

# 2021 CLIMATE PRIORITIES WASHINGTON STATE



## Climate Solutions 2021 Legislative Agenda

### HB 1091, SB 5231

#### CLEAN FUEL STANDARD

Diesel, gasoline and other transportation fuels are responsible for nearly half of our climate pollution in Washington and they also damage our respiratory health today. HB 1091 will reduce this pollution and create a positive investment cycle for cleaner fuels, especially for zero emission vehicles. This foundational policy will help us achieve our carbon reduction goals, improve our health, support local green businesses and job, and keep clean fuels and spending here at home.

### HB 1084, SB 5093

#### HEALTHY HOMES & CLEAN BUILDINGS

Emissions from buildings are growing at a faster rate than any other source of carbon pollution. Combusting fossil gas in homes and buildings is not only a significant contributor to the climate crisis, but it also poses significant health risks. This bill includes many important elements, including but not limited to:

**Elimination of on-site fossil fuel combustion**, which accelerates the requirements to achieve a 70% net energy consumption reduction by four years and eliminates on-site fossil fuel combustion for space and water heating in new construction.

**Beneficial electrification**, which clarifies that public utilities have the authority to demonstrate a case for electrification incentives that will benefit their customers.

**Removing preferences for gas**. Currently sections of our state statute prioritize gas specifically, rather than “energy services.” Amending these sections of law will help align our codes with the Washington State Energy Strategy and our statutory climate goals.

**Gas utility transition plans**, which ensure gas utilities are planning to meet the state’s GHG goals through a variety of strategies, including increased efficiency, conversion to electric appliances, and incorporating clean fuels.

SB 5126

## CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT

Washington has strong, science-based greenhouse gas limits, but not yet a comprehensive program to achieve this. This act would help by establishing a pollution cap that gradually reduces over time, with proceeds from the program being invested in clean transportation, natural climate resiliency solutions, and the clean energy transition. It further requires environmental justice analysis and establishes an Environmental Justice and Equity advisory panel. We are also open to exploring other carbon revenue solutions should the legislature decide to pursue these.

## CLEAN & JUST TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

It is critical that we invest in a clean transportation system that adequately funds transit, safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transportation electrification infrastructure. We will support transportation investment packages that are strong in these areas. To fund this important work, we also need new flexible, climate-friendly, and progressive revenue sources such as:

**Air Quality Surcharge**, a one-time charge on the sale of a new vehicle, or a vehicle retitled in Washington, based on its estimated lifetime greenhouse gas pollution.

**Road Usage Charge** that accounts for vehicle miles traveled and would provide a more stable and flexible source of revenue than the gas tax. Such a charge could be rolled out beginning with electric vehicles, while maintaining their lower cost to operate. Care must be put into such a program to ensure it is equitable and addresses privacy concerns.

**Carbon Pricing investments** for clean transportation options.

## Other critical priorities

SB 5141

## HEAL ACT

Requires environmental justice in state law and action, ensures state government collaborates with and is accountable to frontline communities, and directs investments to highly impacted communities.

HB 1099

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT REFORM

Adds climate as a planning goal under the Growth Management Act and requires comprehensive plans to include climate change mitigation and resiliency.

HB 1103

## BUY CLEAN BUY FAIR

Incorporates standards for pollution and working conditions into the procurement process.

HB 1050

## REDUCING HFCS

Builds on the success of 2019 legislation, reducing potent refrigeration emissions by setting standards, reducing leaks, incorporating into the state building codes, and establishing procurement preferences.



## For more information

Contact Vlad Gutman-Britten (Washington Director, Climate Solutions) at [vlad@climatesolutions.org](mailto:vlad@climatesolutions.org)