



WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE **CLEAN BUILDINGS** PRIORITIES

We deserve homes and buildings that are affordable, efficient, comfortable, and healthy.

Buildings are still our second-largest source of climate pollution. Meanwhile, our summers are getting hotter and there is a growing need for cooling and air filtration from wildfire smoke. Luckily, there is a great solution: clean energy upgrades to efficient electric appliances such as heat pumps, which also provide air conditioning.

With Climate Commitment Act (CCA) revenue and through innovative policy, the Legislature can help people access clean, energy efficient choices. We can help people save money, improve home health and comfort, and double down on reducing pollution in these ways:

- **Invest \$50 million** in the WA Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (HEAR)
- Pass an **“Upgrade and Save”** policy

Now is the time to increase home comfort, improve health and air quality, and increase access to clean, energy efficient choices that save money.

Clean Buildings *Legislative Priorities*



Invest \$50 million in the WA Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (HEAR):

Research shows we need substantial investment in building electrification to align with our State Energy Strategy. Washington's HEAR program, which provides rebates for heat pumps and induction stoves, has proven to be popular and successful: in its initial launch, HEAR distributed almost 4,000 rebates to households on low and moderate incomes, small businesses, and adult family homes. To meet the needs of people across the state, the Legislature should fund HEAR at \$50 million in the 2026 supplemental budget to bring the funding level up to match last biennium's \$80 million.

We must prioritize funding and incentives for low- and middle-income households.

Low- and middle-income households are the least likely to be able to afford clean energy retrofits without help. As wealthier households choose to upgrade to electric heating and appliances, low-income residents who are unable to transition will bear the cost burden of rising gas prices and supporting existing gas infrastructure.

We need to electrify all appliances possible. While space and water heating make up the bulk of gas use in homes, gas-powered clothes dryers also contribute significant emissions, and gas cooking appliances cause harmful indoor air pollution. Children growing up in a household with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop asthma symptoms. Reducing indoor air pollution is also crucial for vulnerable communities, including low-income and BIPOC communities, who already have higher risks of death from particle pollution, and who may be at higher risk of exposure to gas cooking appliance pollution because of smaller unit sizes, more people per home, older homes with poorer ventilation, and using stoves or ovens for supplemental heat.



Pass an **"Upgrade and Save"** policy:

The upfront costs of appliances such as heat pump heating and cooling systems, heat pump water heaters, and more are too expensive for many Washingtonians, leaving energy efficient heating and cooling systems out of reach. **An "Upgrade and Save" program, also known as tariffed on-bill financing, is a financial solution in which investor-owned utilities pay the upfront cost of energy efficient, electric home upgrades and recover those costs through a fixed charge on the customer's bill.** This charge must be less than the estimated savings that result, meaning participants' energy bills will be lower. This program would eliminate upfront costs, expand access to healthier home appliances for low- and moderate-income households, renters, and energy-burdened communities in a new way, and lower people's monthly energy bills.