

2012 WEST COAST ACTION PLAN *on* JOBS



PREAMBLE

THE GOVERNMENTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA,
OREGON AND WASHINGTON,

Pursuant to the *Memorandum to Establish the Pacific Coast Collaborative* of June 2008 to which all are signatories, and as provided for in Article 6;

Affirming our shared vision of Pacific North America as a model of innovation and sustainable living that creates jobs and new economic opportunities for all our citizens, especially at this time of global economic uncertainty;

Recognizing that the Pacific Coast is an emerging West Coast mega-region, bound together by shared geography, infrastructure and the outlook of our citizens, with a combined population of 52 million people and a GDP of \$2.5 trillion, the world's 6th largest economy;

Sharing a priority in each of our jurisdictions at this time of accelerating job creation and creating a business environment that stimulates the development of new markets and investment opportunities;

Desiring to explore and act on opportunities to coordinate action and establish partnerships, to add value and get further results from our individual initiatives by leveraging the power of regional collaboration and sharing best practices;

Understanding that clean economy goods, services and technologies are key components of each of our economies which by conservative estimates now account for at least 508,000 full-time equivalent direct production jobs in the West Coast region – jobs which have shown more resilience to market volatility and have grown on average significantly faster than total jobs in the economy over the last decade;

Noting the substantial documentation of the opportunities to grow clean economy jobs; most recently *The West Coast Clean Economy Report* commissioned by our governments to provide further certainty and to identify and prioritize the opportunities for regional action for maximum effect;

Desiring to act on and realize for our citizens the finding that more than 1,000,000 net new jobs in all jurisdictions coast-wide could be created by 2020 by aligning to accelerate the emergence of the regional clean economy;

Desiring also to take advantage of our unique position in this Pacific Century to grow jobs by increasing our global economic competitiveness, driving innovation, attracting new investment to seize a global clean economy market opportunity centered in the Asia Pacific valued at US\$2.3 trillion by 2020;

Concerned that these ambitions and the economy and jobs in our jurisdictions are also threatened by climate change, including increased frequency of extreme weather; wildfires; flooding; and sea-level rise that pose potentially enormous costs and risks, and may severely strain governments' capacity at all levels to cope and plan for these challenges;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

I. Accelerate Regional Job Creation by Leveraging Energy Efficiency Improvements

Direct our relevant agencies and officials to work together to:

- 1) **Advance innovative financing mechanisms to accelerate energy efficiency improvements by homeowners, working with the private sector to address energy efficiency marketing challenges.**

- a) Work together to promote energy efficiency upgrades including by identifying innovative financing solutions that remove barriers to up-front financing of energy efficiency improvements and allow homeowners to pay for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy upgrades with loan terms that align their payments with bill savings.
 - b) Identify and share best practices to identify program improvements that will accelerate efficiency upgrades and provide lower costs for homeowners, such as quality assurance and certification requirements for contractors, energy disclosure requirements, and online resources that assist homeowners in making informed choices.
- 2) **Address the region's extensive unmet opportunities for efficiency improvements in existing commercial and public building stock to create jobs by investigating and expanding promising models of accelerated investment in broad-scale energy efficiency improvements.**
 - a) Share information on innovative financial mechanisms in each jurisdiction to accelerate broad-scale energy efficiency projects.
 - b) Identify opportunities for regional collaboration and evaluate the feasibility of creating a West Coast Infrastructure Exchange to connect willing investors to energy efficiency infrastructure opportunities.
 - 3) **Drive job creation by expanding efforts of the public sector to lead by example in adopting energy efficient technologies and practices.**
 - a) Implement strategies to move the public building stock towards net zero energy building performance, beginning with a commitment to achieve at least a 20% improvement in energy use by 2020, within the context of programs within each jurisdiction.
 - b) Share best practices on benchmarking, energy disclosure programs, and building operations and maintenance training and education programs.
 - c) Partner with the military, local and regional governments, aboriginal communities, tribal governments, private sector companies, and building owner and manager associations to advance energy efficiency commitments and voluntary programs.
 - 4) **Leverage the West Coast mega-region to advance and promote world-class building, appliance, and equipment standards that drive new market opportunities for innovative goods and services.**
 - a) Work together to accelerate movement towards green building codes and net zero energy buildings by leveraging and working to align the robust initiatives underway in each West Coast jurisdiction.
 - b) Develop regional energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment to lead by example and promote harmonized action by our respective federal governments.

