

ENVIRONS

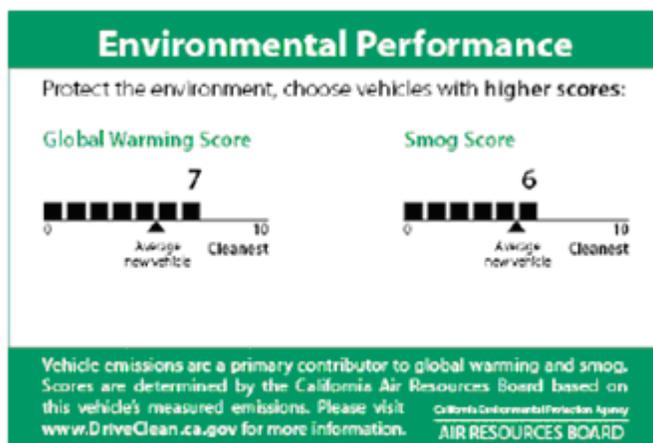
Washington Legislature Passes Tailpipe Emission Disclosure Bill 03/05/08

Breaking Developments In Environmental Law

The first of a series of measures intended to address climate change in Washington passed the legislature and will be sent to Governor Christine Gregoire for signature. The bill, SB 6309, would require all new passenger cars, light duty trucks and medium duty passenger vehicles sold in Washington to have a label disclosing comparative greenhouse emissions. The labeling requirement would take effect beginning with the model year 2010 vehicles.

The measure requires that the label contain “quantitative and graphical information presented in a continuous, easy-to-read scale” comparing the particular vehicle’s greenhouse gas emissions with those of the average projected greenhouse gas emissions from all light duty trucks, passenger cars and medium duty passenger vehicles of the same model year, plus a rating for the greenhouse gas emissions for the vehicle of the same model year with the lowest emissions.

The Washington measure is similar to legislation adopted by California in 2005 and, in fact, provides that a label complying with California’s labeling requirements is sufficient. The California label, shown below, is scheduled to be placed on new vehicles in that state beginning October 1, 2008.



In addition to the vehicle emissions labeling, the Washington legislature also has adopted a comprehensive climate change bill, HB 2815, that provides for participation in a regional market-based cap and trade program, reporting greenhouse gas emissions, development of

statewide goals for reducing vehicle miles traveled, and establishing an initiative to increase the number of clean energy sector jobs in the state. The legislature also is considering a measure that provides for the Department of Ecology to make recommendations for specific climate change research, preparation and adaptation along with creating an office of state climatologist at the University of Washington to provide information for drought preparedness and extreme weather conditions. A fourth pending climate change measure would address incorporating mitigation and adaptation to climate change into Growth Management Act considerations.

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