



## Talking Points in Action



# Cap and Trade: Challenging common oppositional messages

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### SNAPSHOT:

**Jobs?** Clean energy and infrastructure investment creates more and better jobs than in dirty energy—jobs that can't be outsourced.

**Economic security?** We spend billions every year to import expensive, dirty fuels. By auctioning emissions permits we can invest more of those energy dollars locally—in efficiency, infrastructure, and clean technology.

**Competitive edge?** Every step we take toward efficiency and renewable technology speeds our economic recovery and puts our state at an advantage in a fast-growing clean-energy economy.

***Opponents of fair climate policy say: "Energy costs from auctioned permits are going to hurt low-income families."***

### Don't be fooled!

- Unstable energy prices are whiplashing family budgets. Low-income families get hit hardest by volatile fossil fuel prices—and they're the most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- Free permits equate to windfall profits for big polluters at the expense of consumers.
- Auctioned cap-and-trade permits put the interests of people ahead of the interests of polluters by returning dollars spent on energy directly back into families' bank accounts and investing in stable energy sources that a local workforce produces here at home.

***Opponents of fair climate policy say: “Climate policy puts our state at a competitive disadvantage.”***

**Don't be fooled!**

- The energy economy of the next decades is not fossil fuel based. And the transition is happening now. We have a responsibility to local families and workers to put our state ahead of the curve and build a clean energy economy right here at home.
- Fair, effective climate policy allows us to shift away from expensive and volatile fossil fuels and positions us to compete in the fast-growing global market for clean technology.

***Opponents of fair climate policy say: “Our economy is too fragile to think about environmental issues.”***

**Don't be fooled!**

- More than ever, our economy needs a boost. The growing green economy can deliver tremendous opportunities for our state—if we get started right away. Investments we make today help our families and communities recover and position us as leaders as the nation and the world move to a clean energy economy.
- Families and businesses in our communities will suffer from high prices and financial insecurity unless we aggressively reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by capping dangerous fossil fuel pollution and investing in clean, domestic alternatives.

***Opponents of fair climate policy say: “Climate policies will drive jobs out of our region.”***

**Don't be fooled!**

- The clean energy transition is on its way and our state can't afford to wait around. We have the ingenuity and the know-how—and a ready workforce. By leading the change, we can attract good green jobs to our communities.
- We owe it to the residents of the state to get a head start on the road to energy independence, build a stable clean energy economy, and put our workers ahead of the curve when it comes to clean energy jobs. Investment in clean energy and infrastructure creates more and better jobs than continued investment in dirty energy—both in the short and long term.

***Opponents of fair climate policy say: “We should wait for a national program.”***

**Don't be fooled!**

- Every step we take in the state today towards a strong clean-energy economy puts our families and businesses at an advantage when national policy to cut carbon emissions is adopted. The states that don't act now will be more susceptible to higher energy prices because they won't have become more energy efficient and they'll have to buy technological innovations from states—like California—that took early action.
- Why wait to boost our economy and create jobs by investing in the energy efficiency of our buildings, transportation, and electricity infrastructure, as well as rapid deployment of clean renewable energy technologies such as wind, solar, and advanced biofuels?

***Opponents of fair climate policy say: “A carbon tax is simpler.”***

**That's not enough.**

There's no substitute for a solid cap on climate warming pollution. A cap—with no loopholes or leaks—is a solid backstop or guardrail behind all our other climate policies. It's the only guarantee that we'll reach our targets.