



## A Climate Recovery Ordinance: Good for Corvallis businesses and our city's economy



If Corvallis and the rest of the world do not take effective, enforceable, up-to-date science-based action, how will major climate disruption affect Corvallis businesses?

The cumulative effects of climate change described below are *Bad for Business*:

- More frequent and intense wildfires depress property values, increase our tax burden for fire suppression and push up insurance premiums.
- More burned-over hiking and mountain biking areas are a drag on local businesses supported by outdoor recreation.
- Long-term water shortages cause higher rates and scarcity that are expensive and bad for businesses including agriculture, farming, ranching, wineries, and breweries.
- Prolonged smoke exposure increases the risk of respiratory diseases, such as asthma and emphysema, which leads to significantly increased health care costs. Additionally, smoke degrades our beautiful skies, and makes Corvallis a less attractive destination.
- Reduced snowpack causes many establishments, such as retail, lodging, restaurants, and bars, to suffer when skiing conditions are poor to non-existent.
- Drought and low river levels have negative consequences on water recreation, such as boating, floating, kayaking, swimming, and related recreation and tourism businesses.
- Warmer water will kill salmon and trout and destroy fish habitat, greatly reducing recreational fishing.
- Health problems related to increased levels of ozone and ragweed exposure make Corvallis a less desirable place to live.

How will a climate recovery ordinance that seeks meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions be *good for our local economy and businesses*?

Taking the initiative to address climate change is *Good for Business*:

- Bottom line savings on heating, lighting, phantom energy loads, and hot water expenses are good for businesses.
- Renewable energy creates more jobs than conventional energy sources.<sup>1</sup>
- Cities that prioritize sustainable energy practices are more competitive - they attract investors, new businesses, and a skilled workforce.
- More efficient homes and offices means citizens have more disposable income - that's more money to invest in the local economy.
- Reducing GHG emissions improves air quality, increasing a city's liveability.
- A healthier local workforce means fewer illnesses and lost work days, lower risk of serious diseases like cancer, and ultimately a more productive workforce.
- Sustainability initiatives provide local businesses a "niche" to fill - many local businesses benefit from labeling products as locally-sourced, free-trade, or organic.
- Mitigation policies often go hand-in-hand with housing affordability.
- GHG reductions coincide with reductions in other pollutants and litter, increasing the health of streams and local natural areas.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, Dollars from Sense, The Economic Benefits of Renewable Energy (1997), available at: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/legosti/fy97/20505.pdf>

