

WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2022



for the
Washington State
Senate

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 The loophole locks in outdated rules, and puts a financial strain on jurisdictions to provide adequate infrastructure, facilities, and services to new developments.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)

Senate Committee Action



SUPPORT

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

SB 5543: Concerning a zero-emission landscaping equipment incentive program.

- Creates an exchange and incentive program under which residents and professional landscapers can turn in polluting landscaping equipment and receive a rebate award for new zero-emission equipment.
- Fossil-fueled lawn equipment causes significant pollution: using a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour creates as much smog-forming and health-harming pollution as driving a Toyota Camry 1,100 miles.



SUPPORT

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

SB 5585: Setting domestic wastewater discharge fees.

- Eliminates an outdated funding cap that restricts state wastewater work and sets up a collaborative process to work with local governments on a new fee structure.



SUPPORT

SB 5626: Adding a climate resilience element to water system plans.

- Directs public water systems serving 1000 connections or more to include climate resilience in their water system plans and management.

Senate Environment,
Energy & Technology:
Public Hearing
Wednesday, 1/12

- Climate change impacts including drought, sea level rise, snowpack, and changes to hydrology have a direct connection to the design and management of drinking water systems.

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.

