



Oregon Greenhouse Gas Inventory Process: Suddenly Everybody Cares ...

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Bill Drumheller -- Oregon Department of Energy





Oregon GhG Inventory Background

- Oregon relies on the EPA State Inventory Tool (SIT) for all but the Electricity and Waste/Materials sectors.
- Electricity consumption-based numbers generated by Oregon Dept of Energy.
- Waste/materials data (emissions and sequestration) from Oregon DEQ.
- No formal inventory process, but have done four inventory reports since 1990.



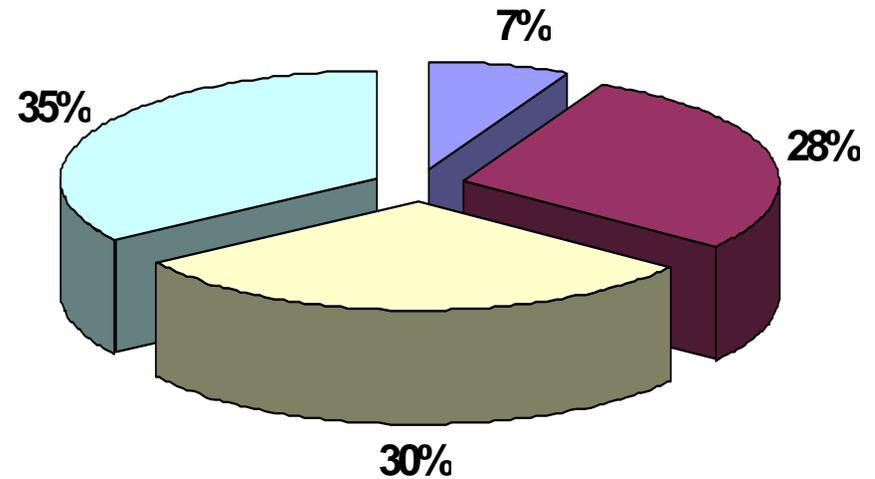
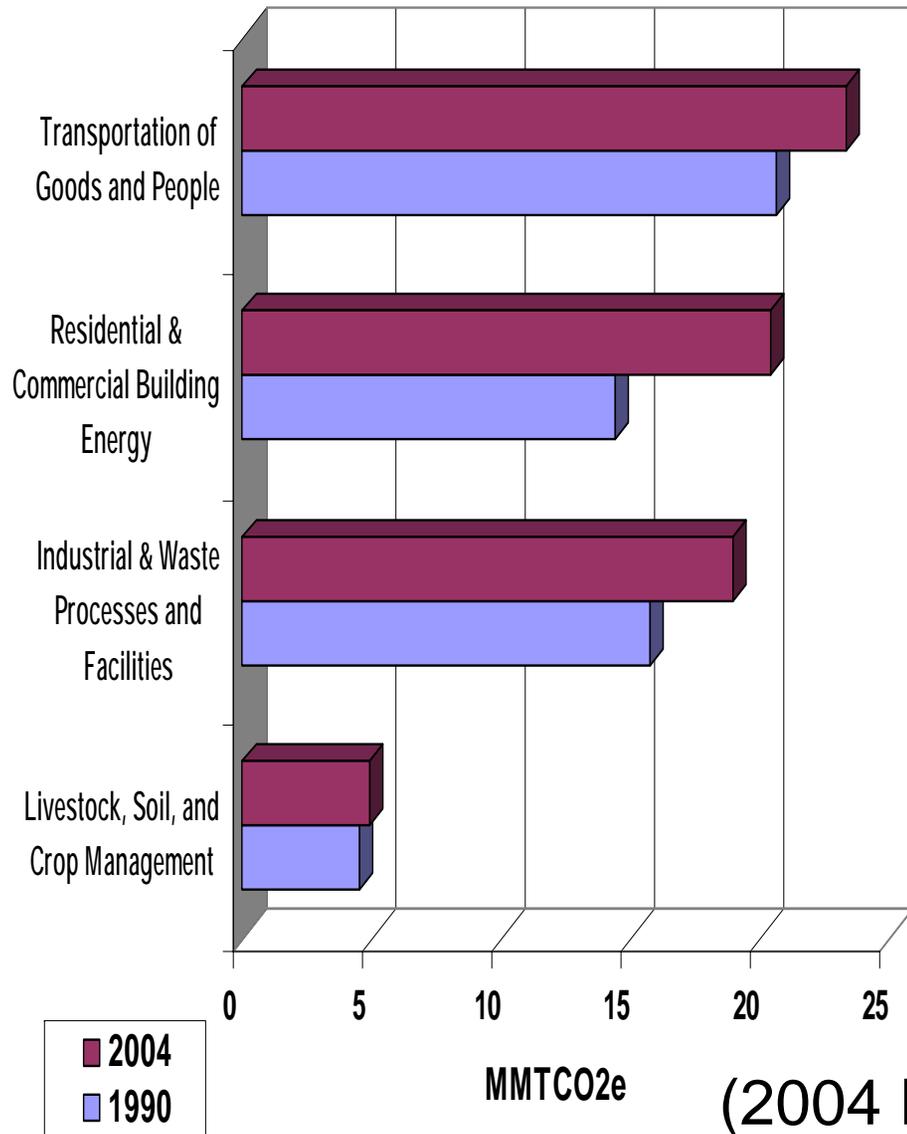
Oregon GhG Emissions

