

Policy Brief

December 2018

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Our transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state, accounting for nearly 50 percent of all emissions. It's also the largest energy cost for many Washingtonians, accounting for nearly 64 percent of an average household's energy costs.

To meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets, we must aggressively electrify our transportation infrastructure and help more people take advantage of options such as high-speed rail, light rail, buses and more. Because Washington's electric grid is among the cleanest and cheapest in the nation, transitioning to electric vehicles is one of the best ways to cut carbon pollution. Electric vehicles also have the potential to save consumers hundreds of dollars on their fuel bills every year.



ACHIEVING WASHINGTON'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS IN 15 YEARS



By expanding multi-modal commuter options and fueling more of our cars, buses and ferries with clean electricity instead of fossil fuels, we can reduce carbon emissions by nearly 2 million metric tons a year.

Gov. Jay Inslee has already launched numerous initiatives to electrify Washington's transportation systems, including his Electric Vehicle Fleets Initiative that requires 50 percent of all new state-owned and -leased passenger vehicles to be electric by 2020 and committing to all vehicles in Washington being zero-emission vehicles, or ZEVs, by at least 2050. He has supported incentives that make electric vehicles more affordable and invested in bolstering the state's EV charging network. Inslee is on track to meet his goal of 50,000 EV's on Washington roads by 2020. But we need to do more, faster.

Summary of Inslee's electric transportation legislation

The governor has requested legislation that will ensure electric vehicles become a more-affordable and -convenient option for consumers around the state.

EV sales tax incentive

Makes electric vehicles more accessible and affordable to everyone by providing a \$1,000 discount on any new or used EV under \$45,000. No sales tax will be assessed on vehicles under \$15,000.

"ZEV state"

Gives consumers more electric vehicle makes and models to choose from by making Washington a zero-emission vehicle — or "ZEV" — state like California.

EV authority for utilities

Authorizes utilities to promote EV's and build residential and workplace charging stations.

EV charging requirements in new buildings

Makes EV charging more practical, especially in dense urban areas, by requiring new commercial and multi-family buildings to install more highspeed charging stations.

2019–21 budget investments

Inslee's proposed operating, capital and transportation budgets include funding to expand Washington's EV charging network, which now includes about 100 publicly available DC fast chargers. It also launches a conversion of Washington's ferry fleet — the largest in the nation — to electric-hybrid. The governor also includes funding to continue the state's efforts to build an ultra-high-speed rail system from Seattle to Portland and Vancouver, B.C., to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles in the state's motor pool and implement legislation to make Washington a ZEV state.

- Build more electric vehicle fast-charging stations across the state by doubling the investment in our state EV Infrastructure Bank. (\$2 million)
- Fund two new electric-hybrid ferries. (\$64.3 million)
- Fund the conversion of two ferries to electric-hybrid. (\$53.2 million)
- Fund an EV promotion campaign to promote the benefits of driving electric and educate consumers about available incentives. (\$1 million)
- Develop a new authority to advance a 250 mph ultra-high speed rail system between Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. (\$3.25 million)
- Implement legislation to make Washington a ZEV state. (\$254,000)
- Accelerate adoption of electric vehicles in the state's motor pool. (\$5 million)