II. Accelerate Regional Job Creation By Leveraging Clean Transportation

Recognizing the opportunities provided by our north-south transportation corridors, especially the Interstate 5 / Pacific Highway corridor, to demonstrate North American and global leadership in advancing clean transportation technologies and infrastructure, and growing manufacturing, research and development jobs in the clean transportation sector, direct our relevant agencies and officials to work together to:

- 1) Accelerate development of the green highway from Baja California to British Columbia (“BC to BC”).

a) Align development of green highway infrastructure, including developing best practices toolkits for communities and businesses and deploying charging/fueling stations from British Columbia to Baja California.

b) Develop coordinated consumer-awareness initiatives such as searchable applications so consumers can locate services, and investigate the feasibility of consumer incentives such as an inter-jurisdictional network of high-occupancy vehicle lanes available to clean vehicles.

c) Make Pacific North America an international Center of Excellence for Intelligent Transportation Systems, focused on deploying information technology to improve transportation system efficiencies and enable more efficient traveler choices.

2) Advance deployment of low-carbon, alternative fuels and clean energy vehicle technologies.

a) Support regional and local investments in low-carbon fuels to create economic advantages, stimulate low-carbon fuel production, and increase access to low-carbon fuels.

b) Explore innovative business mechanisms to stimulate investor confidence and investment in low-carbon fuel facilities.

c) Speed clean energy vehicle entry to the transportation sector by developing programs, such as natural gas programs for ferry service and long-haul trucking, and plug-in electric vehicle programs for the light duty vehicle sector.

d) Develop coordinated customer outreach initiatives to increase customer awareness of clean energy vehicles.

e) Explore opportunities for incentives to allow low-cost financing for purchase or conversion of clean energy vehicles.

3) Identify opportunities to leverage our joint purchasing power and work with fleet managers to drive growth and demand for clean energy vehicles.

a) Support joint purchase of clean energy vehicles for public and private fleets, to drive regional opportunities.

b) Work together to engage other levels of government to optimize access to available incentives.
- III. Protect Jobs and the Economy from Climate Change Risks
- Direct our relevant agencies and officials to continue to work together to:
- 1) Leverage climate science and research to achieve better outcomes for our communities.

a) Encourage sharing of scientific research underway at universities, research centers, and governmental agencies and coordinate identification of priority research topics to support decision-making and minimize overlap and duplication of effort, including the Regional Climate Science Centers, Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments, and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.

b) Provide a common voice of key science priorities, research needs, coordination mechanisms and necessary financial support from the federal governments.

c) Convene a regional climate summit, bringing together government agencies and the academic community, to stimulate

regional dialogue focusing on sea level rise, water supply, wildfires, oceans, infrastructure and other critical resources and sectors. The summit will take account of the most recent scientific findings including the National Academy of Sciences’ sea level rise study; the draft National Climate Assessment for the Pacific Northwest; and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on managing the risks of extreme events and disasters.

d) Take stock of the full range of expertise and capacity both inside and outside government, and recommend appropriate mechanisms for better connecting regional expertise to local areas of need.

2) Enhance our Emergency Management Response and Preparedness.

a) Build on existing disaster preparedness and response agreements such as the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement (PNEMA) and the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (NW Compact), to strengthen Pacific Coast collaboration to prevent, mitigate and lessen the impacts of extreme events. Jurisdiction agencies will identify areas of emergency planning where there are the most significant risks that can benefit from collaborative efforts. We will jointly work with businesses, investors, and insurance industries that serve all four jurisdictions to help them and their customers better prepare for and respond to risks and consequences of climate change.

IV. Results on Jobs

This Action Plan is intended to accelerate job creation in each participating West Coast jurisdiction. We therefore direct our relevant agencies and officials to:

a) Implement a joint mechanism for tracking actions and report results at the next annual Leaders’ Forum of the Pacific Coast Collaborative.

b) Commission, with available resources, the preparation of appropriate additional factual analysis to confirm, identify and secure additional opportunities to accelerate regional job creation through coordinated action.

V. Interpretation

This Action Plan is intended to spur finding new, smart ways for our governments, agencies and staff to work together, and with other governments and non-government partners, as appropriate, to add value, efficiency and effectiveness to existing and future initiatives, and to reduce overlap and duplication of effort, with the objective of reducing, not increasing, resource demands to achieve objectives that are shared.

VI. Limitations

This Action Plan shall have no legal effect; impose no legally binding obligation enforceable in any court of law or other tribunal of any sort, nor create any funding expectation; nor shall our jurisdictions be responsible for the actions of third parties or associates who may participate in activities outlined in this Action Plan.

SIGNED AT VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD ANNUAL LEADERS’ FORUM OF THE PACIFIC COAST COLLABORATIVE, THIS 13TH DAY OF MARCH, 2012.

Original signed by
CHRISTY CLARK
Premier of British Columbia

Original signed by
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor of California

Original signed by
JOHN A. KITZHABER
Governor of Oregon

Original signed by
CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor of Washington