

The legislative session adjourned on time with mixed results for climate and conservation. While most of our priority policies passed, the legislature’s failure to pass a Clean Fuel Standard for a second year in a row was truly disappointing.

We’ll be in touch soon with more ways to join us in putting increased pressure on the legislature to protect birds and people from the worst impacts of climate change.

Policy Priority	Latest Update
<b>CLIMATE PRIORITIES</b>	
<p><b><i>Greenhouse Gas Targets + Sequestration</i></b>            Updates Washington’s GHG emissions targets to align with the most up-to-date recommendations from the Department of Ecology (45% reduction by 2030; 70% by 2040; 95% and net-zero emissions by 2050).</p> <p>Also includes provisions to promote sequestration on public and private lands.</p> <p>Legislation: <a href="#">HB 2311</a></p>	<p>This bill is on the governor’s desk, awaiting his signature.</p>
<p><b><i>Sustainable Farms and Fields</i></b>            Creates a voluntary grant program administered by the Washington State Conservation Commission to provide matching funds for farmers to embrace emissions-reducing practices and carbon sequestration on their working lands.</p> <p>Legislation: <a href="#">SB 5947</a></p>	<p>Sustainable Farms and Fields passed the Senate on a bipartisan 43-6 vote. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk for his signature!</p> <p>In the final budget, the grant program received \$225k in start-up funds, with appropriations going to Washington State Conservation Commission and Washington State Department of Agriculture.</p>
<p><b><i>Clean Fuel Standard</i></b>            A proven technology-neutral approach to</p>	<p>It appears as though Clean Fuels will once again die in the Senate. This is deeply disappointing.</p>

<p>reducing emissions from transportation fuels. Creates a market that accelerates the transition to alternative energy sources such as sustainable biofuels and electricity at minimal cost.</p> <p>Legislation: <a href="#">HB 1110</a></p>	<p>Audubon is working with our partners to craft a plan to double down in a number of legislative districts to make sure that, in 2021, a number of key Senators know that there are no excuses for climate inaction.</p>
<p><b>Clean Car Program (ZEV Standards)</b> Removes the prohibition on adopting the California Zero Emission Vehicle standards from the existing law that authorizes the Department of Ecology to adopt the rest of California's emissions standards. Adopting the ZEV Standard would make more electric vehicles available to Washington state consumers.</p> <p>Legislation: <a href="#">SB 5811</a></p>	<p>SB 5811 passed the Senate on a 25-23 vote. The bill now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature!</p>
<p><b>Granting authority to regulate mobile sources of greenhouse gases</b> In ruling that the Washington Department of Ecology does not have the authority to regulate mobile sources of greenhouse gases, the State Supreme Court noted that the legislature could grant such authority. This governor-request legislation would do just that.</p> <p>Legislation: <a href="#">HB 2957</a></p>	<p>This bill ultimately did not gain traction. We'll be working in the interim to make sure the Washington State Senate understands that reducing transportation emissions must be a top priority in 2021.</p>

## CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

<p><b>Fully fund the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)</b> WDFW has experienced chronic budget shortfalls, making it harder to conserve important habitat. Audubon Washington supports WDFW's 2019-2021 budget request, which is essential to supporting the species recovery and management efforts that are vital to protecting wildlife diversity in our state.</p>	<p>The legislature has provided WDFW with \$27M in State General Fund appropriations in the supplemental operating budget. This will fund WDFW's core services through June of 2021 and allocates significant resources for new work.</p> <p>This improved funding was in no small part thanks to the nearly 2,500 emails sent by</p>
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	Audubon members over the course of the short 60-day legislative session.
<p><b><i>Least-conflict solar siting budget proviso</i></b>  Audubon and our partners are supporting a small budget proviso that would support a project at WSU’s Energy Program to identify areas of “least conflict” for solar siting in the Columbia Basin. This project would help to ensure that our state’s 100% clean energy buildout is aligned with conservation and farmland preservation goals.</p>	This proviso was included in the final supplemental operating budget, meaning this project will be fully funded. In the coming months, WSU Energy Program will begin the least-conflict solar siting process, engaging stakeholders and beginning to better understand the best places and practices for solar siting in the Columbia Basin.

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES COALITION</b>	
<p><b><i>Clean Fuels Standard</i></b>  See above.</p>	See above.
<p><b><i>Greenhouse Gas Targets + Sequestration</i></b>  See above.</p>	See above.
<p><b><i>Plastic Bags Ban</i></b>  The Reusable Bag Act would eliminate thin carry-home plastic bags at all retail establishments and include a pass-through charge to motivate people to bring their own reusable bags and help cover the stores’ cost of more expensive bags.</p> <p>Legislation: <a href="#">SB 5323</a></p>	<p>The Senate version of this bill passed on a bipartisan 33-15 vote.</p> <p>The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk for his signature!</p>
<p><b><i>Healthy Habitat/Healthy Orcas</i></b>  Establishes a new standard for land use, development, and environmental laws, replacing “no net loss” with “net ecological gain.”</p> <p><a href="#">HB 2550</a></p>	While this bill did not pass, the Environmental Priorities Coalition was able to secure \$256,000 in funding to explore how to implement the principle of “net ecological gain.”

## LEGISLATION WE'RE MONITORING

### ***Updating the Evergreen Communities Act***

This legislation would update the 2008 Evergreen Communities Act and tie DNR's urban forestry program delivery more explicitly to important co-benefits from increased tree canopy, including salmon recovery and environmental justice.

Legislation: [HB 2768](#)

Unfortunately, this bill did not pass before the final cut-off deadline and has been placed in the "X-file," which means it is no longer eligible for consideration this session.