

## *Building Energy Efficiency*



### ***SB 5854/HB 1747, Prime Sponsors: Senator Derek Kilmer and Representative Christine Rolfes***

Energy efficiency is the cheapest, quickest and cleanest way to meet rising energy needs, confront climate change and boost our economy. More than 30% of Washington's greenhouse-gas emissions come from energy use in buildings. Making homes, businesses and public institutions more energy efficient will save money, create good local jobs, enhance energy security, slash global-warming pollution and speed economic recovery while reducing the need to invest in costly new generation.

Washington can spur its economy and assert its regional and national clean-energy leadership by putting efficiency first. The *Efficiency First* legislation will implement the Climate Action Team's top recommendations by:

- Promoting super-efficient, low-energy-use building codes.
- Requiring disclosure of buildings' energy use scores (similar to a vehicle's MPG rating) to prospective buyers.
- Making our public buildings models of energy efficiency.
- Financing energy-saving upgrades to existing buildings.
- Reducing low-income households' utility bills.

## **Key Components of Legislation**

### **Build super-efficient, low-energy-use buildings**

Advanced design and new technologies can make new buildings far more energy efficient than existing ones. The legislation shall direct the State Building Code Council to steadily strengthen its codes, resulting in construction standards for super-efficient buildings that use on-site renewable resources to produce much of their own power. This legislation also directs the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to help achieve the 2030 building goals by implementing code upgrades and complementary policies.

### **Require energy-use performance scores and disclosure for commercial and public buildings**

Lack of information about existing buildings' energy use hinders attempts to improve their energy efficiency. Washington will require commercial and public building owners/managers to develop annual energy-use scores

for buildings and to disclose the data to prospective buyers, lessees or lenders. Energy audits and cost-effective improvements will be required on underperforming public buildings.

### **Provide incentives and up-front financing for energy-efficient building operations**

Commercial and institutional buildings that operate at high energy-efficiency levels will be rewarded with annual tax credits. This legislation will give local governments bonding authority allowing them to provide loans to help finance energy efficiency and distributed energy efforts.

### **Reduce high energy costs for low-income residents**

Low-income households spend a higher percentage of their income on energy bills than other households. Enhanced home weatherization services will reduce those energy bills.

### Supporters of the bill as introduced

#### Prime Legislative Sponsors

- Senator Derek Kilmer
- Representative Christine Rolfes

#### Public Interest

- American Rivers
- Audubon Washington
- Climate Solutions
- Conservation NW
- Earth Ministry
- Environment Washington
- Fuse
- Futurewise
- G2B Ventures
- Heart of America Northwest
- League of Women Voters of Washington
- Lutheran Public Policy Office
- National Wildlife Federation
- The Nature Conservancy
- NW Energy Coalition
- ONE/Northwest
- People for Puget Sound
- Sierra Club Cascade Chapter
- Surfrider Foundation
- Transportation Choices Coalition
- Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation
- Washington Conservation Voters
- Washington Environmental Council
- Washington Toxics Coalition
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition

#### Government

- 43rd District Democrats
- John Miller, Director of Community Development, Clallam County

#### Business

- Cascadia Green Building Council
- Court Olsen
- ecoFAB
- Integrated Renewable Energy
- Light Green Advisors
- Shorebank Enterprise Cascadia