1990: **55.5** MMTCO₂e

1995: **63.8** MMTCO₂e

2000: **69.3** MMTCO₂e

2005: **70.0** MMTCO₂e



Who Cares?

- The Forestry Sector, as well as Forestry-Oriented Oregonians & Environmental NGOs.
- Waste & Materials Focused Entities.
- The Oregon Legislature.
- Potentially Regulated Entities Under a Future Cap-and-Trade Program.

In the past, only devoted policy wonks and wonkettes really got interested in the process.

Forestry Challenges

- The default forestry data in the SIT do not make sense, and therefore Oregon has not yet done a comprehensive net inventory that includes forest and agricultural sequestration numbers.



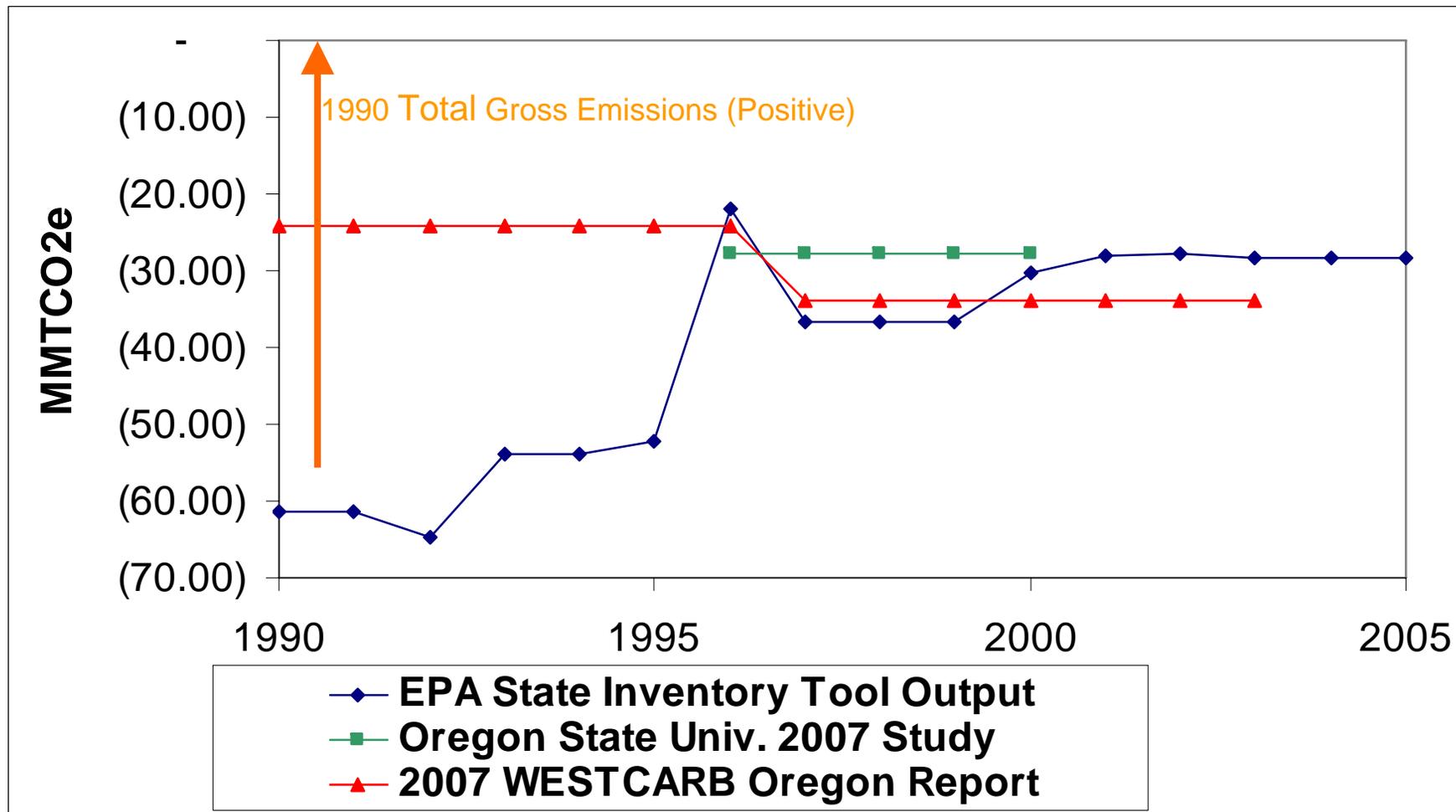
Hint

**Trees are
important
in
Oregon!!!**



SIT vs. Study Results

- Early years sequestration data from SIT wildly differ in comparison to recent detailed studies.



The Response

- Angry calls, hand-signed petitions, and nasty stares by a wide range of parties who believe the contributions of trees are being ignored.
- Others believe that net inventories are inherently deceptive and “mask” the need to reduce emissions from traditional sources, and thus support Oregon doing only a gross inventory.
- Recently available studies will now allow Oregon to do a net inventory. Will look to a scientific advisory committee to provide yearly numbers (current studies use multiple-year means, not yearly data).

Waste & Materials Challenges

- Most recent challenge has been the movement to replace UNFCCC/EPA accounting with not yet developed full life-cycle, full-consumption based accounting.
- New perspectives are needed and valuable, but attacking and discrediting existing numbers and inventory framework may hinder forward progress on climate change.
- Perhaps in the future there will be four basic frameworks: net, gross, in-state, and out-of-state imported emissions for all sectors.

