

Why a dividend?

Oregon Climate advocates for distributing all revenue from a carbon price back to every citizen, because it will ensure the transition to a clean energy economy is fair and swift. Here's why:

- We can't afford to pass a scientifically grounded policy only to lose the electorate's support just when this essential program starts to work as it should. A **dividend provides a self-sustaining model** by encouraging conservation, rewarding innovation, and stimulating a holistic energy transition.
- We can learn from jurisdictions that have gone before us without the dividend, like Australia, where the carbon tax was successful in reducing emissions ... but was repealed last summer. This is what happens when not everyone feels like they're **sharing the benefits**.
- British Columbia passed a revenue-neutral carbon tax, but instead of cutting everyone a check, it cut income taxes. This made the tax popular, but support for making prices *higher* (which is needed to achieve the tax's goal) has decreased because the benefit isn't tangible. If every resident of British Columbia were **getting a check in the mail**, political will to keep raising carbon prices would be stronger.
- Carbon pricing advocates often point to California's cap-and-trade as a success, which is true. The problem is that prices have not risen past \$12 per ton, nowhere near the price level we need to even begin to have the impact that is necessary. Already money supposedly targeted to low-income people and communities of color has been raided for other state programs that are in need of funding -- not protecting lower income households from the burden of increased energy costs. If every Californian were receiving a dividend, those with the least political capital would be **ensured a financial return**.
- A policy so fundamental to our future should be modeled after the **most popular programs in the country**: at the national level, Social Security; at the state level, the Alaska Permanent Fund. Both policies mail people money. Both are politically untouchable. Economic modeling by NERC found that price and dividend would not only reduce emissions but would also have a negligible impact on our state's economy. This means we have nothing to lose in trying cap and dividend, but we have everything to lose if we do not implement strong climate policy. We're writing the most important law of our generation. Every citizen needs to be a stakeholder.

Our vision is a price and dividend that would send every Oregonian a check for \$500-\$1500 once a year -- more than enough to offset the average Oregonian's cost if we put a price on pollution.

We're building a movement to make Oregon the national model for this winning policy. Join us.

Support for Carbon Price & Dividend

The world thirsts for one nation, one state, to place a flat fee across all polluting carbon fuels. Oregon Climate might just lead the world toward that goal.

James Hansen, Former Director of NASA Goddard Institute of Space Studies

Excellent work! - National climate advocacy leader and 350.org founder Bill McKibben on the Oregon price and dividend campaign

Free and unlimited carbon dumping is like giving the fossil fuel industry an ATM card that draws on the accounts of our kids and grandkids. Carbon prices that tell the truth about climate costs will be wind in the sails of solutions, and Oregon Climate is relentlessly focused on making it happen.

- KC Golden, chair of 350.org and Senior Policy Advisory of Climate Solutions



Visit Oregon Climate's website at www.oregonclimate.org to see full list of endorsements

National Cap & Dividend Supporters

Groups that endorsed the Healthy Climate and Family Security Act, federal cap & dividend legislation introduced by Congressman Van Hollen

350.org
Sierra Club
New Energy Economy
National People's Action
Working Families Party
Public Citizen
..and many more!