

Guidance to evaluate the merits of carbon pricing policies

- Process criteria –
 - Tribal consultation is both incorporated into the development of the policy and the overall functionality of the program to ensure it upholds tribal sovereignty.
 - People of color and frontline community organizations are both engaged in the development of the policy and in how the program is managed and evaluated in a way to address their priorities.

- Program structure criteria –
 - For an economy wide approach, program establishes and maintains a carbon pricing mechanism that demonstrates over time direct results in criteria pollutant reductions at covered sources, particularly those most polluting facilities in overburdened communities.
 - Should there be offsets, offsets are minimized to the point that the most polluting facilities have as close to zero offsets available.
 - For those offsets that are available to facilities and industries deemed eligible, offsets should preferentially be located in Washington State providing direct environmental benefits in the state. Offsets should be quantifiable, verifiable, additional and permanent in nature, and with a preference towards nature-based solutions. And, there should be a priority to offsets being directly beneficial to those most overburdened, including offsets managed by tribal nations.
 - The program is structured to achieve the following goals: 1) to achieve equitable, anti-racist carbon reductions; 2) invest in Washington’s workers for a long term clean energy economy and in frontline communities first; 3) maximize the impact of our natural and working lands to draw down emissions; and 4) uphold tribal sovereignty.
 - There is timely, strong oversight and adaptive management in order to review the functionality and integrity of the program in a timely way and enables the adjustment of the program (cap, tax, etc.) based on science and outcomes of the review as needed in order to meet the goals of the program.
 - As possible, an economy wide program is built in a way to reduce co-pollutants and/or is coordinated with other policies to reduce co-pollutants.
 - There are not preemptions of additional regulatory mechanisms to address ghg emissions and co-pollutants.
 - Should the program link with other jurisdictions, WA’s program ensures the linking jurisdiction meets our criteria.

- Investment structure criteria –
 - Prioritize investments in overburdened communities and uphold tribal sovereignty.
 - Carbon pricing revenue must be dedicated to investments that:
 - Reduce air pollution and transition our state away from greenhouse gas emissions to help achieve the Washington climate pollution limits and dramatically reduce the health impacts of communities most impacted by pollution.
 - Assist with economic transitions to a clean energy economy, including direct support for workers and communities in economic transition.

Guidance for carbon pricing

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- Improve the resiliency to climate change of waters and forests, that supports biodiversity conservation, natural climate solutions, cleans our airs, and promotes the health of our communities and environment.
- At least 35% of investments must provide direct and meaningful benefits identified by vulnerable populations in highly impacted communities, as defined by the WA Health Disparity Map, and tribal communities, and at least 1% of total revenue must be dedicated to community-led project development, planning, and participation.
- At least 10% of investments must be used for programs, activities, or projects formally supported by a resolution of a tribal nation, with priority given to otherwise qualifying projects directly administered or proposed by a tribal nation.
- Tie investments to create good, high wage, union jobs in Washington state and assist with economic transitions to a clean energy economy, including direct support for impacted workers and communities.
- Prioritize investments that achieve co-pollutant benefits.
- Prioritize investments to reduce emissions, particularly in highly impacted communities.