



— WASHINGTON GOVERNOR —

JAY INSLEE

POLICY  
BRIEF

December 2018

**Climate change is a threat to the world ...**

*"Climate change is here and affecting our health, with extreme heat in particular also having effects on productivity, food supply and disease transmission, a new global report finds."*

— CNN, Nov. 28, 2018

**Climate change is a threat to the United States ...**

*"In clear, unwavering terms, the [National Climate Assessment] states that without 'substantial and sustained reductions' in greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will hurt people, economies, and resources across the U.S."*

— National Geographic, Nov. 23, 2018

**Climate change is a threat to Washington state ...**

*"Climate change's effects — among them, increasing wildfires, disease outbreak and drought — are taking a toll on the Northwest, and what's to come will threaten and transform our way of life from the salmon streams to ski slopes ..."*

— The Seattle Times, Nov. 24, 2018

**The fight against climate change is our shot at a jobs revolution**

*"The connection between clean-energy systems and a growing economy is a direct one. We can take money that would otherwise flow to foreign entities and invest those same dollars in local jobs. We can reduce harms to public health and the global commons by investing in skills, technology and productive infrastructure. A clean-energy revolution represents the jobs of the future."*

— Gov. Jay Inslee in "Apollo's Fire"

## POWERED BY INNOVATION, WASHINGTON CAN FIGHT BACK AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

*Our transition to a clean energy future seizes upon the innovation and technology already at work across all sectors — the electric grid, transportation, building design and operation, fuel manufacturing and more. Our success in beating back the threat of climate change depends on us harnessing these sources of innovation and bringing them together to make progress toward one, unified goal: reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035.*

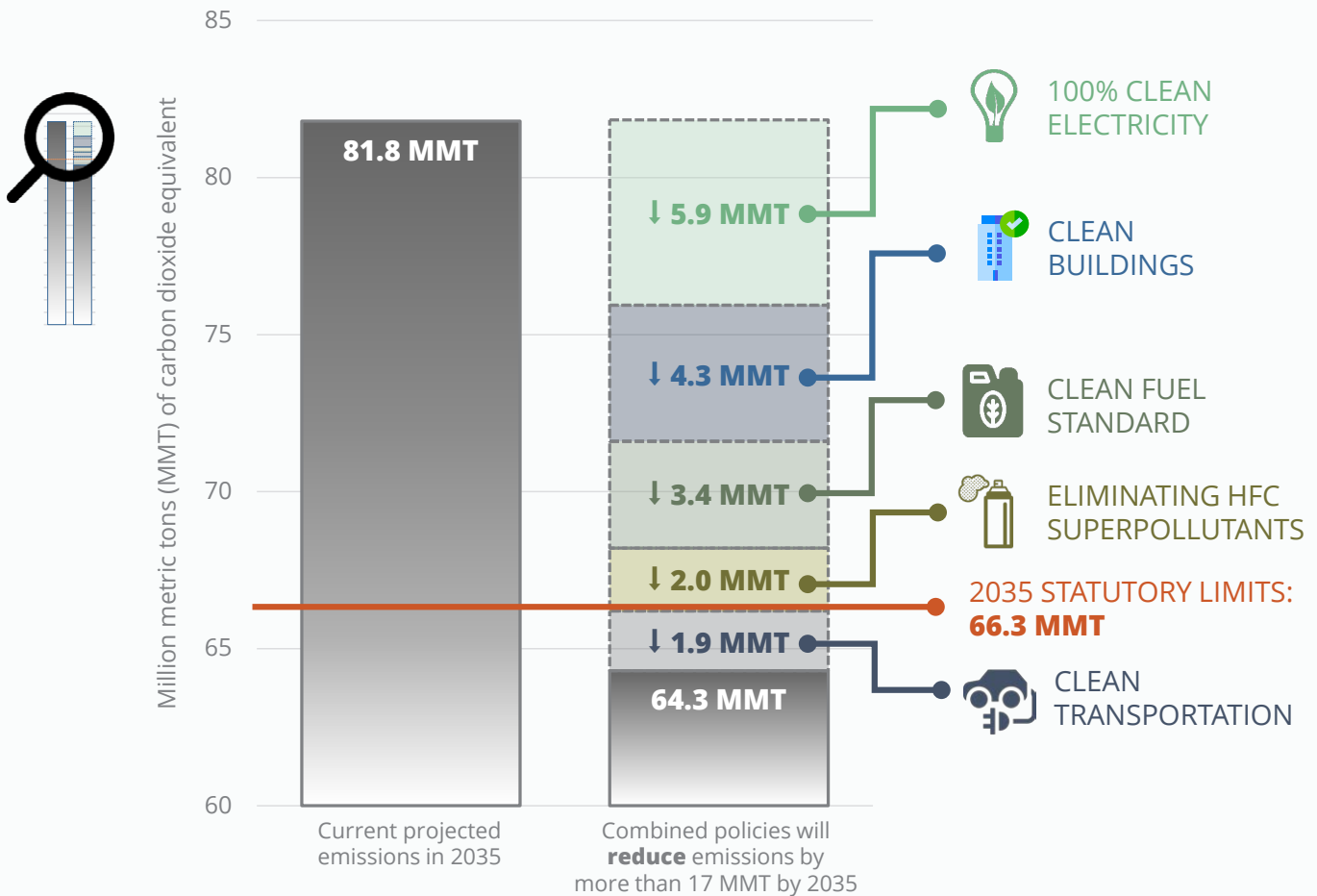
*We can do this.*

### By fighting climate change we create jobs, increase security and improve health

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



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



Washington state must take bold action now to meet the target our Legislature has committed to for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the next 15 years. These policies — combined — will shrink emissions to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035.

