

# Assembly Bill 378

## Climate Equity Act

Assemblymembers C. Garcia, Holden, and E. Garcia.

### PROBLEM

California's landmark climate change law, AB 32, required the Air Resources Board (ARB) to develop regulations and authorized market mechanisms to reduce California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by the year of 2020. SB 32 requires an additional 40 percent reduction by 2030. As the state prepares a comprehensive strategy to achieve the 2030 target, questions have been raised about the most effective and equitable approach, the role of market mechanisms like cap and trade or a carbon tax and how best to support clean air, sustain economic growth, and improve outcomes for disadvantaged communities.

### Solution

AB 378 emphasizes principles of accountability and equity as California continues its efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. Specifically, AB 378 requires the ARB to account for the social costs of GHG emissions. AB 378 also authorizes the ARB to continue using a carbon-pricing market mechanism to meet the statewide greenhouse gas reduction target established by SB 32, while adhering to principles that address equity issues that still persist in California's disadvantaged communities. AB 378 also requires the ARB, in meeting the SB 32 target, to adopt an effective and equitable mix of measures, and ensure that these measures support achieving air quality and other public health goals.

### BACKGROUND

AB 32 required the ARB to adopt a statewide GHG emissions limit equivalent to 1990 levels by 2020 and adopt regulations to achieve maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emission reductions. AB 32 also authorized ARB to adopt the cap and trade regulation, which is in effect through 2020.

2016 legislation (SB 32 and AB 197) further requires ARB to ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030, prioritize direct emission reductions, and consider social costs when adopting regulations to meet the 2030 limit.

### STATUS

INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> - TO BE HEARD IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.

### SUPPORT

American Lung Association  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
California Environmental Justice Alliance  
California League of Conservation Voters  
California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition  
Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment  
Clean Energy Fuels  
Coalition for Clean Air  
Environment California  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Greenlining Institute  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NextGen Climate America  
Public Advocates  
State Building and Construction Trades Council  
Union of Concerned Scientists

### OPPOSITION

### CONTACT

**Mandi Strella**  
[Mandi.Strella@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Mandi.Strella@asm.ca.gov)  
Office of Assemblymember Garcia  
916-319-2058