

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVES

Developed by National Teach-In Staff and Professor Eban Goodstein
(Madeline Kovacs, Maryl Kunkel, Lara Messersmith-Glavin, Sara Sutter)

These are a set of suggested questions for Teach-In participants to ask Oregon legislative representatives. While we encourage you to come up with your own as well, these questions may be helpful when thinking through what to ask.

Oregon Climate Dialogue

1. Governor Kulongoski has signed on to the Western Climate Initiative. What steps has the legislature taken to support the climate initiative? Do you think these steps are aggressive enough to combat global warming? What more can be done?
2. Currently, is there any proposed legislation to make residential energy efficiency projects financially viable for low-income households? How does this work?
3. In 2006 Governor Kulongoski established a goal of 100% renewable electricity use for state government. Do you know at what percent we are today? How will 100% be achieved? Are you taking any personal action to support this goal?
4. Governor Kulongoski adopted a goal for Oregon to arrest the growth of green house gas emissions by 2010, reduce the green house gas emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, and to reduce them to levels 75% below 1990 emissions by 2050. Now that we are only a year away from 2010, how have you supported measures that will meet this goal? How will this goal be further met during the 2009 legislative session?
5. What is the Business Energy Tax Credit program? In what ways can it be made more efficient to support large-scale energy efficiency investments by businesses?
6. What is your stance on new coal fired power plants and new nuclear power plants? Senate Bill 603 proposes Oregon would build no new “dirty” coal power plants, requiring that new power sources must be as clean as natural gas plants. Do you support this bill?
7. Have you personally begun to witness any changes where you live due to global warming? How has climate change impacted you so far?
8. How do you respond to industries that suggest that we have to choose between jobs and clean energy? How has the Oregon legislature supported developing green jobs and a new workforce?