



*Joint Declaration*

*To*

*Support Sustainable Economic Development,  
and the Exchange and Application of Mutually Beneficial  
Sustainable Urban Development, Water Management, Biodiversity,  
Transportation, Applied Science,  
Energy and Climate Change Technologies and Policies*

*between*

*The State of Washington of the United States of America*

*and*

*The Government of the French Republic*

Joint Declaration  
to  
Support Sustainable Economic Development and the Exchange and Application of Mutually Beneficial  
Sustainable Urban Infrastructure, Water Management, Biodiversity, Transportation, Applied Science,  
Energy and Climate Change Technologies and Policies  
Between

The Government of the French Republic

And

The State of Washington of the United States of America

This Joint Declaration is entered into by the Government of the French Republic (“France”) and the State of Washington of the United States of America (“the State of Washington”).

**WHEREAS**, France and Washington State are world renowned for their natural beauty, as well as their rich agricultural lands and spectacular forests;

**WHEREAS**, these abundant natural resources have tremendous ecological value and provide numerous economic benefits;

**WHEREAS**, France and Washington State are global leaders in the fields of communication and innovation, and home to internationally renowned urban centers, academic institutions, and hubs for advanced technology development;

**WHEREAS**, the impact of climate change pose a grave danger to the natural resources of France and Washington State, threaten human health and public safety, as well as agriculture and food security, and threatens economic prosperity;

**WHEREAS**, France and Washington State face similar environmental challenges from the impacts of climate change, including watershed management and supply, drought, flooding, wildfire, heatwaves and coastal erosion;

**WHEREAS** France and Washington State seek to enhance the development and commercialization of innovation through applied-research partnerships that build on the scientific and technical expertise of French and Washingtonian advanced research institutions in the fields of Sustainable Development, Water Management, Biodiversity, Transportation, Applied Science, and Energy and Climate Technologies and Policies;

## 1. PURPOSE

This joint declaration is being signed on the occasion and in the spirit of the COP21, the international climate talks being held in Paris, France in December 2015, is to promote cooperation on ambitious responses to climate change and related environmental issues, including Sustainable Development, Water Management, Biodiversity, Transportation, Applied Science, Energy, Energy Efficiency and Climate Technologies.

## 2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

France and Washington State agree to cooperate on these specific areas in consideration of the following premises and terms:

Climate change mitigation, France and The State of Washington deem necessary to escalate their response to the cause and consequences of climate change while supporting sustainable low carbon economic growth, including reporting of greenhouse gases emissions, developing market based instruments that incentivize decarbonization, promoting reductions of emissions from forest management, developing climate planning, promoting renewable energy, and cooperating to advance multilateral and subnational action on climate change;

Adaptation and resiliency, climate change trends will subject areas across France and The State of Washington to more intense and extreme weather events, such as flooding and wildfire, and require new methods to adapt to changing conditions. To create opportunities that will strengthen and improve resiliency, France and The State of Washington will work together to develop solutions that integrate applied science and result in collaboration with local and regional authorities and institutions of higher education through the sharing of successes and lessons learned;

Water management, France and The State of Washington face challenges to their water resources, both in terms of quality and quantity. France and The State of Washington will work together to share best practices on water resource management including agricultural supply, floodplain management and rising sea levels;

Transportation, France and The State of Washington are global leaders in clean transportation technology and policy development, each specializing in specific areas of expertise including high-speed rail, zero emission vehicles and the supporting infrastructure, fuel cell development, public transit, and the coordination between transportation and land use planning. France and The State of Washington will work together on local and regional transportation technologies and policies and to advance electrification of the transportation sector;

Clean energy, France and The State of Washington provide models of integrated, mutually supportive, business-based and sustainable energy systems. France and The State of Washington will share information on encouraging the development and deployment of renewable energy generation, as well as energy storage, smart grid solutions, and energy efficiency technologies and policies at the metropolitan and State level;

Sustainable building and cities France and The State of Washington are home to world recognized energy efficient and sustainably built cities. France and The State of Washington will work together to

develop cooperation, innovative multi-benefit projects, and new financial models in the design of building codes, energy efficiency, transit planning and other factors that lead to the development of integrated and sustainable metropolitan areas that are resilient to climate change impacts;

Development of solutions at the regional and local level, France and The State of Washington are home to world-class centers of innovation, and institutions of higher education. France and The State of Washington recognize that bilateral cooperation relies on outcome-oriented and place-based local and regional cooperation for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation. France and The State of Washington will work together to establish project-specific applied research programs around smart growth, sustainable urban infrastructure technology and policy development, and to create stronger ties between local and regional authorities to promote a mutually beneficial exchange;

### **3. FORMS OF COOPERATION**

**BE IT NOW RESOLVED**, that the French Republic and the State of Washington of the United States jointly declare to support sustainable economic sustainable development and the exchange and application of mutually beneficial policies and technologies in the areas of sustainable urban infrastructure, water management, biodiversity, transportation, applied science, energy and climate change.

Forms of cooperation under this Joint Declaration may include the following:

- 1) Sharing information and experiences about policies and programs that have effectively reduced greenhouse gas emissions and strengthened climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as efforts that have protected and enhanced human health and the environment;
- 2) Sharing policy initiatives and providing capacity building and technical support to develop and implement climate change policies, including emissions trading programs;
- 3) Inviting the other Participant to comment on programs, policies and rule-making processes relevant to the agreed upon areas of cooperation;
- 4) Discussing the possibility of policy and program alignment for mutual environmental and economic benefit;
- 5) Facilitating the exchange and temporary assignments of relevant personnel between France and Washington State;
- 6) Encouraging cooperative research on, and the development and deployment of projects related to clean, energy efficient and/or low carbon technologies;
- 7) Jointly organizing symposia, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and training;
- 8) Facilitating business to business networking, collaboration and partnerships;;
- 9) Cooperating in any other form that France and Washington State consider may contribute to the goals of this Joint Declaration.

### **4. FOLLOW UP**

France and Washington State agree to establish a bilateral group or groups, led by officials representing France and Washington State, to maintain coordination and communication in monitoring cooperation under this Joint Declaration. As part of their coordination, France and Washington State intend to consider the need for in-person meetings, subject to available resources.

## 5. DURATION

Unless otherwise extended in writing, this Joint Declaration is effective for a period of 4 years from the date of signing. Either France or Washington State may discontinue its participation in this Joint Declaration, through written communication sent to the other Participants thirty (30) calendar days in advance. In this case, the ongoing cooperative activities that have been approved or initiated and that have not been concluded will continue, unless otherwise decided by France and Washington State.

## 6. FINAL PROVISIONS

France and Washington State acknowledge that this Joint Declaration is only intended to provide for cooperation between them and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations under national or international law. To the extent that any other provision of this Joint Declaration is inconsistent with this paragraph, this paragraph shall prevail.

France and the State of Washington sign this Joint Declaration in good faith and declare their intention to develop cooperation to the fullest extent possible, subject to any changes in policy that they may adopt.

This Joint Declaration is signed in Paris, France on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in two originals, with both the English and French language originals being equally valid.

For the Government of the French Republic,

For the State of the State of Washington  
United States of America

Segolene Royal  
Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development  
and Energy

Jay Inslee  
Governor