The Golden State has adopted a slew of climate change laws over the past twenty years, and an even greater number of regulations . To help you keep track, here is a timeline of California’s most important actions.

2002

SB1078. California established first renewable portfolio standard (20% from renewables by 2010).

AB 1493 (Pavley Act). Required the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to set standards for greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) new vehicles.

2006

AB 32. Required state to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and gave broad authority to CARB to implement the standard.

AB 1803. Required CARB to create an inventory of GHG emissions.

SB 1368. Effectively prohibited California utilities from using electricity from coal-fired generation.

2009

CARB established Low Carbon Fuel Standard for vehicles.

2011

CARB adopted cap and trade system.

2015

SB350. Renewable energy target raised to 50% by 2030.

2016

SB 32. Requires reducing GHG to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

2018

SB100. Required zero carbon emissions from power grid by 2045.

2022

AB 1279. Required net zero emissions by 2045 and an 85% reduction in carbon emissions (not counting offsets).

SB 1030. Requires 90% renewable energy and zero-carbon electricity by 2035, 95% by 2040 and 100% by 2045

CARB prohibited sale of new gas and diesel cars after 2034.

2023

SB 253. Required both public and private US businesses with revenues greater than $1 billion operating in California to report all emissions relating to their businesses, including those of suppliers and customers.

SB 261. Required companies to report financial risks relating to climate change and how they are being managed.

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A few closing thoughts: California’s activity began just after President George W. Bush torpedoed climate action by the federal government early in his administration. California seems to have conceived of its role as alternatively a backup for weak federal regulation or a model for future federal action. California continues to play those roles, but has also taken on a leadership role among U.S. states and even internationally.

Overall, what is most impressive is the steady drumbeat of legislation pushing state policy forward. That would be even more obvious if the timeline included the host of less notable, but still significant, laws passed during the same time period. There are many things wrong with California, but the state’s deep commitment to fighting climate change is beyond question.