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

## How do we beat climate change? Clean power, clean buildings, clean transportation

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

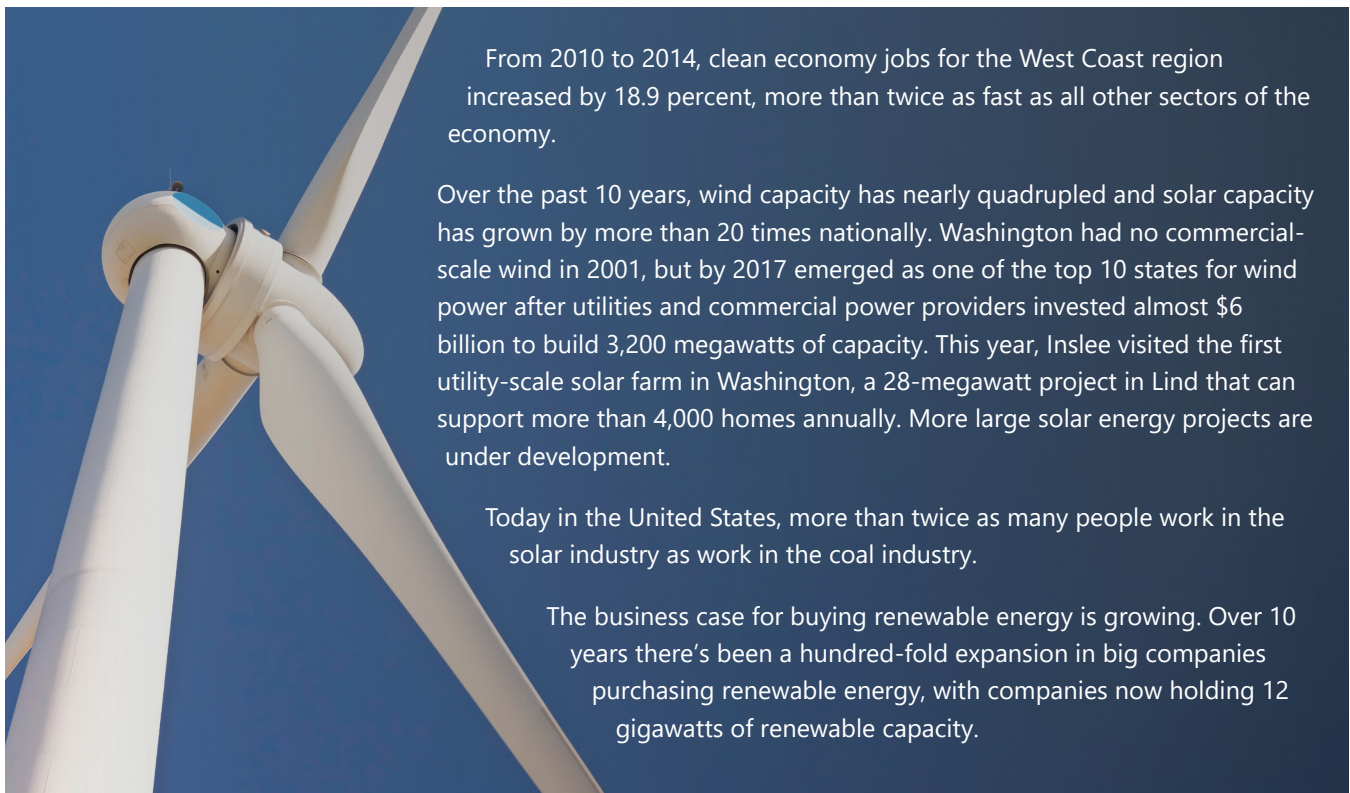
Washington's clean electricity supply is the cornerstone of its clean energy transition. Inslee's plan puts Washington on a pathway to 100 percent clean electricity, with aggressive near-term requirements for utilities to begin transitioning to clean energy now. He also proposes additional

funding to support the transition, including \$52.5 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; 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 empowers local government to accelerate clean buildings through modernized codes. It also creates a new efficiency standard so utilities can help customers reduce their dependence on natural gas.

A large, low-angle photograph of a white wind turbine against a clear blue sky, serving as the background for the text in this section.

From 2010 to 2014, clean economy jobs for the West Coast region increased by 18.9 percent, more than twice as fast as all other sectors of the economy.

Over the past 10 years, wind capacity has nearly quadrupled and solar capacity has grown by more than 20 times nationally. Washington had no commercial-scale wind in 2001, but by 2017 emerged as one of the top 10 states for wind power after utilities and commercial power providers invested almost \$6 billion to build 3,200 megawatts of capacity. This year, Inslee visited the first utility-scale solar farm in Washington, a 28-megawatt project in Lind that can support more than 4,000 homes annually. More large solar energy projects are under development.

Today in the United States, more than twice as many people work in the solar industry as work in the coal industry.

The business case for buying renewable energy is growing. Over 10 years there's been a hundred-fold expansion in big companies purchasing renewable energy, with companies now holding 12 gigawatts of renewable capacity.



## 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 out the use of these chemicals globally. As the federal administration fails to act on this problem, the governor supports legislation to phase out the use of HFCs in Washington.



## 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 meets 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
	ZEV	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
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$273,476,000</b>