2019 ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITY | SB 5116 | HB 1211

Sponsors: Senator Carlyle & Representative Tarleton

100% Clean Electricity

The clean energy transition is happening all around us. California and Hawaii are moving to 100% clean electricity. Here in Washington, Tacoma, Edmonds, Spokane, Bellingham, and Whatcom County have already pledged to go 100% clean. So have iconic Washington businesses like REI, Starbucks, and Microsoft. Now, the Washington Legislature can lead the clean energy transition for the Northwest by passing the 100% clean electricity policy in 2019.

The need to act on climate change is urgent. Increasingly fierce and frequent wildfires, shellfish loss, and warmer winters are a few of the climate impacts we’re already experiencing. State legislators can accelerate the transition to 100% clean electricity while growing our economy and creating jobs in an equitable way.

WHAT DOES A 100% CLEAN WASHINGTON LOOK LIKE?

• Phase out of coal power out from our electricity by 2025;
• Interim renewable energy targets starting in 2030 that would prevent unnecessary and costly near-term build out of new fossil fuel infrastructure on our electric grid – ensuring an orderly transition to clean electricity;
• Increased investment in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency;
• Addressing historical disparities by ensuring all households that need energy assistance have access, and that clean energy boosts public health, creates livelihoods, and creates benefits for the communities highly impacted by pollution; and
• Washington State’s electricity fully powered by 100% clean energy by 2045.

This is one of the 2019 Environmental Priorities presented by a coalition of over twenty organizations in Washington committed to advancing strong environmental policy.

CONTACTS

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100% CLEAN ELECTRICITY IS WITHIN REACH

• **It’s close.** Washington is uniquely positioned to achieve a 100% clean electric grid. With our strong base of hydro power and existing renewable energy policies, almost 70% of our power is already clean and fossil free. Now we can move the needle all the way.

• **It’s achievable.** Technological breakthroughs aren’t necessary; we can build a 100% clean electric grid by adding more renewable energy and storage resources while using demand-side solutions to become more efficient.

• **It’s available and competitive.** Wind and solar are already cost-competitive with gas generators; a 100% clean electricity law will ensure that utilities do the right thing for the next generation of Washington residents instead of building more polluting fossil fuel plants.

• **It’s good for the economy.** Clean energy drives job creation and prosperity in Washington. According to a recent study by E2, nearly 83,000 Washingtonians now work in clean energy, including 8,500 in rural communities. Washington ranks in the top 10 states in the country for renewable energy jobs. Moving to 100% clean will grow more of these family-wage jobs.

• **It’s necessary.** An all-clean grid is necessary for achieving our climate stability. The National Midcentury Strategy, Governor Inslee’s Deep Decarbonization Pathway Study for Washington State, and National Grid’s utility studies all have concluded that we cannot achieve our climate pollution reduction goals without deeply cleaning up our sources of electricity.