

DAN LEAHY

FOR STATE ASSEMBLY

"A new voice, a better choice."

Environment and Energy

OVERVIEW

Climate Change

We need to continue working on the implementation of AB 32, landmark legislation to fight global warming. Reducing the harmful effects of climate change should be a priority for the State.

Creation of a Green Economy

We can create good jobs and rebuild our manufacturing industries in California. By some estimates hundreds of thousands of jobs will be created in education and training of a green workforce, the manufacturing, deployment and maintenance of green infrastructure.

THE PROBLEM

Climate Change

California and the world face serious problems when it comes to climate change. This crisis has been highlighted in recent years by the wildfires that have burned millions of acres all over the state. It is known that climate change is playing a significant role in the how much damage is caused, how fast the fires spread and how difficult it is to contain.

Energy Demand Outpaces Supply

California's population has grown steadily over the last few decades. This increase in population is putting strain on an already over burdened electrical grid. Development of additional energy sources has not kept pace with our ever increasing demand.

Transportation Gridlock Causes Pollution

Californians spend millions of hours annually in bumper to bumper gridlock while commuting to work. While cars are idling in traffic they are spewing harmful greenhouse gasses. Outdated highway construction and other structural barriers increase the hours we spend in gridlock every year.

Urban Sprawl Threatens Our Environment

Cities and counties often lack long-term planning that is necessary to address the problems with unchecked sprawl. Urban sprawl costs localities billions of dollars to construct new roads, sewers, power lines and schools. Because most developments do not provide the resources for the additional police and fire protection, most communities end up stretching already thin resources jeopardizing our safety.

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MY PLAN

Carbon Neutral State Government

I would require State departments to become carbon neutral by 2020. I would implement an incremental offset program that would begin in 2012 by requiring a 20% carbon offset, 40% by 2014, 60% by 2016, and 80% by 2018 to ensure we meet our neutrality goal by 2020. I would also work to convert State vehicles and equipment using diesel to bio-diesel and procure a hybrid fleet of cars and trucks.

"Decouple" Utility Profits

By removing the incentive to sell more energy, Utility companies can promote energy conservation and clean energy and still be assured of the ability to be profitable. To further accelerate the transition to clean energy, I would establish a Public Energy Fund to help move us towards clean energy.

Protecting Open Spaces

I will protect open spaces like the Folsom Lake Recreation Area and the American River Parkway from development. I am against the selling off of public lands for private development.

Renewable Fuel Standard and Production of "Freedom Fuels"

I would establish a program to award grants and low-interest loans to companies establishing or expanding freedom fuel production. Establishing a renewable fuel standard and expanding the amount renewable fuel sources being used, we can reduce our dependency on foreign sources of energy and oil.

Green Building Standards

The State of California has made good progress in setting standards for new state-owned building construction. We need to complete an energy audit on every state owned building and reconstruct them as necessary to make them as efficient as possible. We can also provide incentives to the private sector to adopt green standards for their buildings.

Partner with Cities for Smart Growth Planning

The State should help counties develop Smart Growth plans assessing the needs of communities and how smart growth will achieve those goals. We can also meet those goals by providing incentives for infill development and expanding Transit Oriented Developments. We can further promote Smart Growth with tax credits to developers that meet certain building requirements.

A Clean Technology Workforce

I would work with all levels of education to develop programs for clean energy and technology. By providing students with opportunities to get education and training, we can ensure we have a competent workforce to meet the growing demand for workers with these skills.