

# Washington Climate Collaborative

## A CLIMATE PLAN FOR WASHINGTON STATE

There are few things we value more as Washingtonians than the natural beauty of our state. Our ocean, mountains, forests, lakes, and rivers sustain much of what we hold dear, like abundant fish and wildlife, clean air, cool, clean water, and outdoor recreation.

Protecting our environment requires a commitment from all of us — government agencies, our innovative companies and workers, and our families commuting to work or running errands. It's the Washington way, and it works!

When it comes to reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to clean energy, Washington is already leading the pack. We now have the 6th cleanest state economy in the country and boast over 100,000 green jobs. We drive less and use less gas per person than almost any other state, largely because we have one of the highest rates of public transit use and carpooling. And, we have the highest number of electric vehicle charging stations per capita in the country. As a result of the combined efforts of business, individuals and public agencies, Washington's carbon dioxide emissions are lower now than they were 25 years ago and account for less than 0.3% of the global emissions.

Thinking globally, we can accomplish even more if we continue to collaborate on solutions that directly address greenhouse gas emissions in Washington without prompting increased emissions elsewhere. Here is our agenda for an even lower carbon future.\*

**Innovation** — Washington has the environmental ethos, technological know-how, and resources to bring new solutions to the world and create jobs here at home. This needs to be our top priority.

**Promote public policies that encourage private sector investments in carbon reducing technologies and carbon sequestration.**

- » **HB 1758 / SB 5700** — Extends and expands the biofuel tax credit
- » **SB 5735** — Incentivizes investments in carbon reductions as a compliance tool under I-937
- » **HB 2059 / SB 5753** — Provides exemptions from property tax for certified green building construction or improvements
- » **HB 1843** — Creates a residential energy efficiency pilot program for low-income qualifying families
- » Support Clean Energy Funds to provide resources to promising technologies.
- » Support more than \$100M in clean energy funding in the Governor's budget
- » **SB 5093** — Creates an educational program to raise public awareness of the nuclear industry and nuclear energy jobs
- » Invest in Washington university research that can lead to the commercialization of low- or zero-carbon goods and services

**Transportation** — Despite the early adoption of electric and lower emission vehicles, the largest single source of Washington's greenhouse gases comes from the transportation sector. Without a plan to address the largest source of emissions, we will not continue to make significant progress. One of the most important things we can do is support a multi-modal transportation bill for all of Washington State — reducing traffic congestion on our highways and bridges while expanding transit options for travelers.

### Provide incentives to transition vehicles to alternative fuels.

- » **HB 1396 / SB 5325** — Incentivizes conversions of commercial vehicles to use alternative fuels
- » **HB 1758 / SB 5700** — Extends the B&O and sales tax credit for biodiesel
- » Improve alternative fuel infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging or natural gas fueling stations
- » **HB 2087** — Extends the tax incentive for electric vehicles, develops public/private partnerships to expand infrastructure
- » **HB 1853** — Incentivizes investment in electric vehicle infrastructure by allowing recovery through rates for costs
- » **HB 1929 / SB 5446** — Standardizes the implementation and permitting of electric vehicle infrastructure in buildings
- » Reauthorize commuter trip reduction program to reduce single passenger commuters
- » **HB 1822 / SB 5323** — Extends the commuter trip reduction program, and expands the total credit amount
- » Examine state regulations that inhibit operational opportunities for emission reductions and recommend reforms where appropriate
- » **HB 1486** — Wide-Based Tires — Improves mileage & reduces trucks on road
- » **HB 1891 / SB 5330** — Gas Vapor controls — Standardizes the program
- » **HB 1998** — Marketing of natural gas production from landfills and waste treatment facilities for Public Utility Districts
- » **HB 1695 / SB 5480** — Allows for the reuse of recycled aggregate/concrete products

**Low-carbon Electricity** — Nearly 70% of the electricity consumed in Washington is generated by clean, renewable hydropower. In addition, Washington has already taken steps to close our only coal-fired power plant and adopted the toughest emissions performance standards in the country for natural gas-fired power plants. And Washington now ranks in the nation's Top 10 for installed wind generation capacity.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, federal regulators may mandate further carbon reductions in electrical generating facilities using fossil fuels, but Washington can still do more to encourage low- or zero-carbon generation.

