

Frequently asked questions



Why is this bill needed?

In adopting AB 32, the state made a promise to ensure that low-income and minority communities are protected and strengthened by California's efforts to tackle the climate crisis. AB 1405 will provide the resources needed to fulfill this promise.

Isn't it premature to make allocations for funding that may not come?

No. The legislature is the appropriating body of government. As AB 32 rule development and implementation is underway, it is the opportune time for the legislature to provide direction and inform how the state should tackle the climate crisis.

What is the nexus between GHG (greenhouse gas) carbon emissions and air quality in the most impacted communities?

AB 32 acknowledges the nexus between GHGs and harmful air emissions, and requires that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) consider reductions in air pollution in conjunction with the development of global warming policy.

Pollution reduction measures that benefit both the climate and public health are more cost-beneficial when compared to those that solely provide climate benefits. Specifically, reduced fossil fuel combustion means reduced GHGs and harmful air pollutants. This is because the most significant sources of GHGs—power plants, oil refining and transportation—are also the sources of unhealthy air emissions. Communities in close proximity to these sources bear the greatest environment and associated health burdens. Subsequently, these communities tend to be predominantly low-income, minority communities.

AB 1405 provides the opportunity to reduce GHGs and improve air quality on a local level.

Does AB 1405 add new fees?

No. AB 1405 is an effort to direct investments to the most polluted and low-income communities, should the state receive revenues from AB 32 implementation.

Does AB 1405 seek to use administrative fees?

No. AB 1405 is an effort to target revenues from AB 32 implementation, such as from the selling of permits, auction revenues, carbon fees, penalty fees, etc.

Doesn't California already have a program to assist low-income residents with their energy bills?

No. Low-income energy efficiency programs do exist, but they have produced only marginal benefits in these communities. AB 1405 is an effort to address the wider set of issues related to the climate crisis, including heat episodes, fires, flooding, etc. AB 1405 will also help low-income and minority communities cope and prepare for the extreme weather events associated with the climate crisis.

Response to analysis comments:

More of the same?

Low-income energy efficiency programs do exist, but they have produced only marginal benefits in these communities. More importantly, AB 1405 is an effort to address more than just energy efficiency, but a wider set of issues related to global warming in these communities.

What are you—fee, tax, property sale?

We agree with the analysis that careful evaluation must be made on the nature of funds raised. This bill satisfies the Sinclair test, as there is a sufficient nexus between GHG emissions and the harm they cause on communities. Therefore, we believe that the most appropriate and important use of funds is the mitigation of GHGs and the harmful community impacts they cause.

