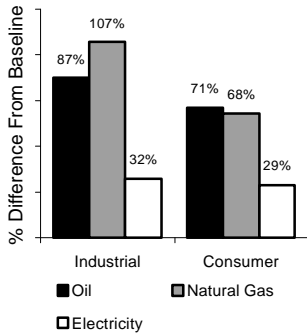




Global Warming: The High Cost of the Kyoto Protocol Impact on Seattle, Washington

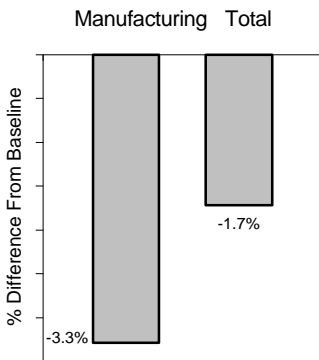
Energy Prices

Seattle manufacturers would see natural gas prices approximately double.



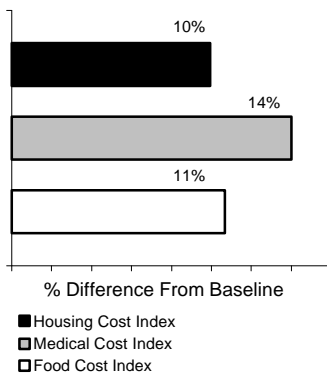
Employment

Manufacturing and total employment will decline by 3.3% and 1.7% respectively.



Consumer Income and Prices

The cost of housing, medical care, and food would rise.



In December 1997, the Clinton Administration agreed to the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty that would legally bind industrialized countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. US emissions would be limited to 7% below 1990 levels by late next decade. Meeting this goal would be a daunting task, as carbon emissions from the energy sector are expected to exceed the Kyoto goal by more than 37%. WEFA estimates that to achieve the Kyoto goal would require a carbon permit fee of \$265 per metric ton added to energy prices, resulting in:

- A hike in gasoline prices of nearly 65 cents a gallon
- A doubling of electricity and energy prices for consumers and businesses

The Kyoto Protocol Would Slow Economic Growth and Cost US Jobs

The Kyoto Protocol is supposed to be an international agreement, but 134 of 160 negotiating nations said that the US and other industrialized countries should bear the entire burden. China and India were particularly emphatic, saying that they will never participate in a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If key developing nations continue to exempt themselves from the Kyoto Protocol, WEFA estimates that by 2010 the US would:

- Lose 2.4 million jobs
- See a 3.2% drop in U.S. annual output (GDP)
- Lose \$300 billion (92\$) annually, or more than total expenditures on elementary and secondary education

Seattle Would Lose 24,000 Jobs

The Kyoto Protocol would substantially raise energy costs and reduce economic performance by late next decade. The impact would be felt by all consumers and businesses. In Seattle, there would be significant job losses as energy price increases borne here and in other industrialized nations are not matched by developing economies. The losses for Seattle would be:

- A total loss of 24,000 jobs for all sectors
- A decline of 3.3% in manufacturing employment (7,600 jobs)

Seattle Would Bear Part of the Loss of \$2.4 Billion in Washington Tax Revenues

Local communities rely on federal and state tax transfers to supplement their own sources of revenues. These funds are used to maintain infrastructure and provide for schools, hospitals and social services. As economic prosperity declined under the Kyoto Protocol, in 2010:

- City and county tax revenues would decline as metro area output falls 3.1%
- Washington's loss of \$2.4 billion (92\$) in tax revenue, a 10% decline, would result in reduced transfers to metropolitan areas
- The federal government would collect \$94 billion (92\$) less in tax revenue, a 5% decline, which would reduce its ability to transfer funds to state and local governments

The Kyoto Protocol Is Not the Only Option

WEFA's analysis shows severe economic consequences for US consumers if the Kyoto Protocol is implemented. Only near-term catastrophic global climate change would justify imposing these costs on US businesses and consumers. As global warming may be gradual and largely due to natural forces, a better strategy to alleviate this potential global threat may be the use of longer-term opportunities, such as:

- Expanding voluntary efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions
- Supporting scientific research and educational programs on climate
- Investing in the development and deployment of new technologies

Business Impacts: Seattle

Seven thousand manufacturing jobs would be lost by 2010, due to reduced international competitiveness.

Seattle's manufacturing sector would be harmed. Manufacturing employment would decline by 3.3% (7,600 jobs) in Seattle by 2010 relative to the baseline forecast, while the national average would fall 3.3%. The competitive position of manufacturers located here would be eroded due to rising costs, especially relative to non-participating developing countries. Industrial electricity prices would rise 32% by 2010 relative to the baseline (i.e., the price level without the emissions-reduction policy). Seattle has a high concentration of capital goods producers, which would see large declines in exports.

