

New Climate-Related Rules in California and Washington



The U.S. EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) is providing its Partners and other interested stakeholders information about **two recent climate-related regulations** in the states of **California** and **Washington**.

California's Restrictions on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

Senate Bill 1383 "Short-lived climate pollutants: methane emissions: dairy and livestock: organic waste: landfills" was signed into law on September 19, 2016, establishing **tough restrictions on methane**, black carbon, and other "super pollutants" that are potent greenhouse gases. Sources of these pollutants include **waste disposal facilities**, agriculture, and petroleum-based transportation fuels. It was also the Legislature's intent to support the adoption of policies that **improve organics recycling** and innovative, environmentally **beneficial uses of biomethane derived from solid waste facilities**.

No later than January 1, 2018, the State Air Resources Board is required to approve and begin implementing a strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants. This historic regulation will limit methane emissions from the most populous U.S. state, requiring a **40 percent reduction from 2013 methane emission levels by year 2030**.

The legislation also specifies steep **reduction targets for organic waste disposal in state landfills**: a 50 percent reduction from the 2014 level by year 2020, and a 75 percent reduction from the 2014 level by year 2025. The law does not establish a numeric organic waste disposal limit for individual landfills. No later than July 1, 2020, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery will analyze the progress that the waste sector, state government, and local governments have made in achieving these organic waste reduction goals.

News Release: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=19549>

Bill Text: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1383

Global Methane Initiative blog: <https://globalmethane.wordpress.com/2016/09/29/californias-landmark-methane-legislation/>

Washington Clean Air Rule to Limit Carbon Pollution

The Department of Ecology adopted its Clean Air Rule on September 15, 2016 to **cap and reduce carbon pollution from organizations with annual emissions of 100,000 or more metric tons** of seven greenhouse gas pollutants including methane. The affected facilities, which include waste facilities, power plants, natural gas distributors and more, will be required to cap and gradually reduce their emissions starting in 2017. Businesses can also **buy carbon offsets issued under approved protocols or purchase allowances from approved carbon markets** (e.g., Climate Action Reserve).

The initial emissions threshold in 2017 of 100,000 metric tons will begin dropping by 5,000 metric tons every three years starting in 2020. The threshold will remain constant at 70,000 metric tons for 2035 and forward.

The rule, which goes into effect on October 17, 2016, was enacted under the state's

Clean Air Act to help Washington meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of 1990 levels by year 2020 and 25 percent below that by 2035.

Department's Clean Air Rule page: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/carbonlimit.htm>

Clean Air Rulemaking page: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/rules/wac173442/1510ov.html>

EPA is providing this information as a service but does not endorse the information or opinions included therein.

To request removal from this email list, please reply to this message. For further information or questions about LMOP, please do not reply to this email message, but rather visit the [LMOP website](#). Thank you.

