

U.S. STATES WITH BINDING, ECONOMY-WIDE CLIMATE TARGETS

State	Target Year	Economy-Wide Target	Legal Foundation
California	2020	Reduce to 1990 levels	2006 statute
	2030	40% below 1990 levels	2016 statute
	2045	85% below 1990 levels	2022 statute
	2045	Carbon neutrality & net-negative GHG emissions thereafter	2022 statute
Colorado	2025	26% below 2005 levels	2019 statute
	2030	50% below 2005 levels	2019 statute
	2035	65% below 2005 levels	2023 statute
	2040	75% below 2005 levels	2023 statute
	2045	90% below 2005 levels	2023 statute
	2050	Net-zero GHG emissions	2023 statute
Maine	2030	45% below 1990 levels	2019 statute
	2050	80% below 1990 levels	2019 statute
Maryland	2031	60% below 2006 levels	2022 statute
	2045	Net-zero GHG emissions	2022 statute
Massachusetts	2030	50% below 1990 levels	2021 statute
	2040	75% below 1990 levels	2021 statute
	2050	85% below 1990 levels	2021 statute
	2050	Net-zero GHG emissions	2021 statute
New Jersey	2050	80% below 2006 levels	2019 statute
New York	2030	40% below 1990 levels	2019 statute
	2050	85% below 1990 levels	2019 statute
	2050	Net-zero GHG emissions	2019 statute

Rhode Island*	2020	10% below 1990 levels	2021 statute
	2030	45% below 1990 levels	2021 statute
	2040	80% below 1990 levels	2021 statute
	2050	Net-zero GHG emissions	2021 statute
Vermont	2025	26% below 2005 levels	2020 statute
	2030	40% below 1990 levels	2020 statute
	2050	80% below 1990 levels	2020 statute
Washington	2030	45% below 1990 levels	2020 statute & 2021 statute
	2040	70% below 1990 levels	2020 statute & 2021 statute
	2050	95% below 1990 levels	2020 statute & 2021 statute

*While Rhode Island does not include clear requirements on emitters or direct specific regulatory agencies to promulgate regulation, the legislation includes an enforceability provision.

Economy-wide climate targets across the country vary with respect to their enforceability. Some states have set statutory targets through the legislature with concrete mandates to achieve the reductions, while others have set targets through executive action. Some targets are **binding** — meaning they are both set in statute and place requirements on emitters or direct regulatory agencies to promulgate regulations on emissions — while others are **non-binding** and don't include a clear directive to adopt regulations that will reduce emissions.

For example, New York's 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to promulgate rules and regulations that ensure compliance with the targets established in the statute.¹ Meanwhile, Minnesota passed legislation in 2007 to set climate targets.² While that legislation requires the development of a climate change action plan and directs the state to develop a regional approach to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it stops short of directing any agencies to put regulations in place that would secure the reduction targets. Despite having statutory targets in place since 2007, today Minnesota is far from meeting its emission reduction goals.

The table above details binding state commitments to economy-wide GHG emission reduction targets. Binding commitments refer to statutory reduction targets that are accompanied by a mandatory directive to an agency to develop comprehensive implementing regulations to achieve the necessary reductions.

Note that this table only includes commitments to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions — sector-specific commitments are not included.

¹ See <https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2019/S6599>.

² See <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/216H.02>.

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