**Address need for more baseload, lower-carbon electricity generation by promoting fish friendly hydro, scalable nuclear, biomass and natural gas. Natural gas emits half the carbon of coal, and nuclear already provides 10% of Washington's electricity.**

- » **HB 2002 / SB 5874** — Promotes the retirement of coal-fired electric generation facilities
- » **HB 1095** — Requires an assessment of combined heat/power capabilities, and encourages investment in thermal energy
- » **HB 1758 / SB 5700** — Extends the incentives, including a B&O exemption, for use of biomass
- » **HB 1998** — Allows for the production, marketing and sale of renewable natural gas from public utilities
- » **SB 5092** — Places nuclear energy among the clean energy sources in the state energy strategy to reduce fossil fuel dependence
- » **SB 5257** — Reduces the public utility tax for log haulers to incentivize the collection of forest biomass
- » **SB 5575** — Incentivizes the conversion of coal-fired electric plants to natural gas
- » **HB 1927 / SB 5892** — Creates a new cost recovery incentive program for solar projects
- » **HB 2104 / SB 5904** — Provides tax credit for forest-derived biomass used to produce energy

**As we continue to increase our renewable energy sources, we must also invest in our power grid and infrastructure to ensure greater reliability and efficiency.**

- » **HB 1352 / SB 5094** — allows for credit under I-937 of the incremental increase of hydro power through efficiency improvements
- » **SB 5113** — establishing Commerce as a contact point within state government for the advancement of small modular reactors in Washington

**Energy Efficiency** — Over the last 15 years, Washington industries, commercial businesses and families have dramatically reduced their energy consumption through investments in efficiencies. This, in turn, has reduced direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. It's a major part of our success, and we should encourage more of what we know works.

**Incentivize investments in energy efficiency projects and fuel switching in the industrial sector where environmental returns are the greatest.**

- » **HB 1095** — incentivizes the use of combined heat and power
- » **HB 1853** — Incentivizes investment in electric vehicle infrastructure by allowing recovery through rates for costs

**Fund Washington State University's Energy Program to foster new energy and industrial efficiency solutions.**

- » Clean Energy Fund — battery projects

**Adopt performance-based standards in the energy code as opposed to one size fits all requirements.**

- » **HB 1289 / SB 5804** — standardizes the evaluation of energy amendments to ensure energy efficiency and emission reductions

**Above-code building programs bring innovative energy efficiencies to construction often not recognized by local building codes.**

- » **HB 1100** — establishes minimum standards for appliance efficiency
- » Increase funding for low-income household energy efficiency programs, and expand eligibility to cover structural integrity in conjunction with weatherization
- » **HB 1843** — provides an exemption from property tax levy for development of energy efficient projects
- » **HB 2059 / SB 5753** — Provides exemptions from property tax for certified green building construction or improvements

**Research & Adaptation** — Despite our best efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Washington and lead by example, it's a global issue and we may need to adapt to a changing climate. Investments in research and infrastructure could be prudent hedges against reduced snow pack, early runoff and rising sea levels should they materialize as predicted.

**Support research, monitoring, and forecasting to minimize localized impacts from changing climate.**

- » Support \$1.7M in Governor's budget for Ocean Acidification
- » **HB 2093** — Fire suppression / forest management
- » **SB 5115** — tasking EFSEC with studying and recommending ways to streamline processes for siting small modular reactors in Washington
- » **HB 1758 / SB 5700** — forest management through biomass incentives
- » **HB 2104 / SB 5904** — biomass from forest management improvements

\* This list includes the concepts and ideas that the Washington Climate Collaborative supports, however we do not at this time endorse particular bills.