

2010 Climate, Energy, and Jobs Agenda



Let's build a clean energy economy, create new green jobs and reduce global warming pollution

Two huge challenges—the economic crisis and the climate crisis—share a common solution. By repowering and rebuilding Washington with clean energy, retrofitting our homes and schools to save energy, and providing more transportation choices for people, we can create jobs while cleaning up the pollution that threatens our way of life. **Real climate change solutions are real economic solutions for Washington.** We can meet today's challenges and build a healthy, clean energy economy for our children's future.

Protect the Citizens Clean Energy Initiative (I-937)—HB 3034/ SB 6672

The environmental community is dedicated to maintaining the strength and integrity of the Citizen's Clean Energy Initiative, I-937. We will work to ensure that any potential legislation that moves through the Legislature continues to deliver on the commitment to building a clean energy economy and creating new sources of renewable power. By doing so, we will decrease both our fossil fuel dependence and climate pollution.

Contact: Carrie Dolwick, NW Energy Coalition, carrie@nwenergy.org

JOBS Act of 2010 (Job Opportunities for Better Schools)—HB 2561/ SB 6547

We can put Washingtonians back to work while giving our children better places to learn and saving our schools money. The JOBS Act of 2010 is a referendum to the voters to authorize the state to issue bonds for building upgrades and energy conservation retrofits in schools across the state. The JOBS Act will create about 40,000 new jobs while saving school districts millions in energy costs – that's money that can be used for our teachers and improving instruction.

Contact: Becky Kelley, Washington Environmental Council, becky@wecprotects.org

Energy Efficiency Financing—HB 2853/ SB 6656

One of the biggest barriers to increasing energy efficiency is a lack of up-front financing. This bill allows municipalities to use bonding authority to set up loans to provide up-front financing for energy efficiency in our homes and businesses. It will allow the repayment of these loans to stay with the property that benefits from the energy bill savings. This policy will enable widespread upgrades of homes and businesses, saving consumers money on energy bills, creating good jobs, and reducing climate pollution.

Contact: Carrie Dolwick, NW Energy Coalition, carrie@nwenergy.org

Facing the Transit Funding Crisis—HB 2855

Large and small transit agencies across the state face drastic budget shortfalls due to their dependence on sales taxes. If we do not attain new sustainable local options and contributions from the State, dramatic service cuts are inevitable. Even during the economic recession demand for transit continues to be strong; between 2007 and 2008 ridership increased nearly 10% statewide. In order to address this growing crisis Washington State needs to restore CTR (Commute Trip Reduction) and GTEC (Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers) funding, increase its direct contribution to transit and other multi-modal programs, and provide significant new local option transit revenue.

Contact: Andrew Austin, Transportation Choices Coalition, andrew@transportationchoices.org

Eliminating Tax Breaks for Coal—SB 6573/ HB 3077

This bill eliminates the sales tax exemption for coal used at the state's single, large coal-fired plant. The tax exemption was originally enacted to help an in-state coal mine, which has since closed. Estimates indicate that the bill would return up to \$10 million every two years to the state general fund. The TransAlta coal plant is Washington's largest stationary source of global warming pollution, mercury pollution and nitrogen oxide pollution. While other critical public needs go unmet because of the state's budget crisis, it is difficult to imagine how continuation of such a tax exemption could be justified.

Contact: Heather Weiner, Sierra Club, heather@heatherweiner.com

Energy Efficient Televisions—SB 6489

Today's TV models are bigger and more energy intensive and most homes have more than one TV. They account for about 10% of household energy use. We can adopt standards that reduce power use of new TVs by 50%; in fact, half of the TVs sold already meet this specification. Washington should pursue these standards in 2010 to ensure consumers get the most efficient TVs to save energy and money while dramatically reducing climate pollution.

Contact: Carrie Dolwick, NW Energy Coalition, carrie@nwenergy.org

Complete Streets for Healthy Communities—HB 2911

Complete Streets are crucial components for creating healthy, walkable, and bikeable communities in Washington State. This year we will work to create a framework for a grant program for local complete streets projects in Washington's cities to encourage more livable and healthy communities.

Contact: Andrew Austin, Transportation Choices Coalition, andrew@transportationchoices.org

Greenhouse Gas Reporting—HB 2545/ SB 6373

In 2008, the Legislature passed mandatory reporting of major sources of global warming pollution. Recently the Environmental Protection Agency has issued rules for reporting of the same pollution. Now Washington must update its statute to be in line with federal rules so that we are not creating unnecessary duplicate reporting requirements.

Contact: Jessica Finn Coven, Climate Solutions, jessica@climatesolutions.org



Protect Washington's Clean Energy Future

Washington's Energy Policy Office in the Department of Commerce has been the central coordinator of the state's efforts to grow the clean energy economy and create thousands of green jobs. In 2009, the Energy Office's budget was reduced to \$0, threatening the state's clean energy future. This year, we must restore funding for the office, consistent with Governor Gregoire's budget, to ensure Washington continues to grow the clean energy sector and increases job opportunities throughout the state.

Contact: Jessica Finn Coven, Climate Solutions, jessica@climatesolutions.org

Fully Implement the Renewable Fuels Standard—HB 2504/ SB 6458

In 2006, the Legislature adopted Washington's Renewable Fuel Standard to provide consumers with cleaner fuels that reduce pollution and come from Washington farms rather than overseas. These bills provide the technical changes needed to enable this law to be fully implemented, allowing Washington realize the potential of homegrown cleaner fuels.

Contact: Jessica Finn Coven, Climate Solutions, jessica@climatesolutions.org

Update and Improve the Weatherization Assistance Account—SB 6468

Often, structural repairs are needed in a home before it can be retrofitted to increase its energy efficiency. This bill recognizes that fact and makes structural rehabilitation a key component of the state's low-income weatherization program, which will allow many more people to utilize the cost-saving opportunity of energy efficiency. This bill also ensures that the program is integrated with the green jobs training programs established by the Legislature in 2009 so that we are connecting people being trained with career opportunities in energy efficiency.

Contact: Jessica Finn Coven, Climate Solutions, jessica@climatesolutions.org

Create a State Energy Strategy—SB 6421

Washington State has been a leader in developing innovative energy policies. It's time for the state to have a comprehensive energy plan that lays out our state's objectives with regard to energy policy and charts a course to get there so that we are connecting the policies we already have and identifying what's left to be done.

Contact: Carrie Dolwick, NW Energy Coalition, carrie@nwenergy.org