Subnational leadership -- The Yukon to Mexico

How Washington State became a climate leader, a case study.

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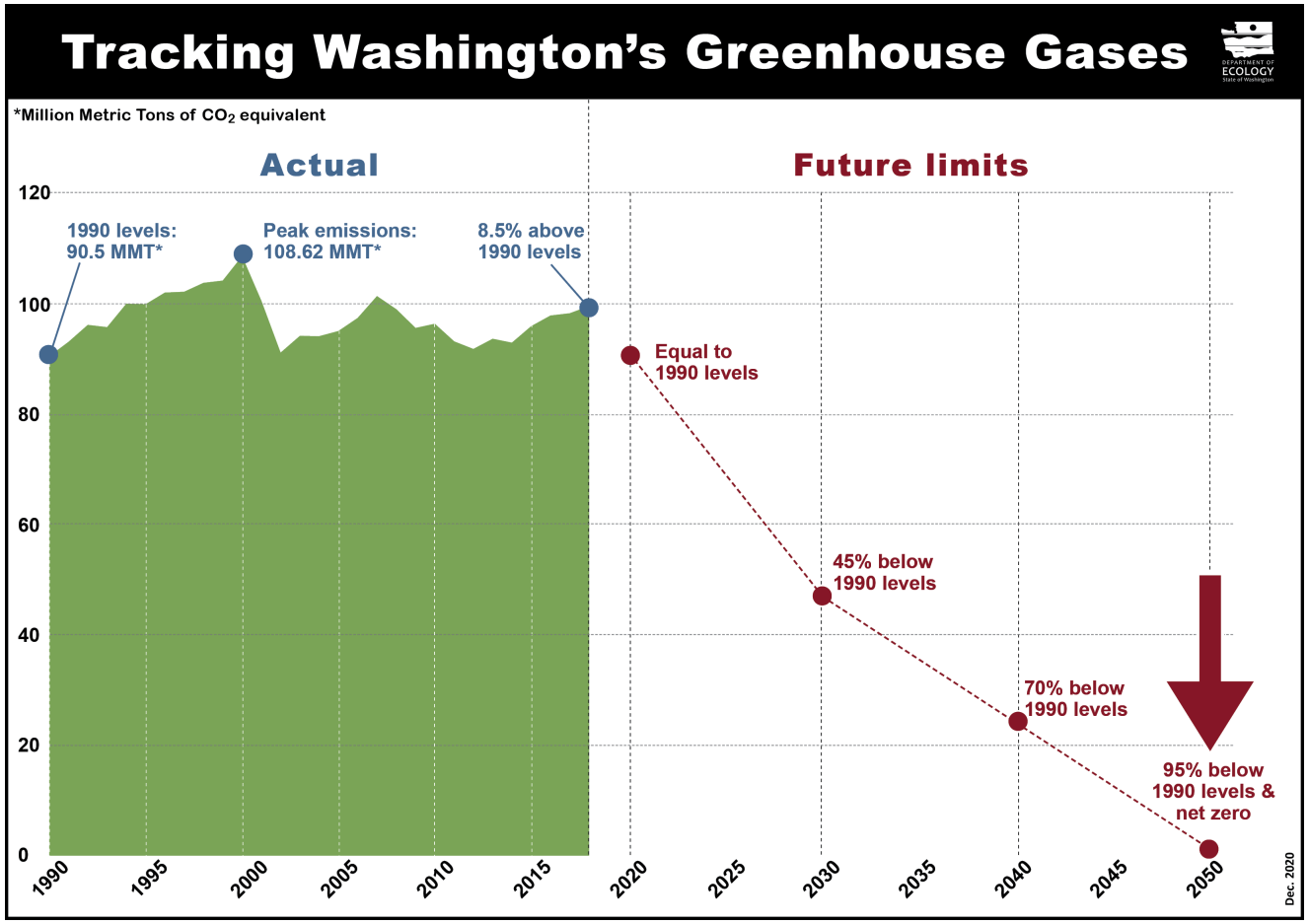
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Washington's emissions targets

- Washington's statutory greenhouse gas limits were updated during the 2020 legislative session:
  - 2020: Reach 1990 levels
  - 2030: 45% below 1990 levels
  - 2040: 70% below 1990 levels
  - 2050: 95% below 1990 levels, achieve net zero emissions



Total statewide emissions

- To meet 2030 targets and achieve net zero by 2050, Washington must reduce emissions more aggressively in multiple sectors.
- Statewide emissions increased by 8% from 2012-2018.
- Reducing emissions must be economically responsible; sensitive to costs and impacts; unique to Washington; embedded with environmental justice principles; and conform to regulatory oversight.

