



Putting the Brakes on Global Warming

FEEBATES: Cutting Global Warming Pollution from Vehicles

California Climate Choices

A Fact Sheet of the Union of Concerned Scientists

Transportation is California's #1 Source of Global Warming Pollution

The cars and trucks that Californians drive emit more global warming pollution than any other source in the state, contributing roughly 40% of all emissions. If global warming continues at its current rate, California will face a sharp rise in extreme heat, a less reliable water supply, and decreased air quality—which would have a significant detrimental impact on public health and our economy. Fortunately, the most severe consequences of global warming can be avoided if emissions are reduced in time.

Now is the Time to Act

In 2008, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will be considering sweeping changes as it develops the **Scoping Plan** of climate policies and regulations for **AB 32**—California's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act, and tackles important new rules to clean up the state's diesel trucks.

The U.S. EPA and the automobile industry are continuing their efforts to prevent California and 14 other states from reducing emissions of global warming pollution from cars and trucks sold in those states. We must continue to stand up to the auto industry as well as take all appropriate action to get the 'waiver' so California can finally implement the landmark vehicle emissions law passed in 2002. Additionally, we need to support complementary policies to gain further reductions and put ourselves on a pathway to solving the climate crisis.

Making Cleaner Cars More Affordable

California can significantly reduce global warming pollution by making cleaner cars and trucks more affordable. A Clean Car Discount program, often called a 'FEEBATES' program, does that by providing one-time rebates on the purchase of new cars, trucks and SUVs that emit relatively low levels of global warming pollution. The rebates could be funded by automaker surcharges on high-polluting, gas-guzzling new vehicles.

UCS engineers calculate that a Clean Car Discount program, in conjunction with California's global warming standards for vehicles, can reduce global warming pollution from the tailpipe of new vehicles by an additional 21 percent.

How a Clean Car Discount Program Works

If CARB includes a 'FEEBATES' program in the Scoping Plan for AB 32 and such a program is ultimately enacted, Californians could be able to receive rebates of as much as \$2,500 on the purchase of clean cars, pickups, and SUVs. The amount of the rebate is based on how much global warming pollution the vehicle emits—the less pollution, the higher the rebate.

A well-designed feebates program would ensure that a significant portion of vehicles, including many family-oriented minivans and smaller SUVs, would continue to be available without a surcharge. Yet, new gas-guzzling vehicles that emit high levels of global warming pollution would likely have surcharges of up to \$2,500 imposed on the auto manufacturer. The program would adjust each year and is designed to be self-financing.

The feebates program should also compliment the state's efforts to improve air quality and ensure that no loss of emissions benefits occurs for any criteria pollutant as the result of any particular program design option.

Clean Car Discounts Can Benefit Lower-Income Californians

Many lower and moderate income residents who buy new vehicles will benefit from a feebates program because the less expensive new cars and trucks, on average, receive the greatest rebates. And cleaner vehicles will help reduce our over-reliance on petroleum fuel while saving consumers money at the gas pump.

Median Retail Price of New Vehicles

Those earning rebates = \$21,155

Those w/o rebate or surcharge = \$30,805

Those assigned a surcharge = \$35,754

Support Grows for Clean Car Discount

According to a 2006 poll, 60 percent of registered voters supported a feebates program, with an overwhelming majority from every region, income level, and political affiliation indicating support.¹ A 2008 poll saw support for feebates rise to 66 percent.²

¹ Fairbanks, Maslin, Maullin, and Associates, 2006

² Mineta Transportation Institute, 2008



Clean Car Discount (Feebates) Endorsers (as of 05-16-2008)

Environmental

- African American Environmentalist Association
- American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- Amigos de los Rios
- Audubon California
- California Coastal Coalition
- California League of Conservation Voters
- California Native Plant Society
- Central Valley Air Quality Coalition Legislative Committee
- Clean Air Now
- Clean Power Campaign
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Earth Day Los Angeles
- Earthjustice
- Energy Independence Now
- Environment California
- Environmental Defense Center
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Environmental Working Group
- Friends of the Earth / Bluewater Network
- KyotoUSA
- National Hispanic Environmental Council
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Planning and Conservation League
- Sierra Club California
- San Diego Audubon Society
- San Diego Environmental Foundation
- Steven and Michele Kirsch Foundation
- Transportation and Land Use Coalition

Environmental Justice

- Communities for a Better Environment
- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- Mujeres de la Tierra
- Pacoima Beautiful

Public Health and Science

- American Lung Association of California
- Breast Cancer Fund
- Breathe California
- California Medical Association
- California Science Teachers Association (CSTA)
- California Thoracic Society
- Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma
- Our Children's Earth
- Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles
- Physicians for Social Responsibility – SF Bay Area
- Regional Asthma Management/Prevention Initiative
- Union of Concerned Scientists

Faith-Based

- California Interfaith Power and Light
- Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) of Southern California
- The Interfaith Environmental Council (Los Angeles)
- Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment

Labor

- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO (AFSCME)
- South Bay Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Consumer

- California Public Interest Research Group
- Consumer Action
- Consumer Federation of California
- Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
- Consumers Union
- Latino Issues Forum

Business

- Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR)
- Better World Club
- Better World Group
- California Climate Coalition
- CA Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition
- Conserv Fuel
- Environmental Entrepreneurs
- EV Rental Cars
- New Voice of Business
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Sempra Energy (SoCal Gas Company/SDG&E)
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- Working Assets

Political

- Congresswoman Hilda Solis
- Democracy for America–Marin
- Democracy for America–Orange County
- Democratic Club of Claremont
- Democratic Club of the Pasadena Foothills
- Democratic Party of Orange County
- Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV)
- Environmental Caucus of the CA Democratic Party
- Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club
- La Cañada Democratic Club
- Los Angeles County Democratic Party
- Julie Ruelas, Mayor of San Fernando, CA
- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
- Northeast Democratic Club
- Republicans for Environmental Protection
- Sacramento for Democracy
- San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee
- San Fernando Valley Mexican American Political Association (SFVMAPA)
- San Fernando Valley Young Democrats
- USC College Democrats
- Valley Democrats United

Public Sector

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Calif. Air Pollution Control Officers Assoc. (CAPCOA)
- City of Baldwin Park
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- South Coast Air Quality Management District