

Journalist's Guide to the AB 32 Scoping Plan

WHAT IS AB 32?

In 2006, the California Legislature passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32), which established the first greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) cap in the country. AB 32 requires California reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The law instructed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and approve a comprehensive, multi-year Scoping Plan that provides a policy roadmap to achieving these reductions.

First approved by CARB in 2008, the Scoping Plan must be updated every five years, as per AB 32, to evaluate the mix of policies that will ensure California meets the 2020 GHG reduction goal. In May 2014, CARB approved the first update, which defined CARB's climate change priorities for the next five years and laid the groundwork to start the transition to the post-2020 goals set forth in Executive Order B-16-2012 (which ordered a 40% reduction of 1990 GHG emissions by 2030) and S-3-05 (which ordered an 80% reduction of 1990 GHG emissions by 2050).

CARB is holding a series of [workshops across the state this fall](#) to gather public input on strategies to achieve emissions reductions for inclusion in the 2030 Scoping Plan.

IS AB 32 WORKING?

California is on target for meeting the 2020 GHG emission reduction goal set out in AB 32. The law includes a suite of policy mechanisms and standards to reduce GHGs including the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Advanced Clean Car Program and cap and trade, all of which are being implemented successfully.

In addition, AB 32 policies have been credited with accelerating innovation and economic growth.

Thriving economy:

- Carbon emissions are declining, while the California economy continues to grow. Between 1990 and 2012, the state cut per-capita carbon emissions by 25 percent even as its GDP increased by 37 percent. (Source: Next 10)
- California created more jobs than any other state last year, and has the fifth-highest GDP growth rate. (Source: *LA Times*)
- California has the second least carbon-intensive economy in the world - meaning the state produces more while emitting less. (Source: Next 10)



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"We believe that the Scoping Plan is an important public health document because it sets the course for steady, strong climate actions that will move California away from polluting energy sources, reduce the risk of public health emergencies and maintain California's leadership on climate change into the future."

Letter from 19 CA health and medical organizations to the California Air Resources Board

[Read full letter here](#)



"AB 32 is helping our state recover from the recession, and is establishing California as a leader in the clean-energy economy."

Laura Reynolds, Communications Workers of America, District 9 and Hawaii. Fernando Losada is the Environmental Health Director for the California Nurses Association.

[Read full article here](#)

- Bloomberg named California the #1 state to do business (March 2015), with companies in the S&P 500 outperforming the rest of the nation, delivering returns 52 percent higher than the nearest competitor. (Source: *Bloomberg*)

Clean & affordable energy:

- If California were its own country, it would be one of the world's [top 10](#) in total renewable energy generation. (Source: Next 10)
- Thanks to California's investment in energy efficiency – the average monthly residential electricity bill has decreased four percent, while industrial bills declined 57 percent in the period between 1990 and 2012. (Source: Next 10)

San Jose Mercury News

“It's exciting to imagine what California's low-income neighborhoods would be like with living-wage jobs, quality housing options, cheaper energy bills and more reliable bus service. This is exactly what we can expect, if these [SB 535] investments are done right.”

Miya Yoshitani is the Executive Director for the Asian Pacific Environmental Network

[Read full article here](#)

Los Angeles Daily News

“It is our moral obligation to stem the tide of suffering experienced by those living on the front lines of climate change...California has already made great strides to protect our air and water and transition to clean energy. We want our leaders to continue these efforts.”

*Rabbi Zoë Klein,
Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles*

[Read full article here](#)

Leading innovation:

- California leads the nation in virtually every cleantech category, from cleantech patents to electric vehicles to green builds to solar capacity. (Source: Next 10, U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index)
- The state attracted HALF of ALL cleantech global venture capital last year - \$5.7 billion. (Source: Next 10)
- California has the largest advanced energy industry in the United States – and it just keeps growing, set to reach 500,000 workers across 40,000 companies in 2015. (Source: AEE Institute)

Improving health and communities:

- Cancer risk from exposure to the state's most significant air toxics has declined 76 percent over a 23-year period, as a direct result of clean air laws. (Source: CARB)
- Air pollution has long been linked to smaller lung capacity and compromised breathing in children. New research has found that the steep decline in air pollution in CA in recent years has led to more robust lung development in school-aged kids – the percentage of children with significantly impaired lung function has been cut in half. (Source: LA Times)
- Cap and trade proceeds topping \$1 billion in 2015/16 are flowing into communities in the form of climate investments, with a minimum of 25% going towards disadvantaged communities.

