

# The Basic Facts on ESSB 6001

The Legislature can take practical steps **this year** to significantly reduce global warming pollution and build our clean energy economy. Governor Gregoire's Climate Challenge task force will develop comprehensive climate policy recommendations for Washington over the next year. In the interim, we must act immediately to avoid major new increases in global warming emissions and to protect Washington residents from the resulting environmental and financial costs. Along with the Clean Air, Clean Fuels bill, passing ESSB 6001 **this year** puts Washington State on the road to solutions.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF ESSB 6001

- ❖ Affirms Governor Gregoire's **targets for reducing global warming pollution**, reducing energy imports and increasing clean energy jobs.
- ❖ Sets a greenhouse gas **emissions performance standard** for major new power plants or power purchases.
- ❖ Authorizes additional **financial incentives for electric utilities** to invest in energy conservation.
- ❖ Authorizes **electric utilities** and counties to continue to **invest in reducing their contributions to global warming pollution**.

## THE NEED

- ❖ California adopted an **emissions performance standard** and Oregon is considering one. Washington residents and businesses must not be left behind; we need our energy resources to be just as clean as those of our neighbors. With state and federal limits on climate pollution on the horizon, new fossil-fueled power plants pose a huge financial risk to consumers. (For example, a single new coal plant could expose Washington's electricity users to roughly \$100 million or more per year in new pollution costs.)
- ❖ The preference would be to put a hold on new fossil fuel power projects until the **comprehensive climate policy** is in place – similar to Idaho's coal plant moratorium. There is no short-term need for the power. But if projects do go forward, the emissions performance standard helps ensure environmental and consumer protection.

## KEY DETAILS OF THE *EMISSIONS PERFORMANCE STANDARD*

- ❖ Applies to electric utilities making new financial commitments of more than five years for power. This means it applies to **new projects, and to new and renewed power contracts**.
- ❖ Limits the amount of climate pollution from power sources to a standard that modern natural gas power plants can already meet.
- ❖ A facility that proposes to meet the standard by using carbon sequestration (permanently injecting carbon dioxide emissions underground) must provide substantial technical and financial **documentation that the sequestration will actually work**. This is a **technology performance standard**; "offsets" – i.e., reducing an equivalent amount of climate pollution elsewhere – aren't allowed.
- ❖ All renewable energy resources will meet the standard.

## LEGISLATIVE STATUS AS OF MARCH 14, 2007

- ❖ With bipartisan support, SB 6001 passed 35:13 in the Senate on March 10.
- ❖ The bill – now named ESSB 6001 -- has been assigned to the House Committee on Technology, Energy and Communications.

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