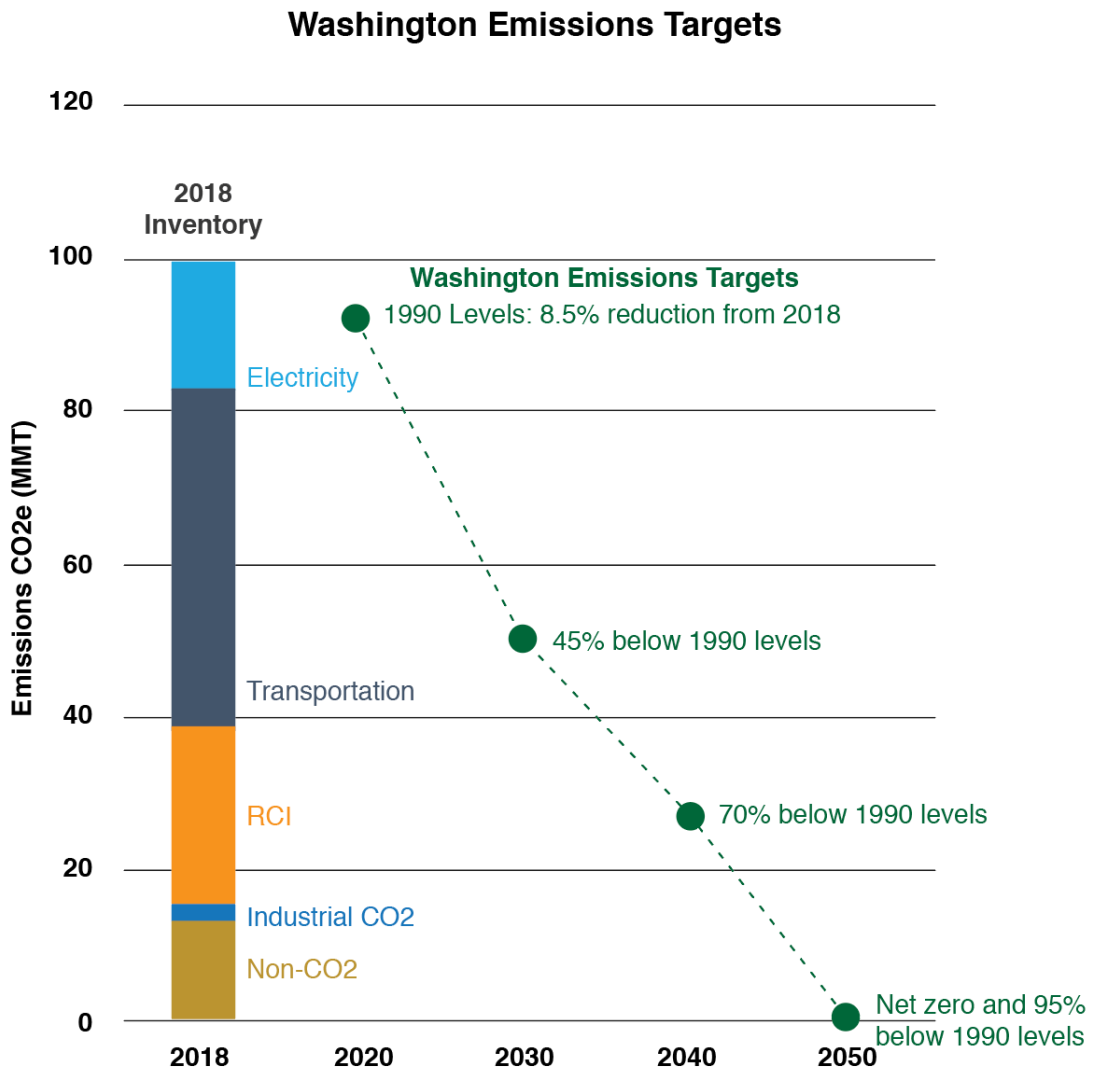
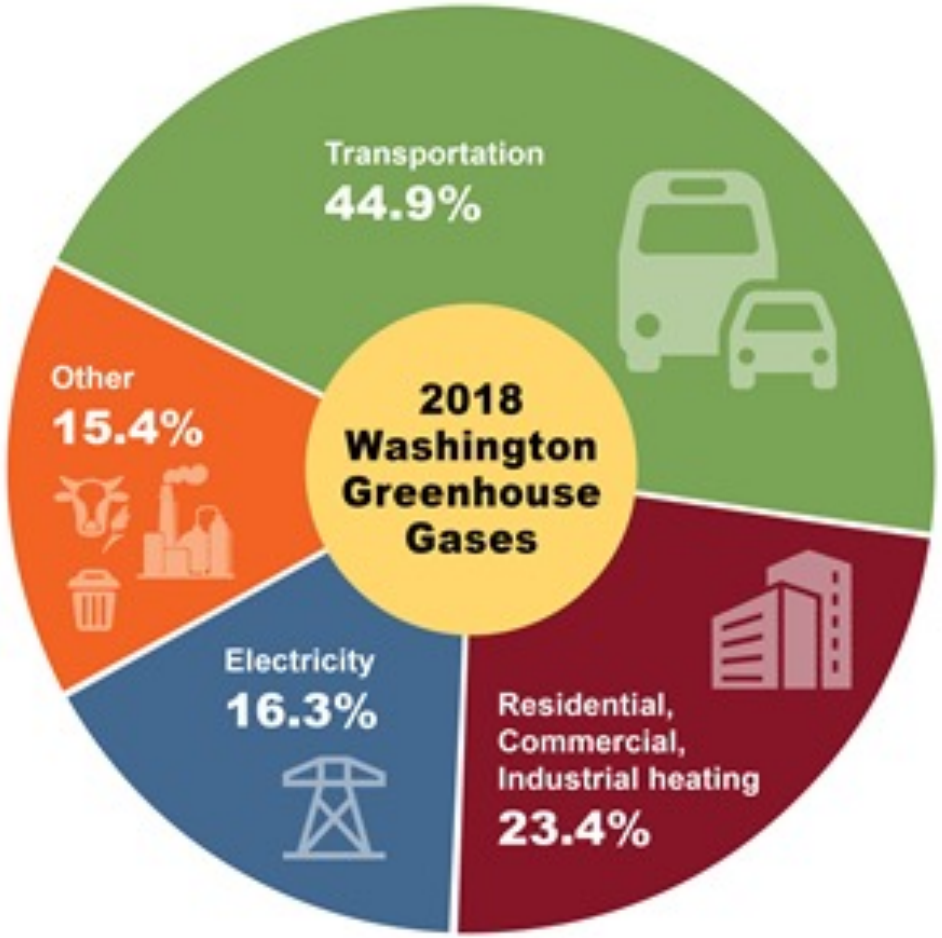
