

Name _____



Carbon Choices Forum

Directions: Read the passage. Then complete the vocabulary tasks and questions using evidence from the text.

Climate Policy Debate

At the city council meeting, the room filled quickly. The council was considering a climate policy package that would set new targets for cutting local emissions over the next decade. Supporters argued that the plan would reduce the community's carbon footprint while improving public health. They pointed to data showing that neighborhoods near busy roads often experience higher rates of asthma and other respiratory problems.

One proposal focused on expanding public transit and adding protected bike lanes. Advocates said these changes could lower emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled. A transit planner explained that the policy included dedicated funding for maintenance so the system would remain reliable, not just larger. Another proposal offered incentives for homeowners and landlords to upgrade building insulation and install efficient heat pumps. Backers described these upgrades as a practical strategy for increasing energy efficiency without asking residents to give up comfort.

During public comment, some speakers raised concerns about economic trade-offs. A small business owner worried that new regulations might increase operating costs, especially if compliance required equipment upgrades. Another resident questioned whether the targets were realistic and asked for clearer accountability. In response, a council member described a timeline for implementation and promised transparent reporting on progress, including annual emissions inventories.

The debate became more intense when the council discussed carbon pricing. Under this approach, large polluters would pay a fee based on their emissions. Supporters claimed carbon pricing creates a market signal that encourages cleaner choices. Critics argued that the fee could be passed on to consumers, raising the cost of goods and transportation. A student speaker proposed a compromise: use the revenue to fund rebates for low-income households and invest in workforce training for green jobs. By the end of the meeting, the council agreed to revise the package, but they kept the central goal: meaningful emissions reduction paired with a fair plan for the community.

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Find each word or phrase in the passage. Write what it means in this context.

1. **emissions:** _____
2. **carbon footprint:** _____
3. **vehicle miles traveled:** _____
4. **energy efficiency:** _____
5. **economic trade-offs:** _____
6. **compliance:** _____
7. **implementation:** _____
8. **emissions inventories:** _____
9. **carbon pricing:** _____
10. **market signal:** _____

Vocabulary Analysis Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. How does the passage connect **public health** to **emissions reduction**?
2. What does the phrase **passed on to consumers** imply about carbon pricing?
3. In this passage, what is the difference between a policy that is **larger** and one that is **reliable**?
4. Which two vocabulary terms best show a tension between environmental goals and money concerns? Explain your choice.