Natural gas prices would rise by 107% in 2010 versus the baseline.

Energy Prices

Sharp increases in fuel and electricity prices would be felt across the nation. Industrial firms in Seattle would be burdened in the global competition for markets with price increases of 107% for delivered natural gas and 32% for electricity by 2010 versus baseline levels.

Output

Imposition of carbon permit fees would significantly impact the overall level of output as well as the composition of output. Hardest hit among the industries would be manufacturing, as transportation equipment makers experience increased cost of power and move jobs from the region. Real output in the manufacturing sector would fall by 4.1% in 2010. Manufacturing losses would cause producers to reduce their purchases of labor and services. Sharply higher energy prices would shift Seattle toward an even greater reliance on service industries.

Seattle would lose 24,000 jobs by 2010 relative to the baseline, with the manufacturing bearing the brunt of losses.

Employment

Total employment is projected to fall 24,000 jobs below the baseline in 2010. The decline would be largest in manufacturing jobs. The largest decline in percentage terms outside of manufacturing would occur in mining.

Real wages and salaries in manufacturing would decline by 1.8% in 2010 versus the baseline projection.

Wages & Salaries

Wages and salaries would fall under the imposition of a carbon permit fee. Rising costs must be offset by lower real wages as economies attempt to retain their competitive position. In Washington, real manufacturing wages would decline by 1.8% in 2010 relative to the baseline. Real private non-manufacturing wages would also fall 1.8% below the baseline forecast.

Business Impacts: Seattle

Consumers are squeezed by slower increases in income and the rising costs of basic necessities and other goods and services. Due to the severe loss of employment under the Kyoto Protocol, real personal income in Seattle would decline. Meanwhile the cost of energy to consumers would increase dramatically. Prices of home heating oil, natural gas, and electricity would escalate along with the costs of non-energy goods and services such as medical care, food, and housing. The cumulative result would be a continued erosion of consumers' purchasing power.

Energy Prices

Residential energy prices would increase by at least 29% in Seattle relative to the baseline.

Residential consumers would face a substantially higher energy bill under the proposed measure. Residential prices for energy would rise significantly above baseline levels in 2010: natural gas (68%), electricity (29%) and home heating oil (71%). The price of motor gasoline would also increase 46% relative to the baseline.

Medical Expense

Medical costs would rise by 14% relative to the baseline in 2010.

Under the carbon abatement scenario, a comparable set of medical services would cost 14% more relative to the baseline projection. Higher medical care prices would lower purchases and the health of the average consumer would suffer as a result.

Food

Food costs would be 11% higher in 2010 than in the baseline.

Under the carbon reduction scenario, food prices would be 11% higher than the baseline in 2010. Because food is a necessity, there would be little decline in the amount purchased per household. Therefore, most households would bear the total increase in food costs.

Housing

Housing prices would be 10% higher by 2010 relative to the baseline.

Housing prices are also projected to increase faster under the carbon abatement scenario. Housing prices would increase by 9.9% more than they would in the baseline projection. In Washington, housing prices would escalate at a higher rate than the national average reflecting the in-migration projected for the state due to the less severe loss of employment opportunities.

Revenue Impacts: Seattle

Metropolitan area governments rely on federal, state and own sources of funds to maintain and expand infrastructure, provide for schools, hospitals and basic services, and provide social services to lower and middle income families. If the Kyoto Protocol were implemented, the loss of economic prosperity would significantly reduce metro areas own sources of funds and funds distributed by the federal government. Reductions in state tax revenues would severely impact metropolitan areas, as a large percentage of these funds are distributed to local governments.

Washington Would Lose \$2.4 Billion in Tax Revenue

Washington tax revenues would be reduced by \$2.4 billion (92%) and the unemployment rate would approach 6.8% in 2010.

Washington would face a possibly significant decline in tax revenue associated with the imposition of policies aimed at meeting the Kyoto Protocol target. Federal, state, and local tax revenues could decline 10% below baseline projections in 2010. This has significant implications for public policy, which would be exacerbated by the possibility of increased unemployment. Specifically, Washington's unemployment rate is expected to approach 6.8% in 2010. With increases in unemployment and decreases in revenue, the state would be confronted with a daunting problem: how to provide support for its unemployed workers.

Tax revenues would fall by 10% in 2010.

As a result of the imposition of a global agreement to limit carbon emissions, real tax revenues in Washington would fall 10% below the baseline projection in 2010. As a percentage of gross state product, baseline tax revenues would be 11%. This assumes no changes in tax policy in Washington. If taxes were raised to offset the projected loss of tax revenues, its competitiveness relative to other states would decline and further reduce economic activity in the state.