

# An Introduction to the Western Climate Initiative



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International Life Cycle Assessment and  
Management 2007 Conference  
Portland, Oregon - October 2, 2007

Western Climate Initiative





# Origins of the Western Climate Initiative

- In September of 2003 Oregon, Washington, and California agree to work together through the West Coast Governor's Global Warming Initiative.
- In February of 2006 Arizona and New Mexico launch the Southwest Climate Change Initiative.
- As a result OR, WA, NM, and AZ adopt California's greenhouse gas tailpipe emission standards.

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# The Western Regional Climate Action Initiative

- Logical extension of West Coast Governor's and Southwest initiatives was to combine efforts.
- In February of 2007 the Governors of the five states sign joint MOU to form the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative (WRCIA).
- Partners later agreed to refer to the WRCIA as the "Western Climate Initiative" (WCI) for short.

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# The WCI Memorandum of Understanding

Partners in the WCI agreed to the following:

- Set a regional greenhouse gas reduction goal (by 8/07) consistent with state-by-state goals.
- Develop a design for a “market-based multi-sector mechanism” (by August of 2008) to achieve the regional emissions goal.
- Participate in a greenhouse gas registry.

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# The WCI Expands

- British Columbia joins in April 2007 (WCI goes international).
- Utah joins in May 2007.
- Manitoba joins in June 2007.
- Others ask to observe: Alaska, Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, Nevada, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Sonora.



Source: Wikipedia

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# WCI Partners Commit to The Climate Registry

- The Climate Registry (a multi-state, province, and tribe ghg tracking and reporting platform) launched in May of 2007 with all WCI partners signed on as founding participants.



+ All of Canada and Sonora, Mexico

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# WCI Sets Regional Goal

- In August of 2007 the WCI partners agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the WCI region to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 – which is the combined impact of the WCI partner's existing goals.
- This regional goal is consistent with the individual emission goals the WCI members have set for themselves and does not replace their existing goals.
- The WCI partners also acknowledged the need to do significantly more over the long run to reduce emissions.

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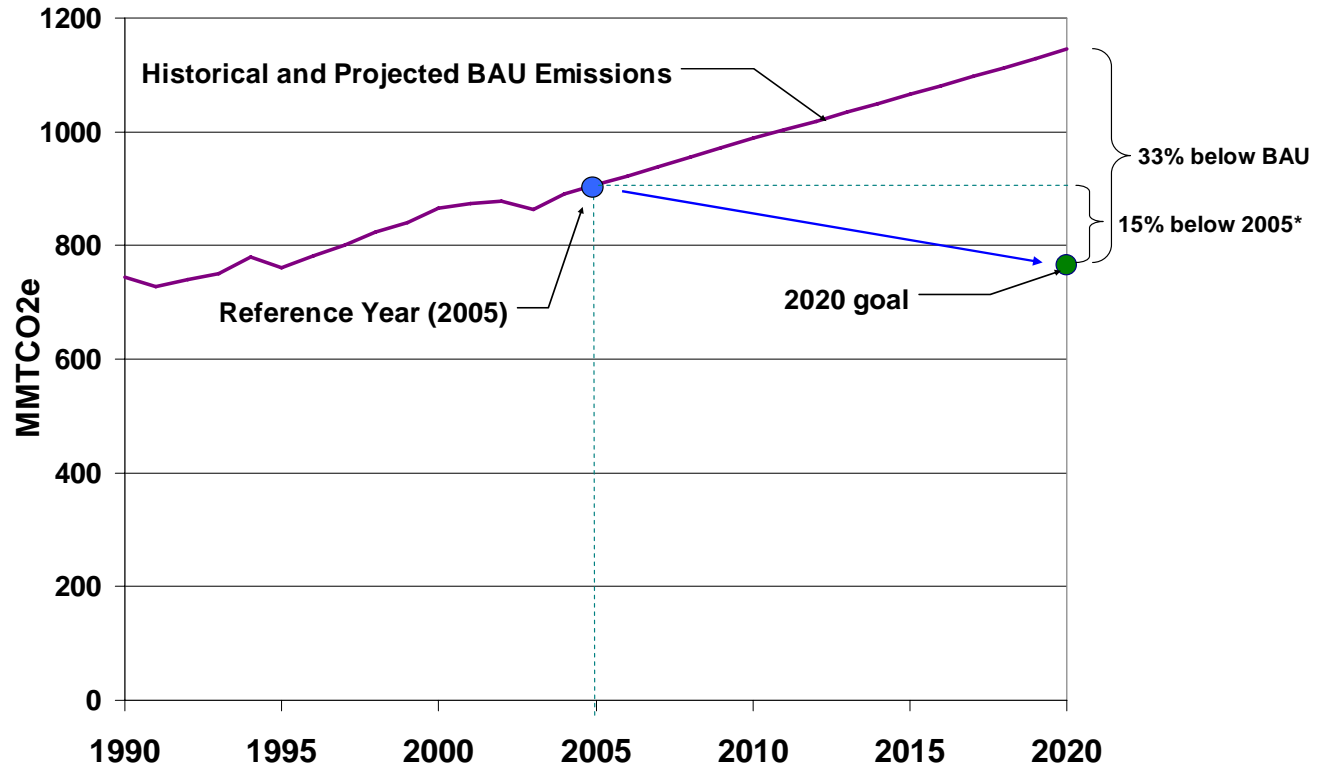




# WCI Partner GHG Emissions and Regional Goal

BAU = Business-as-usual (projections).

The arrow shown is purely directional: it illustrates the where regional emissions will need to be by 2020 rather than the specific path emissions are expected to follow during the 2007-2020 period.



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# Designing the Market-based Mechanism

- WCI partners have agreed that focus of the next year will be on designing a regional greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program.
- Five Sub-Committees have been formed to get into design issue of cap-and-trade program:
  - Scope
  - Allocations
  - Offsets
  - Electricity
  - Reporting

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# Potential Issues for the Life-Cycle Analysis Community from WCI

- Economic cost and benefit analysis work.
- If offsets are included, then life-cycle analysis will play clear role in eligibility determinations.
- Partial (or full?) life-cycle analysis may be necessary for determining emissions factors.
- Possibly more important for long term work of WCI, e.g., Low Carbon Fuel Standard debate.

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# More Information

- Western Climate Initiative Website  
<http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org>
- The Climate Registry  
<http://www.theclimateregistry.org>
- Oregon Climate Change Portal  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/Portal.shtml>

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