

WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2022



for the
Washington State
House of Representatives

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a coalition of over twenty leading environmental groups who lobby in Olympia on a regular basis and organize around a set of priority bills each legislative session. We established **four** to be our highest priorities and for the 2022 Legislative Session, they are listed below. As in the past, we will be sending you this weekly “Hot List” to assist you in your efforts to promote this common agenda.

Please feel free to contact Clifford Traisman (Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters) at clifford@ctassociates.org if you have any questions regarding our positions on any bills affecting the environment, not just those found on the Hot List each week. The Hot List can also be found [here](#). Thank you.

2022 Priorities

Lorraine Loomis Act for Salmon Recovery (SB 5727 / HB 1838): Across the state, salmon are on the brink of extinction. Some Puget Sound salmon species have declined by 90% compared to historical populations. In the Columbia River basin, returns are as little as 2% of historical levels. The Governor is proposing habitat legislation as a tribute to Lorraine Loomis (Swinomish Tribe, and Chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission) longtime champion for the salmon. The Act requires tree buffers tall and wide enough to shade rivers and streams. The Act also requires shifting to a standard of improving ecological conditions rather than habitat loss mitigation.

Transportation for All: We need to fund a transportation system that reduces pollution and can support a range of transportation solutions including improving multimodal transportation choices, such as biking, driving, and public transit. Transportation dollars must be used in ways that deliver the best investments possible to help build a more efficient, affordable, and clean transportation system for all.

GMA Sprawl Loophole (SB 5042): The current sprawl loophole undermines the intent of the Growth Management Act (GMA) by allowing counties to subvert the Growth Management Hearing Board (GMHB) appeals process to illegally build sprawling developments that devours farmlands, forests, and critical habitats. The loophole locks in outdated rules, and puts a financial strain on jurisdictions to provide adequate infrastructure, facilities, and services to new developments.

RENEW Act (SB 5697): All across Washington, plastic waste litters Washington’s shorelines and waterways, filling landfills to capacity, and harming wildlife. Our recycling system needs to be modernized so packaging can

actually be recycled, composted, or reused. The Renew Recycling Act addresses this waste by creating a set of graduated fees on packaging manufacturers based on how readily reusable, compostable, or recyclable their products are. These fees will be used to fund improvements in infrastructure, uniform access for residents across the state, and a clear list of what people can recycle. This bill will have the added benefit of shifting recycling costs away from ratepayers and onto the manufacturers.

Partnership Agenda

Buy Clean & Buy Fair (HB 1103 / SB 5366): Washington has an important role to play through investing in locally sourced materials, manufactured in facilities with high labor standards and minor environmental impact. The policy creates a reporting system with vital information on the environmental and labor impacts of structural materials used in state-funded infrastructure projects. During the 2021 session, the legislature funded the creation of a publicly accessible database to enable reporting and promote transparency. Passing Buy Clean and Buy Fair legislation sends a clear market signal of the growing demand for ethically-made low-carbon goods. (Partner: Blue Green Alliance)

Energy for All (HB 1490): Secure access to energy is crucial to keeping Washington residents healthy, safe, learning, working, and thriving, and will facilitate a Just Transition to clean energy. The Governor and Utilities and Transportation Commission moratoriums on shut-offs helped sustain residential energy service in Washington and protected the public. But these protections are temporary and utilities are already seeking to collect on debt. This legislation establishes access to home energy as a basic need and an essential resource that should be accessed in full dignity without uncertainty about affordability and threats of disconnection. (Partner: Front & Centered)

House Committee Action



SUPPORT

*House Environment
& Energy:
Public Hearing
Tuesday, 1/11*

HB 1619: Concerning appliance efficiency standards.

- Sets and updates energy efficiency standards for common consumer products, saving consumers money on utility bills.



SUPPORT

*House Rural
Development,
Agriculture &
Natural Resources:
Public Hearing
Tuesday, 1/11*

HB 1631: Providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship.

- Establishes a network of advisors at conservation districts to support farmers and food processors and improve implementation of the Sustainable Farm and Fields program, a grant program supporting climate-smart agriculture.



SUPPORT

*House Environment
& Energy:*
Public Hearing
Tuesday, 1/11

HB 1663: Reducing methane emissions from landfills.

- Establishes standards to measure and prevent methane emissions from covered landfills.
- Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.



SUPPORT

*House Environment
& Energy:*
Public Hearing
Thursday, 1/13

HB 1691: Concerning financial responsibility requirements related to oil spills.

- Requires a responsible party to provide assurances that it has the ability to pay for cleanup and damages after an oil spill.



SUPPORT

*House Local
Government:*
Public Hearing
Tuesday, 1/11

HB 1717: Concerning tribal participation in planning under the growth management act

- Establishes clear GMA protocols and processes to respect and uphold the sovereignty of tribal nations.
- Adds protection of cultural resources to regional planning processes, in collaboration with those Federally recognized Tribes who are invited and choose to accept the invitation.



SUPPORT

*House Environment
& Energy:*
Public Hearing
Friday, 1/14

HB 1767: Concerning the authority of publicly owned electric utilities to engage in targeted electrification through the adoption of plans that establish a finding that utility outreach and investment in the conversion of its customers' end use equipment from fossil fuels to electricity will provide net benefits to the utility (Targeted Electrification).

- Clarifies public utilities have the authority to provide incentives to their customers to acquire efficient, electric home heating systems, regardless of their current fuel source, and that low-income and vulnerable communities benefit from electrification programs.
- This would provide public utility customers with access to programs and incentives that investor-owned utilities can already offer.

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.

