

Faithful Advocacy for God's Creation

How you can make a difference in Washington's 2017 Legislative Session



Each year, Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light chooses environmental legislative priorities that most strongly reflect our values of stewardship and justice. **Join us in supporting these bills today!**

Children's Safe Electronics Act: HB 1569

- Removes an exemption for children's and consumer electronics from the Children's Safe Products Act (CSPA), which requires manufacturers to disclose toxic chemicals present in children's products, including clothing, toys, bedding, and personal care products.
- Kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens and using electronics that contain toxic metals, flame retardants, and phthalates – chemicals linked to cancer, reproductive problems, and learning disabilities.
- The Children's Safe Electronics Act is a right-to-know bill, not a ban. It will provide crucial information for us to know what chemicals are in the products we purchase and for policy-makers to have the best information to keep us safe.

Oil Transportation Safety: HB 1611/SB 5462

This bill addresses risks posed by increased movement of crude oil by focusing on funding and financial responsibility, marine protection, and pipeline safety.

- Ensures that the oil industry pays in the case of a spill or other disaster and updates funding for prevention, preparedness, and response.
- Protects Puget Sound from increased oil barges and other vessels from the Kinder Morgan Pipeline.
- Strengthens oversight of pipeline safety and protects against refineries turning into transshipment terminals.

Healthy Food Packaging Act: HB 1744

- Bans a class of chemicals called PFAS (perfluorinated compounds) in food packaging materials, like fast-food wrappers and microwave popcorn bags.
- These chemicals, designed to repel both oil and water, are linked to a variety of health impacts including cancer and hormone disruption. PFAS are so highly persistent that scientists call them "virtually indestructible."
- PFAS chemicals were in 42% of fast food wrappers tested – showing widespread use of these chemicals, but also broad adoption of healthy alternatives.

Clean Energy Transition Act: HB 1646/SB 5509

The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, a group of social justice, faith, labor, business, environmental, and health advocates in Washington State, has created an effective and equitable carbon reduction policy for transitioning to a clean energy economy.

- Drives significant investment in clean energy, healthy forests, and water infrastructure to reduce climate pollution more quickly and address the impacts of climate change in Washington.
- Funds these investments with a tax on climate pollution, which has a price that is linked to how well we are on track to meeting our emissions limits. These limits will be based on best available science in order to contribute to achieving a healthy, stable climate.
- Bolsters economic stability and equity in Washington's transition to clean energy.

Support These Important Environmental Bills

Water for People, Farms, and Fish: SB 5024

- Codifies the Supreme Court's Hirst Decision into law so that new housing developments do not move forward without legal and practical access to safe drinking water. This bill also addresses where providing safe drinking water will hurt flows in rivers and streams on which wildlife, habitat, and senior water rights depend.
- Provides practical solutions for rural landowners seeking to build new homes that rely on wells where water is not legally available.

Protecting All Communities From Toxic Pollution: HB 1663/SB 5501

- Funds the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), a successful law dedicated to cleaning up toxic waste sites, preventing the use of harmful chemicals in products, and controlling pollution to protect water quality.
- Solves the \$75 million shortfall MTCA faces after being raided repeatedly for other programs. MTCA is funded by the most volatile revenue sources in the state budget – the hazardous substance tax. This bill will impose a tax surcharge on imported toxics to make sure that funding is secure.
- Ensures stable MTCA funds for local governments and state programs that implement laws and clean up contamination on state and private lands. A modest surcharge to the current hazardous substance tax will provide more reliable and timely funds for critical toxics pollution prevention, cleanup, and public participation projects.

Make Your Voice Heard!

Call your legislators in support of these important environmental bills today!
Washington State Legislative Hotline:
1-800-562-6000

Clean Energy First Act: HB 1334

- Builds on the success of I-937, Washington's Energy Independence Act, which set 2020 efficiency goals. Washington has seen a boom in the clean energy and energy efficiency sectors, generating billions of dollars in investment and thousands of jobs.
- Creates a path toward a 100% clean energy electric grid in Washington by prioritizing clean energy investments. Requires new energy needs be met with clean, renewable sources including energy efficiency, wind, solar, and existing hydropower.
- Additional fossil fuel resources, specifically natural gas, would be permissible only if a utility can demonstrate that it cannot meet standards using a portfolio of renewable resources.

Solar Tax Credits: HB 1048/SB 5499

- Promotes solar power by reducing the per-kilowatt-hour incentive rate to reflect the improving market and costs of solar systems, while maintaining an in-state manufacturing incentive.
- Allows customers who seek a solar energy alternative for their home or business to receive eight years of incentive payments at the same rate at which they enter the program.
- Expands utility participation in renewable energy.
- Allows customers already enrolled to maintain their existing incentive rates until 2020.

