



— WASHINGTON GOVERNOR —

# JAY INSLEE

## POLICY BRIEF

December 2018

### ELIMINATING HFC SUPER-POLLUTANTS



*Hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, are greenhouse gases that can be thousands of times more damaging to the climate than carbon. By acting now to phase out their use, we will significantly improve our ability to reach our greenhouse gas reduction targets.*



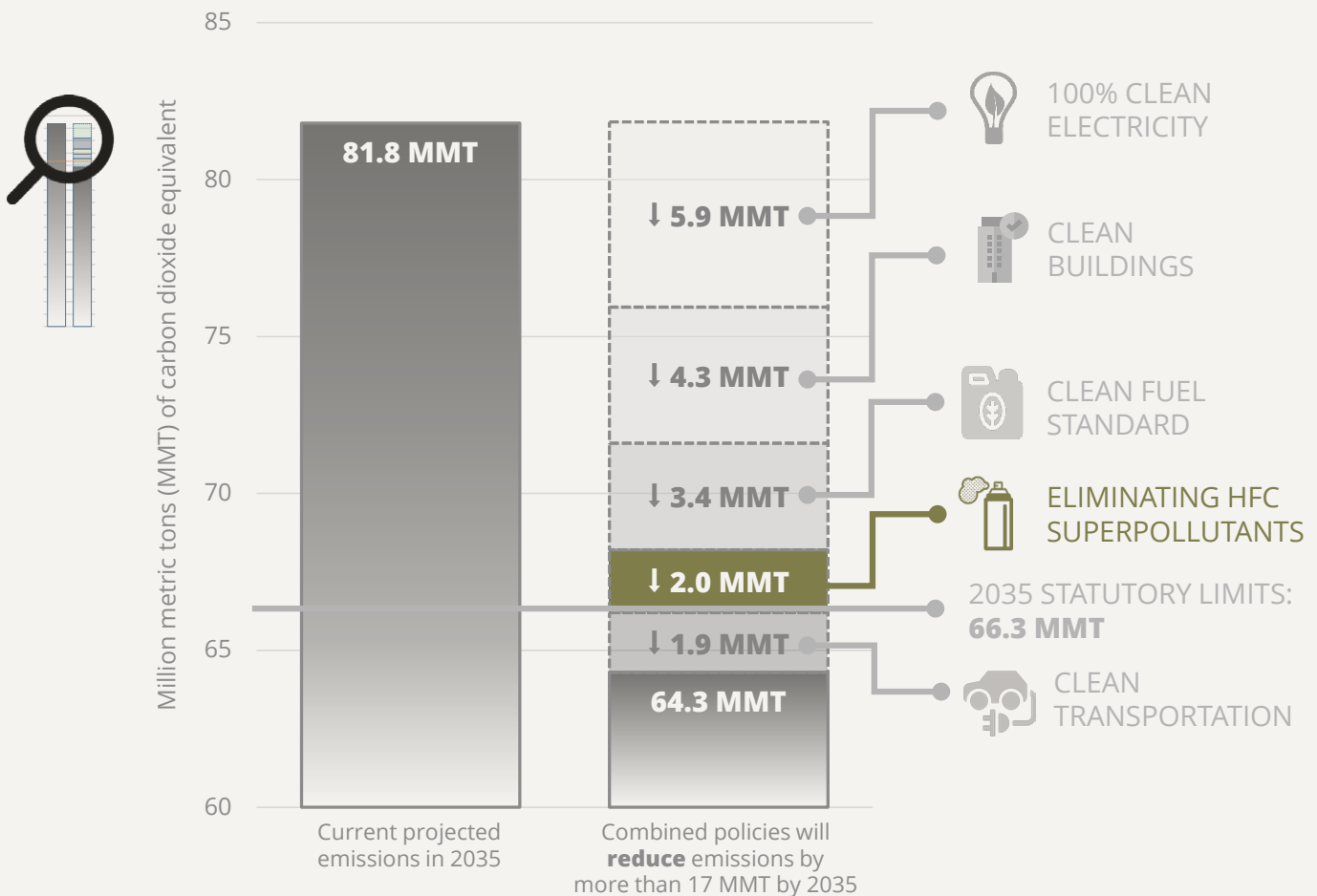
Use of HFCs is growing rapidly throughout our state and the country. Annual emissions of this super-pollutant, found in some aerosols, refrigeration, heat pumps and air conditioning systems, equal the amount of climate pollution from several hundred thousand cars and trucks on our roads. Left unchecked, HFCs may be responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than 1 million vehicles on our roads by 2030.



International community and business leaders have recognized HFC pollution as a serious threat and the transition to climate-safe alternatives as an economic opportunity. In 2016, a total of 197 countries agreed to a global phase down of HFCs through the landmark Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. In the same year, the federal Environmental Protection Agency adopted rules to curtail use of HFCs across the country.



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



Carbon dioxide isn't the only greenhouse gas we need to worry about. Phasing down hydrofluorocarbons will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Washington by 2 million metric tons per year, a significant step toward meeting the state's reduction targets.

Though a large industry consortium supported the phase down, the Trump administration rescinded the rule earlier this year and re-opened the floodgates of a greenhouse gas that can be thousands of times more polluting than carbon.

Action to address HFC emissions will have real and positive effects for U.S. manufacturing. The conservative coalition Let America Lead cites research suggesting that a national phase down of HFCs could increase U.S. exports by \$5 billion annually and create more than 30,000 new domestic

manufacturing jobs and more than 100,000 nonmanufacturing jobs.

In June 2018, Washington joined nine other states and Washington, D.C., in a lawsuit to protect the EPA's rule to curtail HFC emissions. As that process continues, California, New York, Maryland and Connecticut are joining Washington to phase out use of HFCs.

Gov. Inslee supports legislation and provides \$959,000 to implement a program to phase out HFCs.