

Environmental Justice Council

Date: September 28, 2023

To: Environmental Justice Council

From: Jonathan Chen, Council Climate Justice Advisor

Subject: Climate Commitment Act Committee's Draft Statement on Linkage

Background

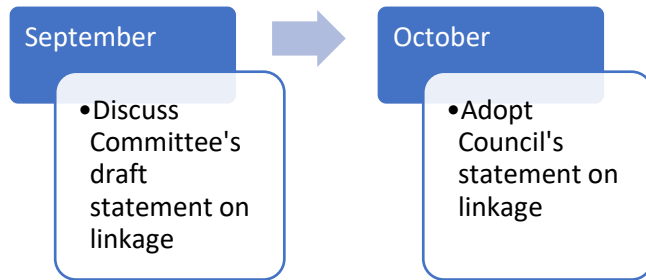
The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is exploring whether to link Washington's Cap-and-Invest program to carbon market programs in California and Quebec (linkage) as described in [RCW 70A.65.060\(3\)](#) and [RCW 70A.65.210](#). The Climate Commitment Act Committee (Committee) has been analyzing the potential impacts of linkage on overburdened communities and vulnerable populations. The Committee prepared itself to fully consider this issue by hosting a presentation on linkage made by Ecology on 4/13/23, hosting subsequent meetings with Ecology for them to respond to the Committee's questions on 6/8/23 and 9/14/23, hosting an informational presentation by Dr. Leah Stokes and Dr. Matto Mildenberger about carbon markets and linkage on 7/13/23, receiving analysis of linkage from Danny Cullenward, and receiving analysis of the public health impacts of linkage from Dr. Jonathan London and Dr. Lara Cushing (please refer to the Council's [7/27/23 meeting materials](#) for more information). In addition, the Council hosted a presentation on linkage made by Ecology on 7/25/23 ([this recording](#) includes that presentation).

Discussion

The Committee has written a draft statement for the Council's recommendation that Washington not link at this time. Committee Chair David Mendoza along with Councilmember Running Grass will provide some brief background and then lead today's discussion. The goal today is for Councilmembers to understand linkage and the rationale for the Committee's draft statement. This discussion is preparation for the Council's plan to adopt a final recommendation during the October meeting (see timeline below).

To help with our discussion today, please review the Committee’s draft statement on linkage in the supplemental meeting materials, and prepare any questions and/or comments to bring up.

Council Meeting Timeline



Staff Contact

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