

Opinion: What will it cost to cut carbon?

By Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

When Democrat Jerry Brown succeeded Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger as governor four years ago, some gubernatorial policies changed and some didn't.

The most prominent of the latter is the state's cutting-edge efforts at reducing greenhouse gases, which both governors believe cause perilous climate change.



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Whether that's true remains, in the eyes of many, an unsettled issue, but California has, under those two governors, fully embraced it as scientifically proven, even though California's contribution to atmospheric carbon dioxide is infinitesimal.

During a brief speech to a United Nations conference a few weeks ago, Brown called California "a hopeful example" as it reduces carbon emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and added that he wants new goals "that will be more ambitious, that will require more technology and will also require heightened political will."

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