

# Oregon Board of Forestry Approves Agency's First Climate Change and Carbon Plan

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The Oregon Board of Forestry approved a first-of-its-kind climate plan for the state's forest management agency, marking a transformative shift for forest management in the state.

The plan was developed in response to [Executive Order 20-04](#), which directed state agencies to "prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change and to take actions to encourage carbon sequestration and storage." The plan envisions the Board and Department of Forestry as "national leaders in climate-smart and socially equitable forest policies that promote climate health, resilient forests and watersheds, community wellbeing, and a viable forest products industry." The plan also aims to incorporate principles of equity and environmental justice in agency decision-making, including the requirements of [SCR 17 \(2021\)](#).

By approving the [Climate Change and Carbon Plan](#), the Board signals that continuing business as usual in Oregon's forests amidst changing conditions is unsustainable. Oregonians are already feeling the weight of severe climate change impacts, including heat domes, increasing wildfires and water scarcity for personal or agricultural use. The unanimous vote of approval indicated the Board takes these impacts seriously and acknowledges that Oregon's forests can be a powerful tool to help us take up and store carbon and adapt to climate change.

Advocates with the Oregon Climate Action Plan Coalition are celebrating the plan's approval and are committed to working with the Board, [incoming State Forester Cal Mukumoto](#), and ODF staff to ensure climate and equity considerations are central to all levels of the Department's decision-making. Leaders from the Oregon Climate Action Plan Coalition released the following statements:

"Transforming Oregon's forest practices will markedly improve environmental and climate justice outcomes, especially access to clean water and air," **said Grace Brahler, Oregon Climate Action Plan and Policy Manager for Beyond Toxics.** "The Climate Change and Carbon Plan represents a big step forward for the agency and can make our communities and forests more resilient to climate change."

"The Oregon Department of Forestry's new plan is a critical first step to positioning the state at the forefront of natural climate solutions," **said Lauren Anderson, Oregon Wild's Forest Climate Policy Coordinator.** "Our best near-term option to reduce the future impacts of climate change is to sequester and store more carbon in our forests. Oregon's remaining intact mature temperate rainforests store more carbon per acre than the Amazon rainforest and should be a top climate priority for the state."

More information is available on the [Oregon Department of Forestry's Climate Change page](#). Read the full plan [here](#).