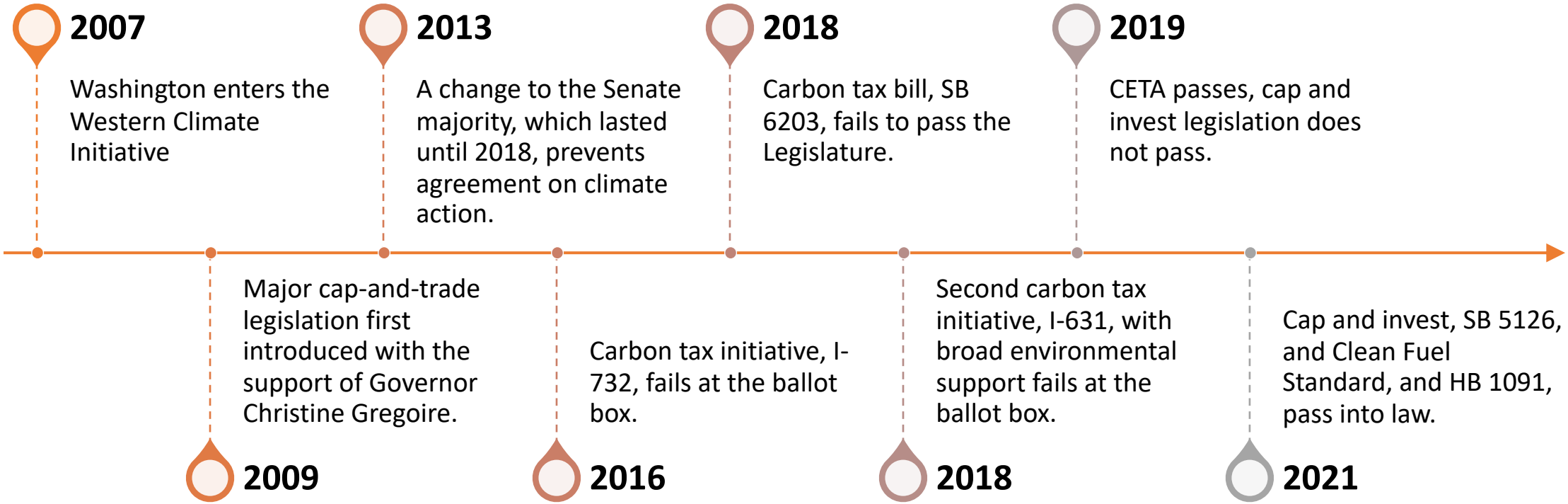


