we have adopted a new strategic plan, and I am more excited about this one than any in our history.

My excitement stems from two places. First, our new plan builds off an era of profound success. In 2016 we launched our last plan. Our primary objective for that five-year stretch was to establish nationally significant policies that would place the Northwest on the pathway to a 100% clean energy economy, while simultaneously helping to build a powerful and diverse climate movement.

We had big dreams for that era of climate action, and to be honest the results far exceeded our hopes. Washington and Oregon now have unquestionably two of the best suites of climate policies of any states in the nation.

We now have policies in both states to transition to 100% clean electricity with the passage of the Clean Energy Transformation Act in Washington in 2019, and the 100% Clean Energy for All in Oregon in 2021.

The second reason I am so excited is that we have a crystal-clear sense of what is needed as we enter into this new era of climate action in the region. We believe that the core opportunity on climate change in the Northwest in the coming years is turning the promise of passed policies and large investments in solutions into tangible progress on the ground that cuts climate pollution, creates good-paying jobs, and addresses equity.

In some ways, we will keep doing what we have been doing for the past almost 25 years. We will remain fierce advocates for transformational policies. We will keep building powerful partnerships to grow an increasingly formidable movement. We will communicate a bold vision for what is needed for the Northwest to be national leaders on climate, making an impact beyond our borders. We will lean into our commitments on equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We will also adapt. Our advocacy is a great example. For the past many years, our primary focus was on statewide policies in Salem and Olympia. While we will remain deeply involved there, we will also spread our engagement into the many places where implementation is being discussed such as utility commissions, state agencies, and local governments; with businesses looking to cut their emissions and grow jobs; and more.

Turning policies and investments into equitable progress on the ground will not be easy. We enter into this era with profound uncertainties and intense cross-currents. Climate impacts are hitting with devastating force with dangerously scorching summers that cause wildfires and heat deaths, along with flooding and other extreme weather. We have high gas and energy costs, an uncertain economy, and an increasingly polarized political environment. We face a powerful opponent in the fossil fuel industry fighting fiercely for its existence.

We also have to figure out how to answer some hard questions about getting equitable solutions on the ground at scale. Questions like where to site solar and wind and storage in ways that respect Tribal sovereignty and environmental concerns; how to quickly and affordably get heat pumps into low-income homes and apartments; and how to scale electric charging stations for cars, vans, trucks, tractors, and e-micro mobility throughout the region including in rural communities.

Gregg brings more than 30 years of experience working on climate, environmental, and public policy issues, including more than 25 as an Executive Director. At Climate Solutions, Gregg oversees a staff of more than three dozen policy experts, campaigners, innovators, and researchers across Washington and Oregon, providing strategic direction for one of the most effective regional climate and clean economy organizations in the nation. Under his leadership, Climate Solutions and our many allies have successfully passed some of the best climate policies in the United States.

Gregg began his professional career in 1993 as an organizer for Green Corps, working in Washington, DC, Vermont, and California. He received his B.A. in Political Science from Dickinson College.

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