

Carbon taxes in Washington

Stories

[Planet Money episode 472: The One-Page Plan To Fix Global Warming ... Revisited](#)

[Washington I-1631 results: price on carbon emissions fails to pass, David Roberts](#)

Questions

1. The Planet Money story takes a drive with John Reilly in his Infiniti to discuss the impacts that a carbon tax might have on his transportation decisions. What are two ways in which a tax on the carbon in gasoline might reduce John's transportation emissions, that tighter fuel economy standards for cars would not?
2. The authors of Washington State's I-732 sought to create a revenue-neutral carbon tax in which all tax revenues are returned to Washington residents. How can a policy that returns all tax revenues back to the people paying the tax reduce carbon emissions?
3. One frequent concern about carbon taxes is that they can be regressive, i.e. lower-income households would pay a higher share of their income to the tax than high-income households.
 - a. How did the authors of I-732 try to address this concern?
 - b. How did the authors of I-1631 try to address this concern?
 - c. Which approach do you think would do more to support low-income communities and communities of color?