



# 2024 CLIMATE

WA is in a new phase of climate action, with a focus on *who* benefits from the transition to clean energy and how we can increase access to the good things already here and those yet to come. It's about doing better for our communities, prioritizing our health, and centering issues of vulnerability and affordability as we invest in our state's climate-forward present and future.

## Transportation

### 100% Clean School Buses (HB 1368) + Budget

An Environmental Priorities Coalition Priority

All schoolkids should be able to get a healthy and safe ride to school. Diesel pollution causes cancer, contributes to lung and other chronic diseases, and triggers asthma attacks. Yet almost all of our 12,000+ school buses in Washington currently run on diesel. The pollution from these buses is especially harmful to kids with still-developing lungs. In fact, the air pollution inside a school bus can be 4 to 12 times higher than outside!<sup>1</sup> Children from low-income families and with medical conditions are more likely to take the bus to school, exacerbating existing health disparities and making local air quality worse. We can and must change this to protect kids and our communities.

The Legislature can and should ensure all Washington kids can get a clean and healthy ride to school by requiring all new school buses be zero-emission by 2027 and all school buses on the road be zero-emission by 2035, and by financially supporting schools in this transition.

### Hold Oil Companies Accountable

An Environmental Priorities Coalition Priority

The oil industry extracts some of its highest profits in the entire country from Washington. While we struggled through the pandemic and inflation, oil companies pocketed historic profits of over \$200 billion in 2022 alone. Not coincidentally, anyone filling their gas tank in Washington experienced the highest-ever gas prices that summer. At the end of 2022, for every gallon of gas sold at the pump, retailers pulled a margin of 85.6 cents—on top of profits embedded in the price from oil refiners and producers.

We need a law requiring oil companies to be more transparent about their profits and prices, and fair standards for fuel pricing so that Washingtonians are not harmed by price gouging as we transition to a clean economy.

## 2024 Budget

### Continuing to invest the Climate Commitment Act revenue wisely

2023 revenue raised by the landmark Climate Commitment Act (CCA) was close to \$2 billion, creating a new funding stream for investments in climate, clean energy, and communities statewide. It is critical to spend dollars wisely and ensure an equitable transition to a carbon-free future—2024 budget priorities are 100% clean school buses and retrofits for multi-family housing.

- We can fund the transition to zero-emission buses, help our schools, and improve our kids' health. With **\$60.5 million from the supplemental budget**, the Washington Legislature can help meet the need and growing demand for clean buses and ensure all kids get a healthy and safe ride to school.
- We need to dedicate funding so residents of affordable, multi-family housing can reap the benefits of living in clean and healthy, electric buildings. Low-income residents are the least able to transition off gas, and for tenants of affordable, multi-family housing (MFH) it is largely up to building owners to make this transition. The Washington Legislature should invest **\$100 million in MFH affordable housing incentives for energy efficiency upgrades and electrification retrofits**. This operating budget funding will be flexible and can be used for outreach, planning, and technical assistance.

### Navigating Building Electrification Benefits & Utility Planning

#### Clean Buildings Navigator Bill (HB 1391)

With significant new clean energy incentives coming to Washingtonians from federal investments and the Climate Commitment Act, it is critical that the incentives are accessible, understandable, and that there is significant community outreach and input. This bill would create a one-stop shop and outreach campaign to do just that.

#### Puget Sound Energy Decarbonization (HB 1589)

This bill will ensure that PSE (our largest gas and electric utility) plans for the transition to clean energy, makes significant new programs available to help folks transition off of fossil gas, and creates opportunities for low-income people to access the clean energy transition. HB 1589 will require PSE to proactively plan to meet statutory requirements to decarbonize its system. Without this bill, PSE may continue planning its gas system to be reliant on fossil fuels indefinitely, resulting in stranded assets and higher costs for customers.

1 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167629611000701#bib0190>