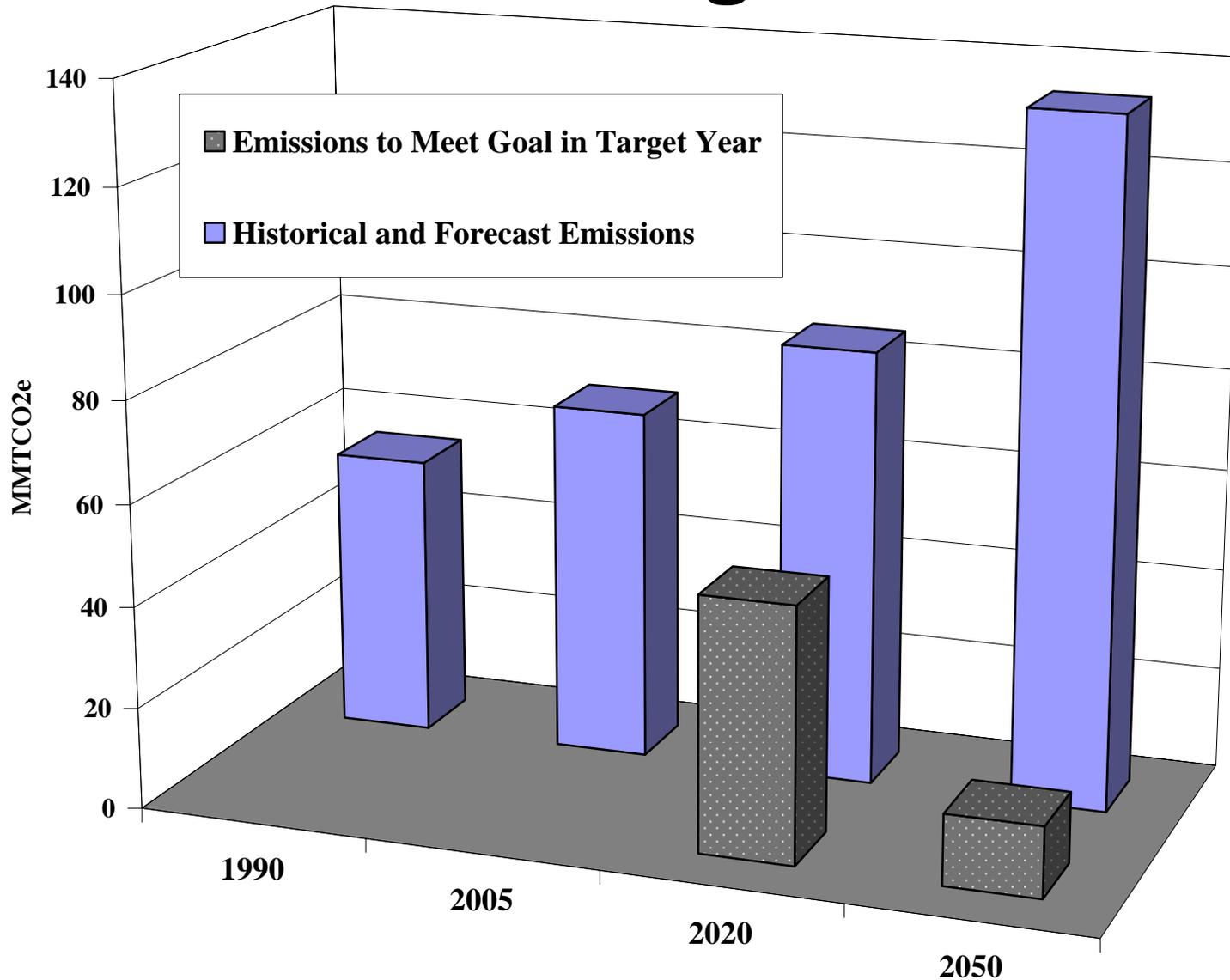


The Oregon Legislature: HB 3543 Legislation

- Oregon greenhouse gas emission **goals** put into state law in the 2007 session.
 - **Arrest growth of emissions by 2010.**
 - **10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.**
 - **75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.**
- Also created the Global Warming Commission and the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute that have responsibilities to help track progress.



Need to Measure Progress Toward Goals





Mandatory Reporting

- The Governor asked the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) in July of 2007 to consider a rule mandating the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Oregon DEQ has completed an advisory group process (GHGRAC) which has made recommendations for DEQ rulemaking.
- Draft reporting rules were released on April 1, 2008. EQC Adoption is expected in late August 2008.



Challenges in the Face of Impending Regulation

- “Top down” inventory process needs to meld with “bottom up” mandatory reporting.
- Assumption among many that mandatory reporting will replace the current inventory, but obviously that can’t happen in its entirety.
- Cap-and-trade discussions using current SIT inventory, but with regulation looming and emission budgets translating to allowance budgets (i.e., \$\$\$), scrutiny has never been higher on data, methodologies, and assumptions.



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More Information

Oregon Climate Change Portal

<http://www.orclimatechange.gov>

Bill Drumheller, Oregon Department of Energy
(503) 378-4035 or Bill.Drumheller@state.or.us