National Environmental Health Association

Climate Change

State Legislatures introduced 135 bills related to Climate Change in 2026; enacting 23 in Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Virginia, Washington.

Legislatures in Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon and Rhode Island introduced 11 bills creating a Climate Change Superfund that sought moneys from the oil and gas industry for climate change harms caused by their industry, but none passed.

Colorado SB 182 Chap. No. 143 – Updated Clean Energy Plan Municipally Owned Utility

This bill addresses updated clean energy plans from municipally owned utilities in Colorado. The bill allows municipally owned utilities that have encountered challenges in achieving greenhouse gas emission reduction percentages to submit updated clean energy plans with extended timelines for compliance. The bill establishes requirements for detailed planning, annual reporting, coal cessation, and long-term emission reduction goals.

Colorado HB 1226, Chap. No. 380-2026 – Manage Emission from Electric Generating Units

This bill addresses air emissions from certain coal-fired electric generating units in Colorado and the effects of federal orders requiring power plants to remain operational past their planned retirement dates. The bill establishes nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide emission limits for covered electric generating units that continue to operate after 2034, requires reporting by utilities subject to federal operational orders, and directs the Public Utilities Commission to approve sufficient capacity resources for large investor-owned utilities to meet state clean energy targets.

Hawaii SB 2999 Act No. 258 – Clean Fuel Standard

This bill requires the Hawaii Department of Transportation to adopt rules by January 1, 2028, establishing a clean fuel standard for alternative fuels in the State. The standard is intended to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels through a market-based, technology-neutral credit and deficit mechanism. The bill also establishes consumer cost containment measures, reporting requirements, and public informational sessions.

Kentucky HB 677 Act No. 152 – Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide

This bill relates to energy production and byproduct management, establishing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for underground carbon dioxide sequestration facilities in Kentucky. The bill designates the Energy and Environment Cabinet as the regulatory authority and creates permitting, financial responsibility, and property rights provisions for carbon dioxide sequestration projects. The bill also modifies requirements for merchant electric generating facilities, including decommissioning plans and setback requirements.

Maryland HB 128/SB 14 Chap. No. 2 - Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Requires the Comptroller, in coordination with the Department of the Environment and the Department of Commerce, to conduct a study to assess the total cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State and report certain findings to certain committees on or before a certain date on the total assessed cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State based on the findings of a certain study; authorizes the Comptroller to hire a consultant to conduct the study; requires the report to include certain information.

Maryland HB 663 Chap. No. 322-2026 – Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emission

This bill requires the Department of the Environment to report to the General Assembly on changes in federal environmental policy. The bill addresses monitoring and reporting requirements for federal policy changes that have been deemed legally valid by federal courts, including those related to greenhouse gas emissions standards and federally delegated authority.

Maine SB 740 Resolve No. 168 – Assessment of Cost to State of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This bill, known as the Resolve, to Assess the Total Cost to the State of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, requires the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a comprehensive assessment of costs to Maine from greenhouse gas emissions between 1995 and 2024. The assessment must examine effects on public health, natural resources, biodiversity, agriculture, economic development, and flood preparedness. The department shall submit a report to legislative committees by January 1, 2028.

New Jersey SR 85 Condemnatory Resolution

Condemns the Environmental Protection Agency rule rescinding greenhouse gas endangerment finding and repealing greenhouse gas emission standards for light duty, medium duty, and heavy duty vehicles.

Ohio HB 170 Sess. Law No. 82 – Carbon Capture and Storage Technologies

This bill establishes a regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage technologies and the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide in Ohio. It creates new statutory provisions governing the permitting, operation, and closure of carbon sequestration projects, including a process for statutory consolidation of pore space rights. The bill also establishes pore space ownership rules, fee structures, and liability standards for storage operators.

Virginia HB 628/SB 175 Chap. No. 645-2026 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program

This bill amends Virginia's renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements for electric utilities and modifies power purchase agreement provisions. The bill addresses renewable energy procurement targets, compliance requirements for utilities, and third-party financing arrangements for solar and wind generation facilities. The bill also establishes requirements for energy storage facilities and cost recovery mechanisms for renewable energy investments.

Washington HB 2338, Chap. No. 94-2026 – Community Scaled Weatherization Projects

This bill relates to authorizing community scaled weatherization projects for low-income households in Washington State. The bill amends existing weatherization program statutes to allow for projects that serve multiple dwelling units within the same community or neighborhood. The bill establishes grant procedures and criteria for sponsors to submit proposals for these community-scale weatherization projects.