Image Source: Governor's Office

Sources of Washington greenhouse gases in 2018



The long journey to achieve lasting climate action



Washington embraced its role as a climate champion

- In 2018, Democrats retook the Senate majority.
- From 2019 through 2021, Washington has achieved a series of historic policies to reduce emissions throughout the economy.
- With the Climate Commitment Act, Washington is now the only state in the nation with a **binding, enforceable** commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

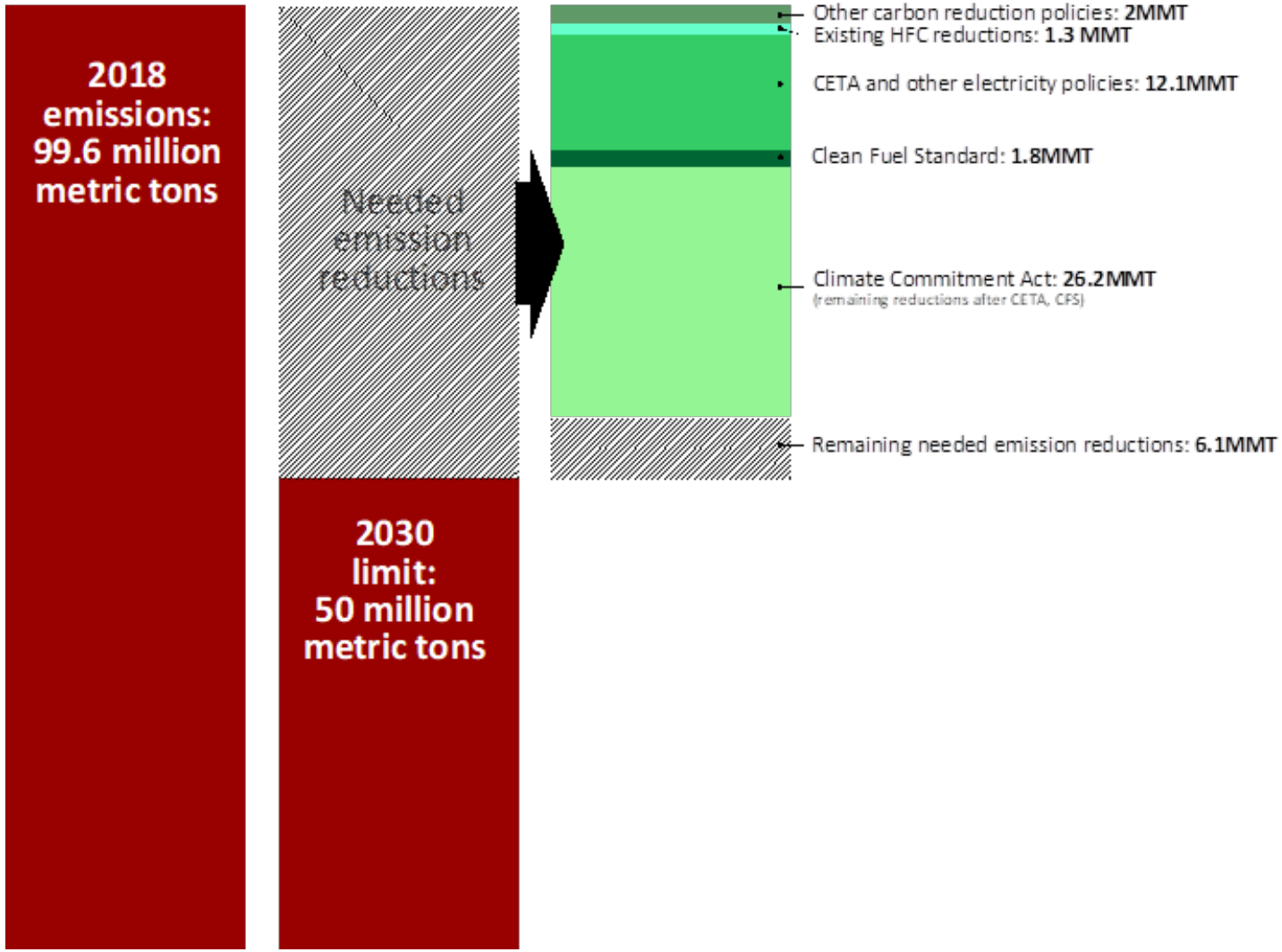
A strategic, complementary policy vision

