

Clean Buildings for Washington

A proposal to reduce greenhouse gases, create jobs, and make buildings healthier places to live and work



Unless we cut emissions from buildings, Washington won't meet its emission reduction goals: the Clean Building package is critical for our clean energy future.

Buildings are one area where the data tell us we're going in the wrong direction: Washington's building emissions have risen 50% since 1990, undoing any progress we have made in other sectors. However, we have the means and the knowledge to reverse the trend. And we have an added incentive because we'll also:

- Create new jobs, from entry-level to highly skilled, all over Washington
- Help families and businesses save on their our energy bills
- Make homes and buildings healthier for employees and families

RENEW

Promote efficiency projects in our homes, workplaces, schools, and public buildings

INNOVATE

Accelerate our codes and standards to continue Washington's technology leadership

INVEST

Provide funding for successful programs and cutting-edge demonstration projects



Reduce Pollution

Our buildings emit 27% of our greenhouse gas emissions—and they are growing.



Create Jobs

These policies promote investment in local, clean energy jobs, like HVAC installation and window manufacturing.



Save Money

More efficient buildings help residents and building tenants save on their bills.

Buildings: Where We Live, Work, and Play

Washington State is a leader in energy efficiency policies and the results show:

- We've cut per capita energy use by 25% since 1990, saving customers money and avoiding new fossil-fuel generation.
- We've created more than 65,000 jobs in the energy efficiency industry—and growing!
- And recent research points to the quality of life benefits of energy efficiency projects, including reductions in illness and medical care costs, improved test scores, and increased worker comfort and productivity.

However, buildings are our second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, and they are rising. The Clean Buildings package takes a comprehensive look at our current practices and past successes and identifies **sensible next step projects and policies to support better buildings for all in Washington.**



Key Provisions of Package

Renew and Upgrade Existing Buildings

- Create a nation-leading performance standard for large commercial buildings and an incentive program to accelerate achievement of energy reductions
- Set standards for some of the biggest energy- and water-using products not being addressed at the federal level
- Require natural gas utilities to undertake energy efficiency programs

Accelerate Innovation in New Buildings

- Give cities and counties the opportunity to adopt more progressive energy codes for new residential buildings
- Create a model aspirational code that lays out where we need to be in 2030, providing a roadmap to builders and architects alike

Invest in Renewal and Innovation

- Support affordable housing projects around the state to be highly efficient and keep operational costs down for residents
- Grant funds for net zero energy schools to lower operating costs, provide healthier learning environments for our children, and build experience with new technologies
- Expand weatherization programs to help low-income residents lower utility bills and live in healthier homes
- Lead by example and retrofit publicly-owned buildings

WANT TO HELP? NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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