



100% FOSSIL-FREE

Accelerating 100% Fossil-Free Energy and Climate Action in Washington

With the climate crisis escalating, no state is better positioned than ours to demonstrate that the transition to a fossil fuel-free electric power system is technically possible, economically viable, and a key driver for new jobs and economic growth. The Washington Legislature adopted greenhouse gas emission limits in 2008, yet the strongest climate policy on the books is the Energy Independence Act passed by the people in 2006.

For our entire state's economy to reach reductions of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, as recommended by the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, our electricity sector must achieve even deeper reductions. We also need to account for the cost of carbon pollution, and to accelerate the transition to clean fuels to power our transportation, the leading source of carbon emissions in our state.

We support the following carbon pollution reduction policies being put forth in the 2018 Washington Legislature:

1. Accelerating 100% Fossil-Free Electricity:

- Clean energy investments have contributed to over 100,000 jobs, avoided carbon emissions of nearly one

million automobiles, and conserved 1.2 billion gallons of water.

- As we increase transportation electrification, it is critical that we do not trade one fossil fuel source for another and inadvertently increase fossil fuel dependencies in our electric system.

The policy: SB6253 would:

- require that all new investments in energy resources be fossil-free, prioritizing energy efficiency, demand response, storage, renewable energy and other solutions to reduce carbon pollution on the grid;
- phase out coal by 2030, and require it be replaced by fossil-free resources; and
- result in a 100% carbon reduction for electricity by 2045, creating a fossil-free grid for electrifying our transportation sector.

2. Putting a Price on Carbon Pollution:

- By accounting for the price of carbon pollution in our economy, we can encourage investment in alternative energies like solar and wind, grow middle class jobs, improve public health, and move away from polluting fossil fuels.

- We can do so in a way that protects and lifts up the most vulnerable among us, and launches a cleaner, more equitable economy.

The policy: there are several carbon pollution pricing and investment policies under consideration this session. Effective and politically viable pollution pricing policy would:

- put an escalating price on pollution, starting at \$15/ton (minimum), while addressing the needs of impacted communities and workers and stimulating a vibrant clean energy economy;
- invest in clean air and energy, healthy forests, and clean water, creating tens of thousands of jobs and a more sustainable economy; and
- provide protection for workers and for energy-intensive and trade-exposed businesses, ensuring that we do not transfer jobs and emissions to other states.

3. Advancing Clean Fuels

- Transportation fuels are responsible for nearly half of our climate and air pollution in Washington. Diesel and gasoline in Washington are also the largest source of four major air pollutants which health professionals link directly to asthma, lung cancer and other respiratory disease.
- Washington is the last West Coast jurisdiction without a clean fuels standard. Once the policy is enacted, we would join our neighbors in California, Oregon and B.C.

The policy: HB 2338 would:

- require refineries to achieve a 10% carbon intensity reduction in fuels, cutting three million tons of CO² in Washington;
- support expanded transportation electrification—which costs a third as much as gasoline in Washington state—keeping energy money in consumers’ pockets; and
- create more homegrown jobs in the production of clean, low-carbon fuels. A clean fuels standard would support job creation in rural Washington and provide new economic opportunities for the agricultural, dairy and forestry sectors.

We can no longer ignore the impacts of environmental damage here at home.

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WHAT TO DO

The 2018 Legislature must take urgent action to protect this state. We are already seeing the impacts in our communities, and amongst our friends and families:

- **Increased forest fire risk:** A recent study by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that climate change is responsible for half of the increase in forest fire danger. Fires cost taxpayers billions to fight while destroying homes, livelihoods, and rural towns.
- **Ocean acidification** threatens damage to the shellfish industry that brings over \$100 million into our state’s economy every year.
- **Health impacts:** According to the World Health Organization, climate change is the greatest threat to global health in the 21st Century. Climate change will amplify health impacts: heat-related illness, respiratory illness, and food and water borne illness. Children, the elderly, the sick, the poor, and some communities of color and lower income communities that live closer to highways and factories are especially vulnerable.