



WASHINGTON

It's budget season! This means that both the House and Senate are working diligently on developing their versions of the operations, capital, and transportation budgets. These separate versions of the budget will need to be reconciled over the next month with important implications for conservation and climate in Washington state. We'll keep you posted on budget and policy developments and share action alerts as needed.

We've marked all bills that are still moving as **"Still Alive!"**

Policy Priority	Latest Update
CLIMATE PRIORITIES	
<p><i>100% Clean Electricity Standard</i> Phases out coal-generated electricity by 2025 and enables a carbon neutral electricity sector by 2030. It would phase in electricity generated from solar, wind, hydro, and other clean resources, reaching 100% clean by 2045.</p> <p>Legislation: SB 5116</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>Budget deliberations have delayed a vote in the House Finance Committee, but a YES vote is expected in the next few days.</p> <p>The current version of SB 5116 is as strong as ever and we expect a floor vote sometime in early April.</p>
<p><i>Clean Fuel Standard</i> A proven technology-neutral approach to reducing emissions from transportation fuels by creating a market that accelerates the transition to alternative energy sources such as sustainable biofuels and electricity at minimal cost.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1110</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>HB 1110 passed out of the Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee is now scheduled for a public hearing in Senate Transportation on Thursday April 4th.</p> <p>This bill continues to face an uphill battle, so if you haven't already, email your Senator and ask them to prioritize passing a clean fuels standard this year..</p> <p>ACTION: Email your Senator today!</p>
<p><i>Clean Buildings Package</i> Sets an ambitious model code designed to</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>House Democratic leadership is expected to</p>

<p>ensure that new buildings' net energy use is reduced by 70%. It will also establish performance requirements for large commercial structures and set a standard that requires gas utilities to set targets for energy efficiency.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1257</p>	<p>move this bill to the floor soon so it has time to make its way through the Senate.</p>
<p><i>Phasing out Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), or “super-pollutants”</i></p> <p>According to a Department of Ecology report in December 2018, HFCs and other ozone-depleting substance (ODS) substitutes accounted for 3.76 million tons of CO₂e emissions in 2015, out of the state's total reported GHG emissions of 97.4 million tons of CO₂e that year. This legislation would completely phase out the use of HFCs in Washington state by 2024. Because of the immense global warming potential of HFCs, Audubon Washington signed-in in support of this bill when it was heard in the House Environment & Energy Committee this morning.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1112</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>HB 1112 passed out of the Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee on March 26 and has been referred to Senate Ways & Means.</p>
<p><i>Appliance Efficiency</i></p> <p>The most important energy is often the energy we don't use. That's why Audubon Washington signed-in in support of new appliance efficiency standards today. This legislation sets new standards for products such as computer and computer monitors; urinals and water closets; and residential electric storage water heaters. Beginning in 2021, products that don't meet these new standards may not be sold or offered for sale, lease, or rent in the state.</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>HB 1444 passed out of the Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee and has been referred to Senate Ways & Means.</p>

<p>Legislation: HB 1444</p>	
<p>The HEAL Act</p> <p>Creates a task force to incorporate equity and environmental justice analyses into all state agency decision making.</p> <p>Legislation: SB 5489</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>SB 5489 had a public hearing in the House Committee on State and Government and Tribal Relations on Tuesday, March 19 and is now scheduled for an executive session on March 26.</p>
<p>Cap and Trade</p> <p>Senator Reuven Carlyle introduced a bill that would create a cap and trade system in Washington state that would link to cap and trade markets in other jurisdictions. The bill would also create a carbon reduction account that would invest in energy transformation, transition assistance, and climate resilience.</p> <p>Legislation: SB 5981</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>Upon introduction this legislation was declared necessary to implement the budget (NTIB).</p> <p>SB 5981 had its first public hearing on Thursday, March 21 in the Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee.</p> <p>Audubon Washington is eager to work with stakeholders to continue to develop this policy to equitably maximize emissions reductions.</p>

<p>CONSERVATION PRIORITIES</p>	
<p><i>Fully fund the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)</i></p> <p>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>Legislation on license fees: SB 5692/HB 1708</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>The House operating budget included \$34.7M for WDFW, including \$17M in revenue from the proposed increase in fees for hunting and fishing licenses (HB 1708).</p> <p>The Senate operating budget has not been released as of this morning (Friday, March 28th) and will need to be reconciled with the House's budget.</p>

Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs)

Rangeland fire poses a risk to people, livelihoods, ecosystems, and wildlife and is a significant the number one threat to sagebrush habitat in our state. The loss of sagebrush areas due to fire can create barriers to wildlife movement across the landscape, impede important ecological processes and functions, and increase the risk of future fire. The RFPA model provides a legitimate, safe way for private landowners to be active participants in the protection of their land and livelihoods., and supports our shared goals around the protection of rangeland, agricultural livelihoods, and sagebrush species and habitat.

Legislation: [HB 1188](#)

HB 1188 did not pass out of House Appropriations committee meaning it will not stay alive in the 2019 legislative session.

We will continue to build support for this concept in the interim and work to pass this legislation in 2020.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES COALITION

100% Clean Electricity Standard
See above.

See above.

Orca Protection

Preventing toxic pollution that affects public health or the environment

Legislation: [SB 5135](#)

Still Alive: SB 5135 had a public hearing in the House Committee on Environment and Energy on Thursday, March 21 and is scheduled for an executive session on April 1st or 2nd.

Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance.

Legislation: [HB 1579](#)

Still Alive: HB 1579 had a hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources, and Parks on Tuesday, March 19 and is scheduled for an executive session on April 2nd.

Concerning the protection of southern resident orca whales from vessels.

Legislation: [HB 1580](#)/ [SB 5577](#)

Still Alive: SB 5577 passed out of the House Committee on Rural Development,

	Agriculture, and Natural Resources on March 27.
<p><i>Plastic Bags Ban</i></p> <p>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: SB 5323</p>	<p>Still Alive!</p> <p>SB 5323 passed out of the House Environment & Energy Committee on Monday, March 26 and is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on Finance on April 2nd.</p>
<p><i>Oil Spill Prevention</i></p> <p>Washington continues to face significant risks of oils spills in Puget Sound and the coast. These risks threaten local economies and the survival of iconic species like salmon and orcas. To address these risks, the state must have the same protections on barges and other vessels that exist for large tankers, require an emergency response tug that can protect high-risk areas like the San Juan Islands, and ensure that oil drilling will never happen off of Washington's coast.</p> <p>Legislation: HB 1578</p>	<p>Still Alive: HB 1578 passed out of the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy, and Technology and has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.</p>