

Equitable, Well-sited Solar Energy

[House Bill 1814](#) incentivizes low-income solar in the built environment



Washington sees new investments in solar energy every day, bringing the state closer to achieving its targets for the clean energy transition. However, barriers have prevented many people from accessing the full financial benefits of solar energy, especially renters and low-income households who did not benefit from previous incentives.

Meanwhile, over 54,000 acres of solar panels have been proposed in rural areas, where land is flat and cheap, putting bird habitat and prime farmland at risk. New solar energy programs should take measures to protect valuable natural and working lands. Public investments should only be eligible on preferred sites, such as the built environment.

Immediate action should be taken to improve solar access, invest in low-income communities, and produce more energy in urban areas where it is most needed. Governor Inslee's climate package includes \$100 million to deploy solar energy, with the intent to support overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.

[House Bill 1814](#) supports equitable, well-sited solar energy.

This bill creates a solar incentive program that will reduce the energy burden of thousands of households. Washington State University Energy Program will administer a program to fund the up-front costs of solar development for low-income households and low-income service providers on preferred sites.

The program will leverage clean energy to provide long term economic relief to Washington communities most burdened by energy bills.