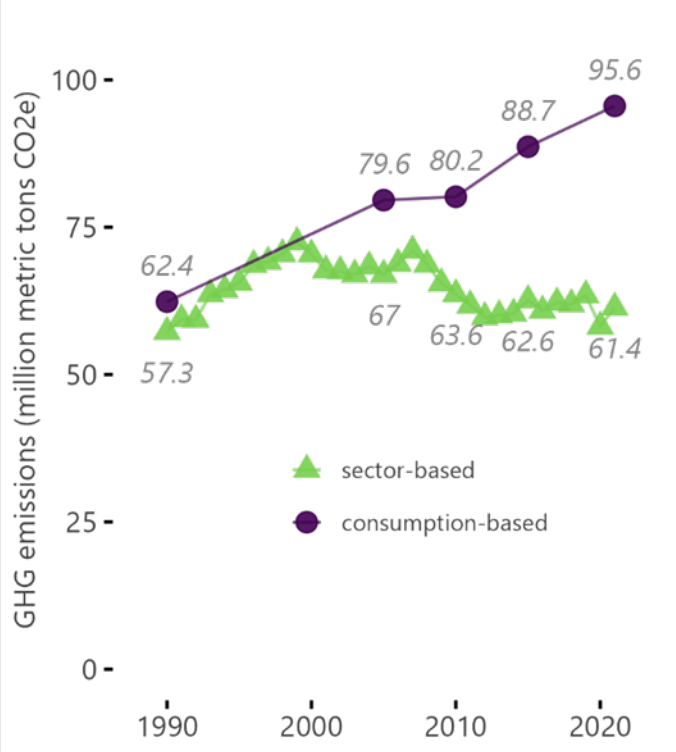




Executive Summary

Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Caused by Oregon's Consumption

Figure ES-1. Oregon's consumption- and sector-based emissions, 1990-2021



Oregon's response to the crisis of global warming shows two starkly different trends from 1990-2021, depending on the method used to account for greenhouse gas emissions.

The State has made notable progress on its **sector-based emissions**, which are the emissions arising *within the state's borders* plus those linked to imported electricity. In 2021, these emissions were down 15% from their peak in 1999.

At the same time, the *global* emissions that Oregonians caused via their consumption of materials, energy and services rose dramatically, overwhelming the reductions in sector-based emissions. In 2021, these **consumption-based emissions** were up 53% from their 1990 values.

Comparing the two measurements shows that Oregon has not reduced its emissions overall – our global carbon footprint has grown much faster than reductions in in-state emissions.

Potential Solutions

While consumption-based accounting reveals that Oregon contributes to emissions occurring around the world, it also uncovers new opportunities to reduce emissions. Because greenhouse gases ignore borders, **the people of Oregon will benefit from reductions in emissions no matter where those reductions occur.**

This report quantifies Oregon's consumption-based emissions and estimates the potential of diverse actions for reducing those emissions. It finds significant opportunities to reduce consumption-based emissions in:

- Existing state and federal policies focused on transportation and electrical generation.
- Enhanced "smart growth" policies encouraging walkable and accessible communities.
- Improved standards and methods in construction materials for buildings and infrastructure.
- Consumption of sustainably produced, lower-carbon foods; and
- Product stewardship approaches that engage producers, bolster competitiveness of Oregon businesses, and remove existing barriers to low-carbon consumption options.

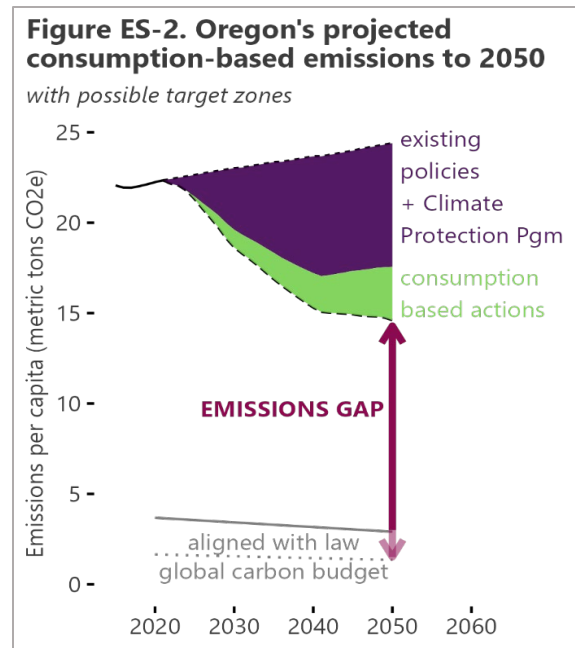
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This report finds that:

- Many actions that reduce consumption-based emissions also save money for Oregon consumers and businesses.
- Reductions in consumption-based emissions can also lead to additional environmental and social benefits. Lower-carbon diets and walkable communities improve health outcomes. Walkable neighborhoods, which align with smart growth strategies, reduce emissions and are broadly viewed as desirable places to live.
- Consumption-based GHG policies can reduce emissions while benefitting those most vulnerable to climate change.



Looking Ahead: 2050 and the Emissions Gap

- Even with numerous new actions in effect, projected 2050 emissions remain well above levels necessary to avoid extreme climate impacts.
- The range between projected 2050 values and possible target values is Oregon's "emissions gap."
- Closing the emissions gap will require systemic changes beyond the scope of this report – and may further improve quality of everyday life of those living in Oregon.

Recommendations

Consumption-based emissions are a large part of Oregon's contribution to the crisis of climate change. To reduce these emissions Oregon should:

- Adopt a consumption-based emissions goal.
- Update the State's consumption-based emissions inventory on a more regular basis.
- Take targeted actions to reduce consumption-based emissions.

More information

To read more about the Consumption-based Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Oregon, [please visit our website](https://www.deq.oregon.gov/Climate/Pages/Consumption-based-GHG-Emissions-Inventory-for-Oregon.aspx) at: tinyurl.com/OR-DEQ-CBE.

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