SOURCES:

- Next 10: <http://next10.org/international>
- LA Times: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-capitol-business-beat-20150323-story.html>
- Bloomberg: <http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2015-03-12/best-state-for-business-yes-california>
- U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index: <http://cleantech.com/indexes/u.s.-clean-tech-leadership-index>
- AEE Institute: <https://www.aee.net/articles/california-has-largest-advanced-energy-industry-in-u-s-with-over-430-000-workersaccording-to-first-ever-state-employment-survey>
- CARB: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/newsrelease.php?id=758>
- LA Times: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-clean-air-lungs-children-20150304-story.html>

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE



“AB32...is creating jobs and tackling climate change. Because of it, our air quality is improving, and we’re creating and maintaining quality jobs. California has created more than 15,000 new family-sustaining union jobs over the past five years in the utility-scale solar sector alone.”

William J. Perez is the secretary-business manager of the Riverside/San Bernardino Building and Construction Trades Council

[Read full article here](#)

AB 32 Scoping Plan – Expert Availability

Adrienne Alvord

The scientists and engineers that make up the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) develop and implement innovative, practical solutions to some of our planet’s most pressing problems. As UCS’s California and Western States Director, Adrienne is working to ensure Californians, and all Americans, transition to a clean energy and fuels economy that reduces global warming, promotes equitable economic growth and improves public health in western states.

CONTACT:

**Adrienne Alvord, AAlvord@ucsusa.org
Phone: (510) 229-0923**

Martha Dina Arguello

Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) advocates for policies and practices that improve public health, eliminate environmental threats and address health inequalities. Martha is the Executive Director of PSR-LA and a recognized leader of California’s environmental health movement who has served in the non-profit sector as an advocate, community organizer and coalition builder for 32 years.

CONTACT:

**Martha Dina Arguello, marguello@psr-la.org
Phone: (310) 261-0073**

Shannon Baker-Branstetter

Consumers Union is the policy and action division of *Consumer Reports*. The organization works to pass consumer protection laws in states and in Congress. Shannon has served as Policy Counsel for Consumers Union’s Washington, D.C. office since 2009, where she handles clean energy and climate change policy, toxics regulatory reform and safe drinking water issues.

CONTACT:

**Shannon Baker-Branstetter,
sbaker-branstetter@consumer.org
Phone: (571) 225-8128**

Scott Hauge & Hank Ryan

Small Business California is a proactive, non-partisan business advocacy organization whose only agenda is the well-being of California small businesses. Small Business California’s Founder and President, Scott Hauge, is a leading advocate with expertise in how to best protect and serve small and medium-sized businesses. He is president and owner of CAL Insurance & Associates and is currently a member of over 20 boards and commissions in San Francisco and California.

A Small Business California Board member and founder of several successful small businesses, Hank Ryan has represented California small business interests in the California Public Utility Commission Energy Efficiency proceedings since 2004 and served on the AB32 Global Warming Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee (ETAAC) panel from 2007-2010, representing small businesses.

CONTACT:

**Scott Hauge: shauge@cal-insure.com
Phone: (415) 680-2109
Hank Ryan: hryan@smallbusinesscalifornia.org
Phone: (510) 459-9683**

Bonnie Holmes-Gen

The American Lung Association in California recognizes that climate change is among the greatest threats to public health we will face this century. That’s why the American Lung Association in California has been organizing health leaders in support of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) and strong clean air and climate policies for the past decade. As Senior Director, Air Quality and Climate, Bonnie works with lung association staff and volunteers to lead the association’s efforts to reduce climate pollution from our cars, trucks and energy sources, thereby reducing the impacts to our air and bringing multiple public health benefits.

