For the past 15 years, environmental groups in Washington State have organized their efforts in Olympia through the “Environmental Priorities Coalition.” Our coalition prepares a weekly Legislative “Hot List,” as a regular communication for legislators which details our positions on up to ten of our highest priority issues for the upcoming week. The purpose of this communication tool is to allow the Washington State Legislature, the Executive Branch, and media organizations to easily track the Environmental Priorities Coalition’s top priorities all session long.

As the lobbyist for Washington Conservation Voters and Washington Environmental Council, I will send this “Hot List” to you on a weekly basis. Please feel free to contact me at clifford@ctassociates.org if you have any questions.

A PDF of the Hot List can be found [here](#) — along with an archive of all Hot Lists from 2019 as the Legislative Session progresses.

**Our Top Four Priorities of 2019:**

**100% Clean Electricity:** Washington is uniquely positioned to achieve a fossil free, clean, and renewable electricity grid. Urgent action is needed to address climate change, and we have a critical opportunity to phase away from dirty fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and fracked gas, and toward clean and sustainable energy sources like solar and wind. Building off of the strong work and partnerships forged through Initiative 1631, a 100% Clean Electricity standard is a complimentary and necessary policy to accelerate our efforts to achieve our state’s 2035 climate goals and invest in a clean energy economy.

**Orca Emergency Response:** Our southern resident orcas are on the brink of extinction, warranting an all-hands-on-deck commitment to bold action. At a minimum, we expect that the legislature to take action on the three biggest threats to orcas: their lack of food, and impacts from noise and pollution. Legislation must address healthy shoreline habitat, establish a “slow-go zone” around the orcas, and replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives. These specific actions are the building blocks to address the three biggest threats to orcas.

**Oil Spill Prevention:** Washington continues to face significant risks of oils spills in Puget Sound and the coast. These risks threaten local economies and the survival of iconic species like salmon and orcas. To address these risks, the state must have the same protections on barges and other vessels that exist for large tankers, require an emergency response tug that can protect high-risk areas like the San Juan Islands, and ensure that oil drilling will never happen off of Washington’s coast.
Reduce Plastic Pollution: Thin plastic bags are used for only a few minutes and discarded. Only 6% of these bags are ever recycled. Plastic bags blow into our waterways and the ocean, clog the stomachs of wildlife, and break down into smaller pieces that also get eaten. Plastic bags also clog recycling equipment – costing money because they have to be extracted – and are the major contaminant in our commercial compost. The Reusable Bag Act would eliminate thin carry-home plastic bags at all retail establishments and include a pass-through charge to motivate people to bring their own reusable bags and help cover the stores’ cost of more expensive bags.

This Week’s Top House Actions:

HB 1110: Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation fuels (Clean Fuel Standard).
SUPPORT
House Environment & Energy: Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 15th
- Requires the reduction of the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 10% by 2028 and 20% by 2035.
- Increases the use of zero emission vehicles, including cars, trucks and buses, and the deployment of sustainable biofuels.
- State and regional analysis has found that a Clean Fuel Standard could create as many as 15,000 jobs in Washington, while cutting down pollutants that harm public health.

HB 1113: Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science and with the United States’ commitment under the 2015 Paris climate agreement.
SUPPORT
House Environment & Energy: Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 15th
- Updates state emissions limits to be consistent with recommendations from the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, and United States commitments to the Paris Climate Accords.
- Sets Washington policy to be consistent with West Coast and global goals, though these limits are non-binding.
HB 1114: Reducing the wasting of food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impacts.

**SUPPORT**

House Environment & Energy: *Public Hearing on Thursday, January 17th*

- Establishes a goal to reduce food waste in Washington by half by 2030.
- Currently, 17% of the material going to the landfill is food waste and about half of that is edible food. Instead, surplus food should go to food rescue organizations to feed the hungry and spoiled food and food waste should be composted.
- Aligns with the recently announced Pacific Climate Collaborative’s target, as a key way to fight climate change.

*about the coalition*

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty leading environmental groups in Washington state that influence policy at the state level. For over a decade, the Coalition has selected joint priority issues to work on during legislative session to help focus environmental community resources and best achieve our shared goals.