- Since 2019, the Washington State Legislature placed **strategic and policy emphasis** on different industries each legislative session.
- 2019 was focused on **sector-specific policies** to compel emissions reductions in the most carbon intensive sectors. Highlights included 100% clean energy legislation, clean buildings, appliance efficiency, hydrofluorocarbons, and clean transportation investments.
- 2020 set the stage for the following year, as the Legislature revised the state statutory greenhouse gas targets.
- The Legislature built on its momentum in 2021, passing comprehensive cap and invest legislation, innovative environmental justice standards, and a Clean Fuel Standard.

Major policies for each significant source of emissions

- **Cap and invest**
  - The Climate Commitment Act (SB 5126 in 2021) establishes a comprehensive, multi-sector cap and invest program to achieve the statutory statewide emissions limits for 2030, 2040, and 2050.
- **Electricity**
  - The Clean Energy Transformation Act (Senate Bill 5116 in 2019) requires electric utilities to eliminate coal by 2025, become carbon neutral by 2030, and 100% clean energy by 2045.
- **Buildings and appliances**
  - House Bill 1257 from 2019 requires the Commerce Department to establish an energy performance standard for existing large commercial buildings, beginning with the largest buildings in 2026.
  - House Bill 1444 from 2019 adopts efficiency standards for certain appliance types where substitutes are readily available and the timeframe in which reduced energy costs exceed amount of investment is brief.
- **Transportation**
  - HB 1091 from 2021 directs the Washington State Department of Ecology to establish a Clean Fuels Program, which will limit greenhouse gas emissions per unit of transportation fuel energy to 10 percent below 2017 levels by 2028 and 20 percent below 2017 levels by 2038.

Washington's path to achieve its 2030 targets



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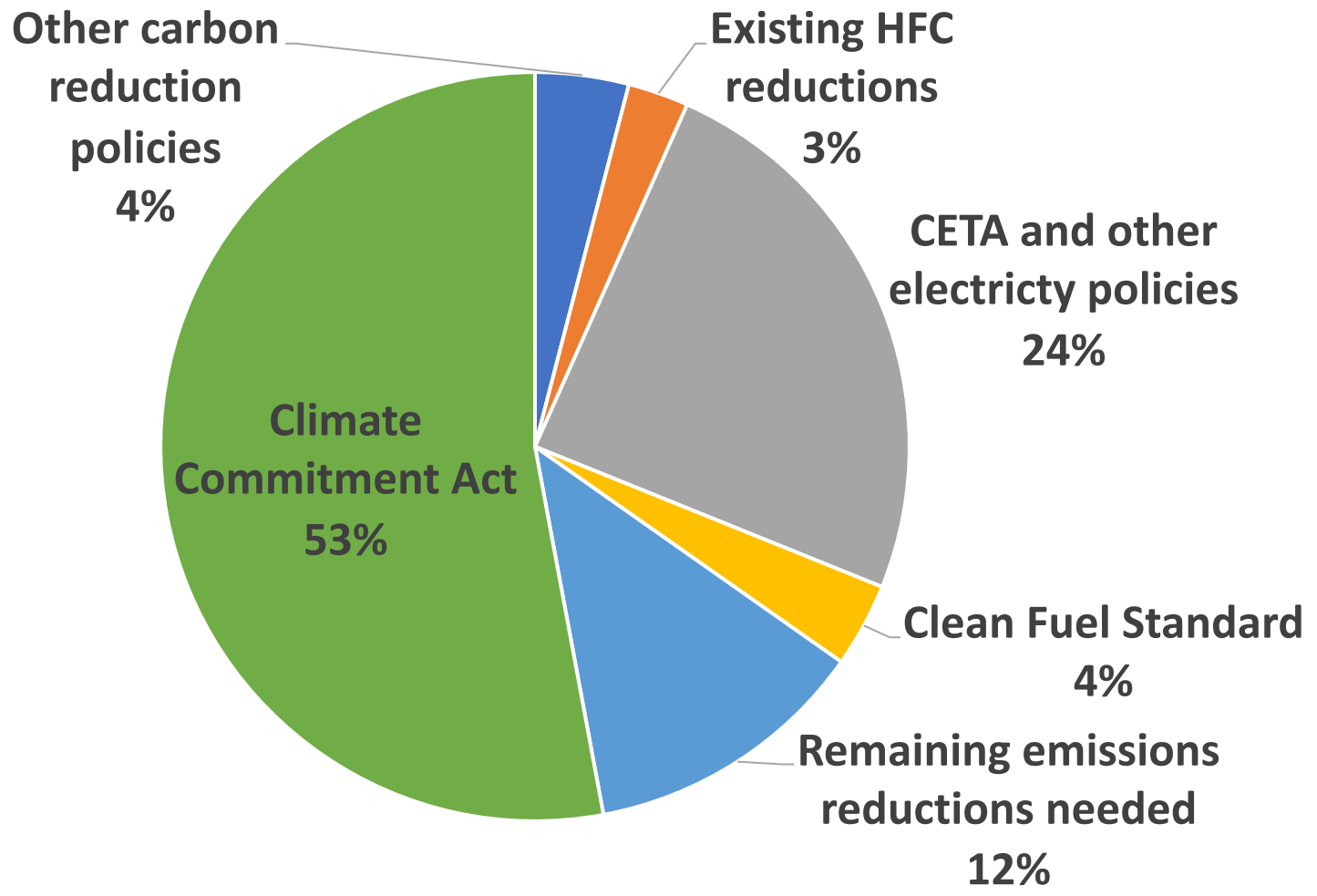


