

# Research Studies to Support California's Goal to Achieve a Carbon Neutral Economy by 2045

## Background

AB 74, the state's 2019 Budget Act, appropriated \$3 million in funding to the Secretary for Environmental Protection, to conduct two studies that examine pathways to reach a carbon neutral economy by 2045.

- **The first study** will identify strategies to achieve reductions in emissions from vehicles across the transportation sector, such as increasing electrification and the role of alternative fuel sources, and reducing vehicle miles traveled, land use policies and strategies to increase public transit ridership.
- **The second study** will identify ways to reduce the demand for and supply of fossil fuels in the state without leaving anyone behind.
- The studies will take place in parallel and will include careful attention to impacts on disadvantaged and low-income communities, and strategies to address those impacts.

## Guiding Principles

The guiding principles underlying each of the two studies are:

- Deliver equitable processes and end results, and to achieve environmental justice and shared prosperity.
- Prioritize improvements in health for all Californians and environmental quality across the state.
- Account for the total costs, benefits, and opportunities associated with policy pathways.
- Foster sustainable and diversified local and regional economies, and prioritize the creation of accessible high quality jobs for all communities.
- Deliver affordable and accessible non-fossil fuel options and technologies for all end uses.
- Reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions in California while minimizing emissions leakage beyond the state's borders, to the maximum extent possible.

## How the Studies Affect You

Every sector, every local government, every region, every community, and every resident plays a role in achieving carbon neutrality.

## Interagency Work, Research Process, & Deliverables

The Budget Act directs the Secretary for Environmental Protection to consult with the following agencies in developing the scope of the studies:

- California Air Resources Board
- California Energy Commission
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California State Transportation Agency
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
- Labor and Workforce Development Agency

The Secretary for Environmental Protection will contract with the UC system for both studies.

- The inter-agency team has provided relevant information from their agencies about work underway and progress made on existing policies to inform the researchers.
- State efforts and work underway at the local level will serve as a foundation for the UC in considering next steps as researchers undertake and complete the studies.
- We want to hear about local efforts that should also inform the researchers.

## Workshops & Ongoing Engagement

Input from the public is critical to shaping the content and uses of the studies, and their deliverables. The draft scope of work for the research contract will be informed by the three public workshops noted below. The interagency team will continue to engage with the public and collaborate with the UC system and academics on the scope of the studies and its deliverables. See timeline below. Additional public outreach and engagement opportunities through 2020, which will be posted at [calepa.ca.gov/climate/carbon-neutrality-studies](http://calepa.ca.gov/climate/carbon-neutrality-studies).

### TIMELINE

September 24	Public Workshop in Sacramento
November 13	Public Workshop in Bakersfield
November 14	Public Workshop in Wilmington
November 22	Public Comment Ends
Early December	Release draft scope of work
Mid December	Comment period on scope ends
Late December	Sign contract with UC System
December 2020	Final Reports Received

Send comments by November 22 to [climatechange@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:climatechange@calepa.ca.gov).

Send requests to join the mailing list to [climatechange@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:climatechange@calepa.ca.gov).

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