



# WASHINGTON STATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Legislative Directions for WA on Electric Resources & Climate Change

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# RCW 19.285 Energy Independence

- ▶ Voter Initiative; passed November 2006
- ▶ Sets energy efficiency and renewable energy standards for 17 utilities serving > 25,000 customers; 14 non-investor-owned utilities.
- ▶ Stakeholders pursued legislation for 5-6 years. After Colorado's success with an RPS, they tried it in WA.

# Energy Independence Act

- ▶ Efficiency: All cost-effective conservation
- ▶ Renewables:
  - Target path = 15% in 2020,
  - Financial path = 4% of annual revenues spent on incremental costs of renewables, and
  - No load growth path = Utility without load growth for 3 years, invest 1% of revenues on total cost of renewable resources.

# Conservation: get it all



# Renewables – Hydropower

- ▶ Yes, hydropower is defined as a renewable resource.
- ▶ But, only incremental hydropower is eligible to meet the standard.
- ▶ Wind, solar, biomass, wave, etc.
- ▶ First sentence of the law: “This chapter concerns requirements for **new energy resources.**”

# Energy Independence Act cont.

- ▶ Renewables: Power or RECs
- ▶ Renewables: located in Pacific NW or delivered in "real time."
- ▶ WREGIS – Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System.  
[www.wregis.org](http://www.wregis.org). REC tracking system.

# 2007 Legislation

## ESSB 6001 – Mitigating Impacts of Climate Change

- ▶ This law was introduced and passed in one session.



By 12/07 – consider tax incentives for existing facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Emissions performance standard for new plants financed with long-term WA utility contracts: 1100 lbs greenhouse gases/MWH (or sequestered w/i 5 years).



# Mitigating Climate Impacts

- ▶ Exemptions for unanticipated system reliability needs or catastrophic events or significant financial harm.
- ▶ Review every 5 years for need, effectiveness, applicability.
- ▶ Consideration of standard on reliability and power costs.
- ▶ Consider long-term unspecified market power purchases.

# 2007 Legislation: Climate Change Mitigation - Transportation



School bus replacement incentives.

2015: govt. vehicles are electric or biofuel powered.



# 2007: Climate Change Transportation HB 1303

- ▶ Transportation related emissions reduction incentives. (Public and private)
- ▶ 2009 – 20% of state diesel use will be biodiesel.

# Gov's Climate Change Action Team

- ▶ 2/07 Executive Order, much copied into legislation
- ▶ "Washington is uniquely vulnerable to the changing climate, but we are also positioned to succeed in the clean energy economy."
- ▶ <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/>
- ▶ Collectively, already reduced 2050 emissions by 20% - auto emission standards, RPS, utility efficiency programs, 2% renewable biofuels standard, codes and standards,...

# Climate Action Team cont.

- ▶ Goal: 2050 – emissions 50% below 1990 or 70% reduction from otherwise expected emissions.
- ▶ Consider policies and strategies for emission *reductions*.
- ▶ Address specifics of *adaptation* – health, forestry, water supplies, agriculture,...
- ▶ Contribute to regional and national policies.