

## Keeping up the fight to reduce carbon emissions

In the 2019 session, Gov. Inslee, with a team of legislative partners, passed a package of priority climate bills to reduce carbon emissions and create jobs. These laws, described below, represent the greatest step Washington has ever taken to address the challenge of climate change and meet the state's greenhouse gas emission reductions targets.

The centerpiece of the governor's climate action plan was a bill to transition to 100% clean electricity. The legislation lays out a timeline to phase out all coal power by 2025, achieve a carbon-neutral electricity supply by 2030 and transition to a 100% clean electricity supply by 2045. It includes [innovative provisions](#) to support strong workforce standards and protect vulnerable populations and communities that are highly affected by environmental pollution and climate change, serving as a model for other states exploring 100% clean electricity legislation.

The package included a first-of-its-kind standard that will improve the energy performance of thousands of large Washington buildings and new energy efficiency standards for more than 17 types of appliances. These policies will help cut energy costs for homes and businesses. Legislators also approved a [clean transportation bill](#) that will aggressively incentivize electric and zero-emission vehicles in the state and a proposal to tackle the growing challenge of super-polluting hydrofluorocarbons.

In the biennial transportation budget, lawmakers also approved funds for a new hybrid-electric ferry and funds to convert one vessel to hybrid-electric. The state operates the country's largest ferry fleet, which is a major contributor of transportation-sector emissions.

Overall, \$243 million was provided in the biennial operating, capital and transportation budgets for actions to combat climate change.

Under Washington's 2008 emission limits law, the Department of Ecology is required to periodically recommend updates to the state's emission limits based on current science. Its 2019 report, using the latest research, shows that we need to reduce

emissions faster and cut carbon pollution more deeply to avoid the worst effects of climate change to our water supplies, forests, fish and wildlife, and state economy.

For the 2020 supplemental operating budget, Inslee supports additional actions to fight climate change.

### Greenhouse gas emission limits

In 2008, the state set targets to shrink greenhouse gas emissions by 50% over 1990 levels by 2050. The most recent analysis by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change calls for reducing global net human-caused emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050 to limit warming to 1.5°C. Gov. Inslee is proposing legislation and \$1.5 million to align Washington state emission targets with the latest scientific guidance. This legislation will also look for ways to increase carbon sequestration on state forest, agricultural and aquatic lands.

### Clean fuel standards

The transportation sector generates almost 45% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions. One way to reduce emissions from cars and trucks is to use fuels that emit fewer greenhouse gases from the time they are extracted through their use in vehicles. The governor supports legislation and provides \$1.5 million to implement a clean fuel program to limit greenhouse gas emissions per unit of transportation fuel sold in the state.

### Electric vehicles and rideshares

Over the past two years, EV's in the state fleet have been driven more than 1 million miles, saving more than 42,000 gallons of fuel and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 375 metric tons of carbon. The governor has set a target of 50% of the state agency passenger vehicle fleet purchases to be EV's by 2020. A total of \$4.1 million in one-time funding is provided to install additional EV-charging infrastructure at state facilities to support the planned purchase of EV's over the next three years.

The governor also provides funding to support legislation to increase the availability of ZEVs sold to consumers across the states. Similar requirements have been adopted in nine other states. Inslee also supports legislation to require rideshare companies to develop and set up plans to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and includes \$384,000 for implementation.

Major energy facilities and other infrastructure projects must currently undergo rigorous environmental review for permitting, including review of climate impacts. A total of \$1.4 million is provided to the Department of Ecology to adopt rules to strengthen and standardize the consideration of climate change risks, vulnerabilities and greenhouse gas emissions in environmental assessments for these projects.

### Energy and environmental assessments

Multiple strategies will be needed to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The governor provides \$600,000 to the Department of Commerce to develop a comprehensive analysis of statewide emission reduction strategies to identify the most effective ones for key energy users and customers.

### Community solar

Ramping up renewable energy use will be necessary to meet the state's climate emission targets. The state now provides tax incentives to utilities and individuals for solar energy systems. Inslee supports a \$20 million extension of the renewable energy system tax incentive for community solar projects and directs \$293,000 to the WSU Energy Program and the Department of Revenue to administer the extension.

## Summary of Climate Investments

Focus Areas	Items	Agency	Budget	Amount
Clean Transportation	EV Charging Stations	DES	Operating	\$4,100,000
	Clean Transportation Fuels Standards	Ecology	Operating	\$1,458,000
	Transportation Network Companies	Ecology	Operating	\$384,000
	Zero-Emission Vehicle Legislation	Ecology	Operating	\$149,000
<b>Clean Transportation Total</b>				<b>\$6,091,000</b>
Clean Electricity	Clean Electricity Bill Implementation	Ecology	Operating	\$502,000
	Community Solar Tax Incentives	DOR, WSU	Operating	\$293,000
<b>Clean Electricity Total</b>				<b>\$795,000</b>
GHG Emissions	Greenhouse Gas Emission Limits	Ecology, Commerce, DNR, WSDA, OFM	Operating	\$1,459,000
	Greenhouse Emission Evaluation	Ecology	Operating	\$1,406,000
	Ecology SEPA Analysis	Ecology	Operating	\$600,000
	2050 Energy Vision	Commerce	Operating	\$600,000
<b>GHG Emissions Total</b>				<b>\$4,065,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$10,951,000</b>

Source: OFM, Dec. 2019