CONTACTS:

**Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Bonnie.Holmes-Gen@lung.org
Phone: (916) 396-9997
Bo Smith, Bo.Smith@lung.org
Phone: (310) 359-6386**

Bill Magavern

Coalition for Clean Air (CCA) works to make sure that California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions benefit all of our residents and improve air quality, especially for those communities that suffer the most from air pollution and climate change. CCA led the campaign to pass into law SB 535 (De León, 2012) which dedicates some of the AB 32 auction proceeds to reducing pollution, creating jobs and improving services in California's disadvantaged communities. Bill is Policy Director for the CCA. He advocated for the passage of AB 32 in 2006 and has been involved in its implementation since then.

CONTACT:

Bill Magavern, bill@ccair.org
Phone: (916) 214-0065

Mike Mielke

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) is a public policy business trade organization representing more than 390 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers. SVLG members collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley and contribute more than \$3 trillion to the worldwide economy. As the organization's Senior Vice President, Environment & Energy, Mike works to advance state and federal policy specifically related to climate change mitigation and adaptation; corporate environmental sustainability; water quality, supply and governance; and hazardous and solid waste.

CONTACT:

Mike Mielke, mmielke@svlg.org
Phone: (202) 607-1064

Alvaro Sanchez

The Greenlining Institute is a policy, research, organizing and leadership institute working for racial and economic justice by addressing a variety of policy issues. As the Environmental Equity Director, Alvaro leads Greenlining's work on SB 535 (de León), which directs at least one quarter of CA's Climate Investments to disadvantaged communities, and leads the organization's neighborhood-scale sustainability initiative.

CONTACT:

Alvaro Sanchez, alvaros@greenlining.org
Phone: (510) 926-4018

Rev. Will Scott

California Interfaith Power & Light (CIPL) is a statewide network of more than 650 congregations committed to addressing climate change as a moral issue. CIPL activates California congregations to be faithful stewards of creation by promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy while actively encouraging the passage of strong energy and climate legislation in California. Will, an Episcopal priest who has worked in multicultural and interfaith contexts for over a decade, is Program Director at CIPL.

CONTACT:

Will Scott, will@interfaithpower.org
Phone: (415) 987-3029

Mari Rose Taruc

The Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) brings together a collective voice to develop an alternative agenda for environmental, social and economic justice, building towards equitable and sustainable communities and increased opportunities for low-income people. Among her many responsibilities as State Organizing Director, Mari Rose convenes the statewide Asian Pacific American Climate Coalition.

CONTACT:

Mari Rose Taruc, marirose@apen4ej.org
Phone: 510-258-1878

JB Tengco

The BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) unites America's largest labor unions and its most influential environmental organizations to identify ways today's environmental challenges can create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. The BGA's efforts center on the immediate need to develop common sense solutions to our environmental challenges in a way that creates and maintains quality, family-sustaining jobs across the economy. JB is the West Coast Director for the BGA.

CONTACT:

JB Tengco, jtengco@bluegreenalliance.org
Phone: (650) 400-4610

Vien Truong

Green for All is a national initiative working to build a green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. Their goal is to build resilient and healthy communities by ensuring that people of color have both a place and a voice in the climate movement. By bringing conversations about climate change to those whose lives are most impacted by it, Green for All seeks to amplify voices that are often left out. Vien is the National Director of Green for All, leading the organization in its efforts for an inclusive climate movement.

CONTACT:

Vien Truong, vien@dreamcorps.us
Phone: (510) 967-7783

Derek Walker

EDF is one of the world's largest environmental organizations, with more than one million members and a staff of 500 scientists, economists, policy experts, and other professionals around the world. Derek is Associate Vice President in the Global Climate program at EDF, leading EDF's work on California's AB 32 for much of the past decade, and is an expert in climate and clean energy policy.

CONTACT:

Derek Walker, dbwalker@edf.org
Phone: (410) 980-0939