

Earth Ministry Legislative Priorities 2018

How *You* Can Make a Difference for Our Communities and the Environment

People of faith are grounded in religious values of spirituality, stewardship, and justice. We care for our neighbors, our families, and our planet, and put our faith into action to ensure these great gifts from the Creator are protected. Together, we strive to create a safer, cleaner, and healthier world for all.

Each year, Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light supports legislation that most strongly reflect these shared values. **Join us in supporting these bills today!**

Act on Climate

Despite the fact that climate change impacts are already felt here at home, many in the fossil fuel industry are working to undo years of climate progress, especially at the federal level. That's why the State of Washington must step up. In the face of serious and escalating climate change risks – devastating wildfires, water shortages, flooding catastrophes, sea level rise, ocean acidification – 2018 is the year for meaningful action that moves Washington forward.

A just climate policy will:

- Charge major polluters for the harm they cause.
- Put these dollars to work through smart investments across the state that create good home-grown jobs, accelerate clean energy solutions, protect our health and safety, and ensure a resilient environment.
- Protect the “least of these” by prioritizing investments in communities most harmed by air pollution and climate change threats, and ensure a just transition for workers who rely on fossil fuel jobs.
- Bolster economic stability and equity in Washington's transition to clean energy.



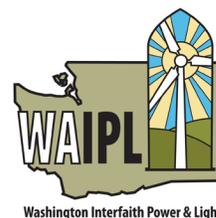
Healthy Food Packaging Act

The Healthy Food Packaging Act protects our food, bodies, and the environment by phasing out PFAS, or perfluorinated compounds. This extremely persistent and cancer-causing class of chemicals is found in food packaging materials, such as fast-food wrappers and microwave popcorn bags. While they keep grease off wrappers, these toxic chemicals escape into food through normal use.

The Healthy Food Packaging Act will protect us from PFAS chemicals in food packaging in favor of safer alternatives.

We are morally obligated to do better because:

- Serious health impacts are linked to PFAS chemicals, including cancer and hormone disruption.
- These chemicals are so highly persistent that scientists call them “virtually indestructible” – meaning they will stay in our bodies, food, and water for long periods of time.
- PFAS pollute the environment when food packaging is thrown away or composted. Recently the Dept. of Ecology found that levels of PFAS are also increasing in Washington's waterways.
- Nearly half of fast food wrappers tested contained PFAS chemicals – showing widespread use of these chemicals, but also broad adoption of alternatives.





Oil Spill Prevention Act

More and more heavy oils are moving through Puget Sound, so keeping the oil industry on the hook to prevent oil spills is a hot issue. Despite critical gains around public disclosure and preparedness measures, significant funding gaps remain that put our communities and Puget Sound at risk of an oil spill or other disasters. We are pushing lawmakers to make real gains in protecting our communities and waterways from the risk of oil spills.

In response, this legislation:

- Establishes stable and reliable funding source for our prevention and preparedness program by expanding the barrel tax to pipelines and increasing the barrel tax by 2 cents.
- Funds the implementation of key protections for Puget Sound and shared waters such as inspectors, contingency plans and drills to test these plans.
- Initiates the development of action plans for stronger oil spill prevention tools and directs a transboundary summit for Salish Sea protections with Canada, Washington, native nations, communities, and marine experts.

Make Your Voice Heard!

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

Sustainable Water Management: HB 6091

Healthy waterways are essential for a thriving environment, and water is also central in religious life. Washington needs a water management system that effectively protects the health of waterways by:

- Planning for residential development in accordance with available water resources.
- Fully offsetting water usage by mitigating impacts – especially those that are harmful to salmon.
- Metering and monitoring water usage to help homeowners, local governments, and the state manage this finite resource.

Clean Fuels Standard: HB 2338

Transportation fuels are responsible for nearly half of the climate and air pollution in our state. California, Oregon, and British Columbia have successful clean fuels programs, making Washington the last West Coast jurisdiction without one. It's time we do our fair share to cut carbon from the transportation sector. HB 2338:

- Requires refineries to clean up their fuels by reducing the carbon intensity of their fuels.
- Provides opportunities for refineries to comply by blending biofuels, purchasing credits from utilities and others that sell electricity for EVs, reducing emissions associated with refining, and more.