2019 legislative session

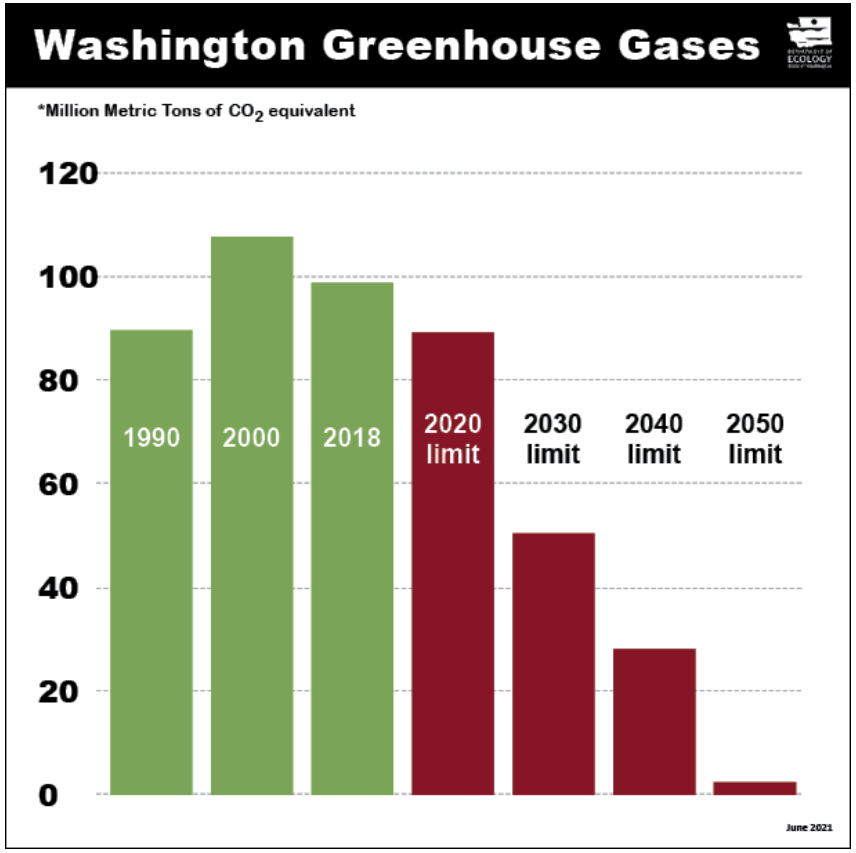
In 2019, the Legislature pursued a sector specific approach

- 100% clean energy
- Energy efficiency in buildings and appliances
- Reducing super pollutants (Hydrofluorocarbons or HFCs)
- Electrifying transportation

2020 legislative session

Revised Washington's emissions targets

- **House Bill 2311** updated Washington's statuary greenhouse gas targets to reflect science-based estimates:
  - 2020: Reach 1990 levels
  - 2030: 45% below 1990 levels
  - 2040: 70% below 1990 levels
  - 2050: 95% below 1990 levels, achieve net zero emissions
- HB 2311 did not compel any reductions on its own. Changing the statutory limits set the stage for 2021.



Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) standards

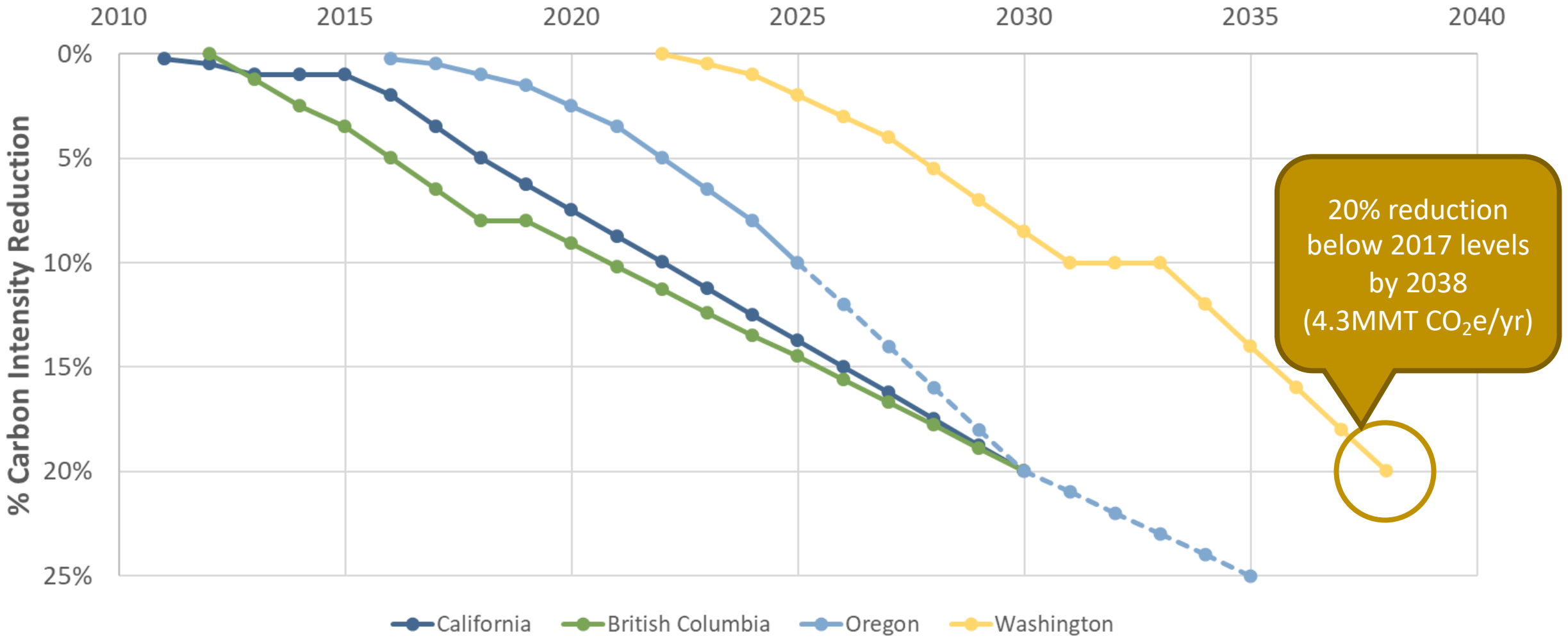
- **SB 5811** directs Ecology to adopt rules to implement California vehicle emissions standards, including the zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) program.
- Ecology began rulemaking to adopt new ZEV standards in June 2021.
- The requirements will take effect in 2024, with the release of model year 2025 vehicles.

