



A Carbon Tax in [Your State]?

What is a Carbon Tax?

A carbon tax is a fee imposed on the burning of carbon-based fuels (coal, oil, gas). More to the point: a carbon tax is the core policy for reducing and eventually eliminating the use of fossil fuels whose combustion is destabilizing and destroying our climate.

Carbon taxes are the surest, simplest and fairest way to make users of carbon fuels pay for the climate damage they cause. If set high enough, it becomes a powerful monetary disincentive that motivates switches to clean energy across the economy, simply by making it more economically rewarding to move to wind, sunlight and energy efficiency.

Why a Carbon Tax?

Only a steadily rising and transparent fee on fossil fuels can unleash the investments, innovations and attitudinal changes that will rapidly push the U.S. and other countries away from fossil fuels. The artificial marketplace advantage of unpriced pollution has helped lodge fossil fuels deeply into our economic system and social structures, making it hard to incentivize the swift action on climate change the world desperately needs. Carbon taxes will make every alternative to fossil fuels more profitable, appealing and viable: from investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy to riding your bike to work.

Why State Carbon Taxes Matter More Than Ever

A carbon tax in one or more states will create facts on the ground that can appeal to Left and Right alike and upend the climate policy stalemate. Moreover, campaigns for state carbon taxes educate the public and advance the idea on the policy map. These steps will lay the ground for a national carbon tax, once the denialists have been swept from the White House and Congress.

Who supports a carbon tax?

Scientists, economists, business leaders, and millions of citizens support carbon taxing as the fastest and fairest policy to stop climate change. CTC's [Supporters](#) page and [Polls](#) page have all the info.

Why a Carbon Tax in ... ?



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MD?

- Low industrial-sector emissions
- A liberal citizenry and legislature
- #9 among 50 states in per-capita solar PV
- Experience with carbon pricing through participation in a regional carbon-pricing system

IL?

- Citizens and legislature are liberal-to-very-liberal and supportive on climate issues
- State ranks #4 in polling support for a carbon tax (just below 50%)

NY?

- Very low industrial-sector emissions
- Very liberal citizenry
- Legislature is generally supportive on climate issues
- #2 ranking among 50 states in polling support for carbon taxes
- Experience with carbon pricing through participation in a regional carbon-pricing system

HI?

- Low industrial-sector emissions
- Very liberal citizenry and legislature
- #1 among 50 states in per-capita solar PV
- Excellent opportunities for renewable power in general
- Carbon taxes have polled above 50%

MA?

- Very low industrial-sector emissions
- Very liberal citizenry and legislature
- Strong voter climate concern
- #5 among 50 states in per-capita solar PV
- Strong and well-crafted carbon tax measures are advancing in both houses of the legislature
- Experience with carbon pricing through participation in a regional carbon-pricing system

CT?

- Low industrial-sector emissions
- Climate-concerned legislature and citizenry
- A carbon tax bill has been introduced in the legislature
- Experience with carbon pricing through participation in a regional carbon-pricing system

DC?

- Citizens are very liberal and climate-supportive
- Carbon taxes have polled above 50%
- Relatively high solar PV
- Ballot measure option available
- Active carbon tax campaign underway

WA?

- Low industrial-sector emissions
- Citizens and legislature are liberal and fairly concerned about climate
- Fielded first U.S. carbon tax ballot measure last fall
- Ongoing efforts for carbon tax legislation by popular governor, members of the legislature and



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strong citizens organizations