

# Executive Department

State of California

## EXECUTIVE ORDER B-55-18 TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY

**WHEREAS** climate change is causing historic droughts, devastating wildfires, torrential storms, extreme heat, the death of millions of trees, billions of dollars in property damage, and threats to human health and food supplies; and

**WHEREAS** California's forests, agricultural and ranch lands, wetlands, oceans, and other natural and working landscapes define the beauty and well-being of our state, but tragically are suffering increasing degradation caused by changing climate; and

**WHEREAS** California has established ambitious targets to reduce carbon emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

**WHEREAS** nations came together to adopt the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which calls for preventing average global temperatures from rising more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to keep warming below 1.5°C (2.7°F); and

**WHEREAS** California has strong partnerships through the Under2Coalition with more than 200 jurisdictions around the world, representing 1.3 billion people, committing themselves to meeting the Paris Agreement goals and going beyond them wherever possible; and

**WHEREAS** scientists agree that worldwide carbon pollution must start trending downward by 2020, and carbon neutrality—the point at which the removal of carbon pollution from the atmosphere meets or exceeds emissions—must be achieved by midcentury; and

**WHEREAS** the achievement of carbon neutrality will require both significant reductions in carbon pollution and removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, including sequestration in forests, soils, and other natural landscapes; and

**WHEREAS** California's 2017 Climate Scoping Plan charts the steps to achieve the state's greenhouse gas emissions goals, presenting a balanced set of economically viable and technologically feasible actions for carbon reduction; and

**WHEREAS** California has taken the following specific steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- Requiring significant reductions of destructive super pollutants including black carbon and methane;
- Supporting clean transportation to reduce petroleum use 45 percent by 2030;
- Setting a goal of 5 million zero emission vehicles by 2030;
- Proposing to double the reduction in the carbon intensity of fuels through the Low Carbon Fuel Standard by 2030;
- Moving the state to 100 percent clean energy by 2045;
- Requiring the state to double the rate of energy efficiency savings in buildings;
- Extending and improving the state's cap-and-trade program;
- Directing cap-and-trade funds to greenhouse gas reducing programs which benefit disadvantaged communities;
- Developing a Forest Carbon Plan to better manage California's forest land.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.,** Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this Executive Order, effective immediately:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. A new statewide goal is established to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. This goal is in addition to the existing statewide targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. The California Air Resources Board shall work with relevant state agencies to develop a framework for implementation and accounting that tracks progress toward this goal.
3. The California Air Resources Board shall work with relevant state agencies to ensure future Scoping Plans identify and recommend measures to achieve the carbon neutrality goal.
4. The California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Air Resources Board, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture shall include sequestration targets in the Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan consistent with the carbon neutrality goal.
5. All policies and programs undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality shall seek to improve air quality and support the health and economic resiliency of urban and rural communities, particularly low-income and disadvantaged communities.
6. All policies and programs undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality shall be implemented in a manner that supports climate adaptation and biodiversity, including protection of the state's water supply, water quality and native plants and animals.
7. State agencies will engage the support, participation, and partnership of universities, businesses, investors, and communities, as appropriate, to achieve the goals contained in this order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 10th day of September 2018.

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EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State