2021 legislative session

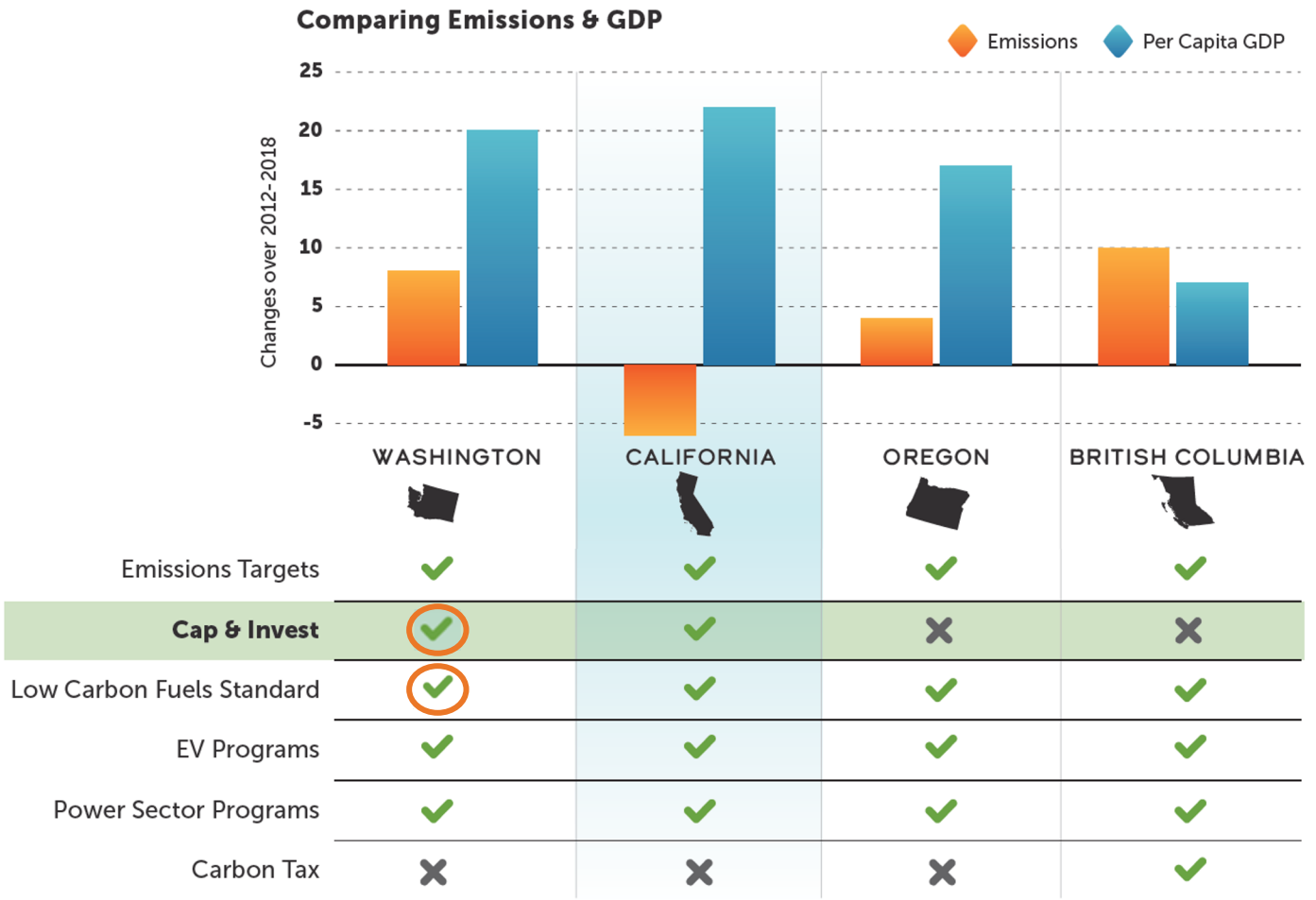
A ‘Grand Bargain’ that links climate, transportation, EJ and jobs

- **Climate Commitment Act** — SB 5126 creates a cap and invest program to place enforceable limits on emissions and generate investments in climate and transportation projects.
- **Clean Fuels Program** — HB 1091 requires transportation fuel producers to reduce the carbon intensity of fuels by 20% below 2017 levels by 2038.
- **The HEAL Act** — SB 5141 embeds environmental justice principles in state agencies.
- **Forward Washington** — Transportation revenue package (Hobbs) invests in fish culverts, multimodal, clean transportation and more. *(Not enacted in 2021 session)*

Clean Fuel Standard Comparison



Washington built on California's example



Incorporating EJ into government structures, policies, and systems

- Embed EJ in Strategic Plans
  - Agencies shall make achieving EJ part of their strategic plans in order to integrate EJ into agencies' protocols and processes.
- Dedicated EJ Staff in State Agencies
  - Agencies will have at least one staff position dedicated to integrating EJ principles specifically, and equity more broadly, into agency action
- Incorporate EJ in State Environmental Laws
  - Environmental and natural resource state agencies should consider EJ in developing agency request legislation, analyzing bills during legislative session, and conducting rule reviews.
- HEAL EJ Council integrated into CCA rulemaking, implementation and investment program development.

Lessons learned

Key takeaways

- **Washington built momentum** each legislative session.
  - CETA provided a pathway forward for legislators to replicate on large climate policies.
- **Authentic relationship building** with stakeholders paid dividends.
  - Crucial to the passage of the Climate Commitment Act was a historic partnership between business, labor, environmental groups, and tribes.
- A relentless focus on **evidence-based best practices** built confidence with legislators, stakeholder, and the public.
  - From appliance standards to cap and invest, Washington learned from California's example and other carbon reduction policies around the world.
- Incorporating **environmental justice** is central to success.
  - The Climate Commitment Act's innovative air quality standards will ensure all communities benefit from the clean energy transition.

Thank you!

Tim Zenk