



Carbon Fee & Dividend

Contact

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Description

We are part of an international non-partisan organization working for the passage of Carbon Fee and Dividend, a climate change solution that economists and climate scientists say is the “best first-step” to preventing the worst impacts of a warming world. A national, revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend system would place a predictable, steadily rising price on carbon, with all fees collected (minus administrative costs) returned to households as a monthly energy dividend. Studies show that, in just 20 years, such a system could reduce carbon emissions to 50% of 1990 levels while adding 2.8 million jobs to the American economy.

To move this system forward locally, we will take the following steps:

1. Prepare a resolution for endorsement for the City Council to adopt.
2. Schedule an appointment with the Mayor to discuss placing the resolution on the City Council agenda for the next available regular City Council meeting, requesting the inclusion of informational materials in the meeting packet, and asking for 15 minutes to make a presentation and request a motion to adopt the resolution.
3. Prior to the scheduled City Council meeting, contact a supportive City Councilor to make a motion, and another Councilor to second the motion, to adopt the resolution following the presentation.
4. After the resolution has been adopted, CCL members will forward that endorsement to the national database of municipally adopted resolutions (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/endorsements/municipal/>).
5. CCL presenters will also request individual City Council members to personally endorse the CCL proposal.
6. CCL members will request the City's Public Information Officer to communicate the City's action in adopting the resolution, and present information to all City residents on how each person can individually endorse the CCL proposal.

Why it is important:

Three of the six sections of the Corvallis Climate Action Plan (Buildings & Energy, Land Use & Transportation, and Consumption & Waste) include a carbon pricing strategy that states, “Promote policies at the local, state and federal level that implement carbon-based fees or taxes.” The Citizens' Climate Lobby is presenting equitable, research-based federal legislation to charge a fee and return a dividend, to place a price on carbon, and to use the market to direct changes in behavior, resulting in the reduction of the use of carbon-intensive products.

Date Accepted: 09/27/2019

Outcomes:

1. The Corvallis City Council will adopt a resolution endorsing the CCL proposal for a fee and dividend on carbon.
2. Many individuals, including City Councilors and community members, will endorse the CCL proposal.
3. Representative Peter DeFazio will take a position in support of the CCL proposal and work for its passage in Federal legislation.

Measure of Success:

The CCL Proposal (or similar proposal if modified in the legislative process) will pass through the United States Congress and be signed into law. Carbon pricing will begin, and a steady, measurable reduction in atmospheric carbon will occur.

Further information about carbon fee and dividend can be found at the following website:

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/carbon-fee-and-dividend/>.

Timeframe

The Corvallis chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby has conducted regular monthly meetings for several years. Endorsement language and paperwork is ready for presentation to the Corvallis City Council for consideration and adoption.

Funding

No funding is required for this project.

Equity and Accessibility

The effects of climate change disproportionately affect low-income people. Equal monthly dividends (or "rebates") from carbon fees paid to every American household can help ensure that families and individuals can afford the energy they need during the transition to a greenhouse gas-free economy.

Approvals

A resolution adopted by the Corvallis City Council is required. We will request placement on an upcoming City Council agenda, with time allocated to present an overview of information and a request to adopt the resolution.

Community Action Plan (CAP) Objectives

SS1: Sustainable City

Partners

N/A

Date Accepted: 09/27/2019



Which sections of the Climate Action Plan does your Initiative address?

Buildings and Energy Consumption and Waste
Land Use and Transportation

Action Type: Mitigation

What direct impact will your project have on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or preparing community members to adapt to the impacts of climate change (drought, wildfires, flooding, etc.)?

As the cost of carbon-based products go up, consumers will choose lower cost items that are fossil-fuel-free and drive the economy to reduce the use of carbon in all aspects.

Phased-in carbon fees on greenhouse gas emissions (1) are the most efficient, transparent, and enforceable mechanism to drive an effective and fair transition to a domestic-energy economy. They will stimulate investment in alternative-energy technologies, and give all businesses powerful incentives to increase their energy-efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints in order to remain competitive.

Does your project have any co-benefits (e.g. healthy local economy and local self-reliance, energy efficiency and greater energy independence from fossil fuels, sound economic investments, community livability, environmental quality and ecosystem resiliency, public health and well-being, equity and accessibility for low income/disadvantaged community members)?

The measures proposed in this legislation will benefit the economy, human health, the environment, and national security, even without consideration of global temperatures, because of correcting market distortions, reductions in non-greenhouse gas pollutants, reducing the outflow of dollars to oil-producing countries and improvements in the energy security of the United States.

What type of help, if any, do you need from the members of the Climate Action Advisory Board?

In addition to gaining endorsement from the City Council, Mayor, and individual Councilors, the support for the Climate Fee and Dividend Plan would benefit from widespread distribution to residents of the City through the City newsletter and media contacts, requesting all citizens of the City sign on as endorsers and make repeated requests to Congressman Peter DeFazio to support and move this legislation forward.