



The
Climate
Trust

News Release

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The Climate Trust announces leadership transition

National nonprofit begins national search for successor to founding executive director

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Climate Trust Executive Director Mike Burnett, along with the Board of Directors, announced today that the nonprofit organization will begin the process of transitioning to its next top executive.

"To have served as the first executive director of The Climate Trust has been an enormous honor and privilege," Burnett said. "It has been extremely gratifying to see the Trust grow to a position of national prominence in combating climate change, the key challenge of our time. However, as the founding executive, I always knew that my work at the Trust would not be complete until I was able to transfer leadership. After ten years, I think it is the right time to find a successor."

Burnett is working with the Board on a transition plan and will continue to serve as executive director until a replacement is named and in place. Following the appointment of a new executive, he will continue to serve as an adviser to the executive and the Board.

"Mr. Burnett's transition comes at a time of great strength for The Climate Trust, which boasts an excellent staff, successful programs and a strong financial position," said Susan Anderson, director of the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and a founding and current Board member of The Climate Trust. "Mr. Burnett's legacy is having established the Trust's reputation as a leader and innovator in the carbon market and climate policy."

"We will immediately begin to look nationally for the best person to build on Mr. Burnett's success," said Board Chair Alan Zelenka. "We plan to have a new executive in place by fall 2009. Having Mr. Burnett's involvement through the executive transition and beyond will ensure a seamless and stable transition."

In 1999, Burnett was the first employee at The Climate Trust. At that time its sole function was to implement the Oregon Carbon Dioxide Standard. The regulation allows new Oregon power plants to meet their emission-reduction requirements by paying a per-ton fee to The Climate Trust, which purchases and retires carbon offsets on their behalf. Since then Burnett has grown the organization into a nationally recognized innovator in the carbon offset market. The Climate Trust has expanded its regulatory offset activities to include Massachusetts, Montana and Washington.

The Climate Trust also has ventured into the voluntary offset market, helping develop quality offset standards, as well as designing and implementing customized voluntary offset programs, such as NW Natural's Smart Energy program and the Colorado Carbon Fund.

The Climate Trust is also involved in advancing sound climate policy that incorporates offsets. The Climate Trust spearheaded creation of the Offset Quality Initiative, a collaboration of six national nonprofit

organizations with expertise in various aspects of the carbon market. This consensus-based initiative has been effective in informing policymakers about the benefits of carbon offsets and designing regulation that ensures offset quality and market integrity.

Burnett is nationally known as a leader and pioneer in the carbon offset field. In Oregon, he has served on governor-appointed climate committees for the past decade. Nationally, he has presented at numerous conferences on the importance of offset quality, and provided expert testimony for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, California regulatory climate proceedings, the Western Climate Initiative, and state climate policy forums throughout the country. He also served on the Steering Committee for the Voluntary Carbon Standard, which adopted The Climate Trust's approach for additionality.

"I have worked for thirty years as a pioneer in energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon offsets," Burnett said. "I plan to spend the next decade of my career on further innovations needed to complete the transformation to a low-carbon world."

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About The Climate Trust

The Climate Trust is a Portland-based nonprofit organization that has been promoting climate change solutions since 1997. The Climate Trust provides carbon finance for high quality carbon offset projects and provides consulting services and customized large-scale offset programs for businesses, governments and utilities. The Climate Trust also advances sound climate policy, especially through its leadership with the Offset Quality Initiative. For more information, please visit The Climate Trust at www.climatetrust.org.