



DOING OUR PART TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Governor, legislators team up on comprehensive clean energy package

The science is clear that climate change poses significant risks to our economy, our health, our environment, our national security and our way of life. The most recent National Climate Assessment, a federal report prepared by hundreds of scientists, details the disruptive impacts anticipated in the United States and the Pacific Northwest if we don't act now to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The good news is that leaders at all levels of government around the world are increasing their attention and commitment to this effort. Washington state is well-positioned to do its part and help lead the transition to a new clean energy future.

In 2008, the state Legislature adopted targets requiring the state to limit greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035 and to 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Without additional action, the state is not on track to meet these targets. The latest scientific assessments suggest we

[For more information, see governor's clean energy package.](#)

must reduce emissions even further, and the state Department of Ecology has recommended stronger targets in line with the science of climate change.

Gov. Inslee and legislators are proposing a comprehensive package of legislation and investments that will speed up the transition to a cleaner, carbon-free future. The package includes five initiatives that, combined, will significantly reduce emissions and put Washington on track to meet its statutory targets.



[100 percent clean energy](#)

Washington's clean electricity supply is the cornerstone of its clean energy transition. Inslee's plan puts Washington on a pathway to 100 percent clean electricity, with aggressive near-term requirements for utilities to begin transitioning to clean energy now. He also proposes additional funding to support the transition, including \$57.5 million for the state's Clean Energy Fund for projects related to grid modernization and development of clean energy technology, and renewed funding for the state's solar incentive program.



[Cleaner buildings](#)

The building sector contributes 27 percent of overall greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state; those emissions have grown by half since 1990. Accelerating investments in energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies can drastically cut this pollution while providing enormous cost savings on energy bills. Inslee's proposal encourages retrofitting of commercial buildings and modernize codes for

construction of new buildings. It also creates a new efficiency standard for natural gas to ensure utilities achieve the same conservation savings required for electricity.



[Eliminating HFC super-pollutants](#)

Hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, are greenhouse gases that can be thousands of times more damaging to the climate than carbon dioxide. These "super-pollutants" are used in a variety of applications, including aerosols, refrigeration and air conditioning. Climate-safe alternatives are available, and world leaders agreed in 2016 to phase down the use of these chemicals globally. As the federal administration fails to act on this problem, the governor supports legislation to phase down the use of HFCs in Washington state.



[Clean fuels](#)

Transportation is responsible for the single largest share of Washington's greenhouse gas emissions. Cars and trucks alone emit nearly one-third of the state's carbon pollution. One way we can reduce these emissions is to run our vehicles on lower carbon fuel sources, whether by blending biodiesel and other biofuels into our transport fuel or by introducing more electric vehicles.

A clean fuel standard is a market-based approach used by Oregon, California and the province of British Columbia to cut greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels. Inslee supports legislation



to enact a clean fuel standard that would require fuel providers to reduce the carbon intensity of fuels. The program is technology neutral, meaning the requirement can be achieved by any mix of alternative fuels that overall meet the average standard. Setting a clean fuel standard will spur manufacturing investment and create rural jobs processing new fuel here in Washington.

Clean transportation

Transitioning to electric vehicles is one of the most important ways to reduce carbon pollution. Inslee’s proposal builds upon current efforts to promote electric vehicles and ferries and ensures electric and zero-emission vehicle options are a more affordable and convenient option for consumers across the state.

Summary of investments, 2019–21

Focus Areas	Items	Agency	Amount
Clean transportation	EV Infrastructure Bank: fast charging stations	WSDOT	\$2,000,000
	EV promotion campaign	WSDOT	\$1,000,000
	EVSE at state facilities	DES	\$5,000,000
	New authority for ultra high-speed rail	WSDOT	\$3,250,000
	Convert two ferries to electric-hybrid	WSDOT	\$53,200,000
	Construct two new electric ferries	WSDOT	\$64,300,000
	Zero-emission vehicles	Ecology	\$254,000
	Clean Transportation Total		\$129,004,000
Clean electricity	Clean electricity bill implementation	Commerce, UTC	\$428,000
	Grid modernization grants	Commerce	\$22,500,000
	Strategic RD&D	Commerce	\$17,500,000
	Nonprofit lenders grants	Commerce	\$12,500,000
	Renewable energy cost recovery incentive admin	Washington State University	\$1,411,000
	Solar tax incentives	DOR	\$4,700,000
	Clean Electricity Total		\$59,039,000
Clean buildings	Clean buildings bill Implementation	Commerce, DOR	\$2,300,000
	Public building retrofit prioritization study	Commerce	\$750,000
	Housing Family Trust NZE construction	Commerce	\$10,000,000
	K-12 NZE School construction	Commerce	\$10,000,000
	EE and solar in public buildings	Commerce	\$30,000,000
	Low-income weatherization	Commerce	\$25,000,000
	LED lighting upgrades at state facilities	Commerce	\$5,000,000
	Clean Buildings Total		\$83,050,000
HFC super-pollutants	Hydrofluorocarbon emissions reduction	Ecology	\$959,000
Low carbon fuels	Low carbon fuel standard	Ecology	\$1,424,000
	Grand Total		\$273,476,000