

Date: May 26, 2010

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item G, Informational item: The role of The Climate Trust in Oregon
June 16-17, 2010 EQC meeting

Purpose of item Ben Vitale, president of The Climate Trust, will share the mission of The Climate Trust and explain some of its programs. Vitale will discuss the Oregon CO₂ Offset program, offsets that qualify to demonstrate compliance, NW Natural Smart Energy, Climate Trust work with the PUC and the Offset Quality Network Best Practice Resource for policy makers.

Background This session is the third in the series of climate change informational items, to be presented at regularly planned commission meetings in 2010. The first informational item focused on the science of climate change; the second on the politics of climate change. Future items will address the effects of climate change, and current and proposed actions to combat climate change.

The Climate Trust was founded in 1997 to administer the Oregon carbon dioxide standard. The standard was the first U.S. law aimed at reducing levels of carbon dioxide, the most abundant greenhouse gas.

Ben Vitale is a carbon market expert with over 20 years of executive experience in both for-profit and non-profit organizations. He became president of The Climate Trust in December 2009.

Prior to joining The Climate Trust, Vitale served as managing director of the Conservation and Community Carbon Fund at Conservation International, where he worked with the private sector to develop climate change solutions and new financial instruments that create business value and achieve measurable climate change results. He supported the development of conservation carbon projects in biodiversity hotspots around the world including Ecuador, China and Brazil. He also advised governments and partners on climate change, particularly in the area of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, in countries such as Guyana, Liberia, Madagascar and Suriname.

Vitale has served as an adviser for Ecosystem Marketplace, the Chicago Climate Exchange, and Patagonia Sur, among others. He also has been a contributor to several books about climate change.

Vitale holds a Master of Management degree from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer and Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. He is an avid conservationist, bird watcher, certified SCUBA diver and competitor in marathons.

Next steps

DEQ will present informational items on climate change at future commission meetings. Topics will include the impacts of climate change in August, presented by Dr. Thomas Peterson of NOAA, and a discussion of Oregon's carbon goals in October, lead by Angus Duncan of Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

DEQ staff invites commissioners to suggest additional topics or presenters for the series as we continue to prepare for upcoming EQC meetings.

Approved:

Division: _____

Report prepared by: Wendy Anderson
Phone: (503) 229-5547