
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Senator Allen, Chair

2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No: SB 1145
Author: Laird
Version: 3/1/2022
Urgency: No
Consultant: Eric Walters

Hearing Date: 3/28/2022
Fiscal: Yes

SUBJECT: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: greenhouse gas emissions: dashboard

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to create and maintain a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission dashboard to provide the public information regarding how the state is progressing towards meeting its climate goals.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Air Resources Board (ARB) as the air pollution control agency in California and requires ARB, among other things, to control emissions from a wide array of mobile sources and coordinate, encourage, and review the efforts of all levels of government as they affect air quality. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §39500 et seq.)
- 2) Requires, under the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (also known as AB 32), ARB to (1) determine the 1990 statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions level and approve a statewide GHG emissions limit that is equivalent to that level to be achieved by 2020; (2) ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level by December 31, 2030 (i.e., SB 32); and (3) adopt regulations, until December 31, 2030, that utilize market-based compliance mechanisms to reduce GHG emissions (i.e., the cap-and-trade program). (HSC §38500 et seq.)
- 3) Requires ARB to inventory sources of air pollution within the air basins of the state and determine the kinds and quantity of air pollutants, as specified, and further directs ARB to:
 - a) Consider at least the contribution of natural sources, mobile sources, and area sources of emissions; and
 - b) Make available on its website the emissions of GHGs, criteria air pollutants, and toxic air contaminants throughout the state broken down to

a local and subcounty level for stationary sources and to at least a county level for mobile sources. (HSC §39607)

This bill requires ARB to create and maintain on its website a GHG emissions dashboard that provides updated publicly available information regarding how the state is progressing toward meeting its statewide climate change goals.

Background

- 1) *ARB's GHG inventory.* Since 2007 (and prior to that, under the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission), ARB has been statutorily required to maintain an inventory of GHG emissions in the state. California's annual statewide GHG emission inventory is an important tool for establishing historical emission trends and tracking California's progress in reducing GHGs.

The inventory provides estimates of anthropogenic GHG emissions within California, specifically emissions from fossil fuel combustion (including combustion for imported power), GHGs generated as by-product of chemical reactions in industrial processes, use of GHG-containing consumer products and human-made chemicals, and emissions from agricultural and waste sector operations. Natural sources are not included in the inventory; wildfire and other natural and working lands emissions are tracked separately.

In order to give time to collect and process the data, the GHG inventory data available is generally from two to three years prior. For example, the most current data currently accessible is for 2019, which was released in July 2021. Much of the data is collected pursuant to the Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of GHG Emissions (MRR). MRR requires facilities and entities with more than 10,000 metric tons CO₂e per year of combustion and process emissions, all facilities belonging to certain industries, and all electricity importers to submit an annual GHG emissions data report directly to ARB. Reports from facilities and entities that emit more than 25,000 metric tons of CO₂e per year are verified by an ARB-accredited third-party verification body. It is estimated that MRR covers roughly 80% of the state's total emissions.

- 2) *GHG inventory trends.* Alongside the release of the latest GHG inventory data, ARB also published a 33-page report titled California Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2000 to 2019: Trends of Emissions and Other Indicators. This report breaks down trends in GHG emissions, compares them to economic and demographic indicators (such as population and gross domestic product), identifies specific sectors and sub-sectors, and addresses other data-quality and

standardization practices.

- 3) *Low Carbon Fuel Standard Data Dashboard*. The only so-called dashboard on ARB's website is for the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). In contrast to the GHG inventory page, the LCFS Data Dashboard is simply a collection of 11 figures, with captions, that display measures of LCFS program operations without further explanation or context.
- 4) *Emissions Gap Report*. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) releases an annual Emissions Gap Report to provide an update on global progress towards reducing emissions and updated targets to avoid the worst effects of climate change if 1.5 °C is exceeded. In their 2020 report, they make several recommendations for global climate policy to ensure a safe climate future for all. The consensus is that, globally, we are currently not on track to reduce emissions in a timely manner. Under current unconditional commitments from the Paris Agreement, temperatures are expected to rise by 3.2 °C. The report warns that unless global GHG emissions fall by 7.6% each year between 2020 and 2030, the world will miss the opportunity to get on track towards the 1.5 °C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. The global level of ambition for GHG emissions reductions must be roughly tripled for a 2 °C pathway and increased at least fivefold for the 1.5 °C pathway.
- 5) *Next 10's California Green Innovation Index report*. Next 10, a non-partisan non-profit, publishes a report annually that details California's GHG emissions and progress towards goals. For the first time since Next 10 began producing the Index in 2008, the 13th annual California Green Innovation Index in 2021 was primarily digital, allowing readers to learn and interact with the findings of the report in a new medium.

In notable contrast to ARB's GHG emission inventory reports, Next 10 highlights the arduous path ahead to achieving California's climate goals. For example, a press release alongside the release of the latest report stated, "Total greenhouse gas emissions dropped 1.6% between 2018 and 2019—the second largest percentage decrease since 2010. Yet this achievement falls far short of what is needed to comply with California's mandate to cut emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. California must now sustain a 4.3% annual decrease through 2030—a reduction that is more than 2.5 times greater than was achieved in 2019... California needs to achieve sustained reductions on a scale we have never come close to. It's really a major test of our climate leadership."

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, “Senate Bill 1145 directs the California Air Resources Board to create and maintain a greenhouse gas emissions dashboard that shows how the state is progressing toward meeting its statewide climate change goals.

“As California continues to fight climate change to create more resilient communities and build an inclusive, greener economy, we must do so equitably. Climate change impacts all of our communities, and measuring our state’s progress will better guide how we continue to make these investments and expand opportunities to strengthen California.”

- 2) *What’s a dashboard?* The term “dashboard” does not currently appear in the Health and Safety Code. Webster’s dictionary defines “dashboard” as “a graphical report (as on a website) of various data relevant to a particular business, group, etc.” It is unclear in what way a dashboard is more useful to the public than the existing information presented on ARB’s website, or what exactly the author hopes to highlight that is not readily available.

Given the use of the phrase “how the state is progressing toward meeting its statewide climate change goals,” and the preponderance of evidence that the state is far from on track to meeting those goals, the desired product may be something more akin to the UNEP Emissions Gap Report described above. Instead of the more retrospective analysis that the GHG Emissions Inventory provides, a forward-looking projection of how close currently enacted policies would get us to achieving our statewide climate goals could provide helpful, sobering context. Either way, this bill is a work in progress and more specificity and direction will be needed to ensure the author’s intent can be realized.

Going forward, the author should expound upon what he intends ARB to include in this dashboard, particularly with regards to what is not already available through the GHG emissions inventory page and linked reports on their website.

Related/Prior Legislation

SOURCE: Author

SUPPORT:

350 Silicon Valley

OPPOSITION:

None received

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