



What is the WA STRONG Act?

The Washington STRONG Act (SB5373 & HB1513) immediately provides a multi-billion dollar dedicated investment to transition to a sustainable economy without leaving anyone behind.

Why do we need the WA STRONG Act?

We are facing the toughest challenges in a generation -- recovering from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic while the climate crisis worsens each and every day that we don't act to control greenhouse gas emissions. With thousands of Washingtonians out of work and countless communities in need of immediate relief, we need our legislators to embrace every bold solution available to address these twin crises.

The WA STRONG Act does just that by generating billions of dollars for climate-conscious investment to create thousands of family-wage jobs in our hardest hit communities. And it does so without impacting our ability to pursue complementary climate and economic recovery policies because of its innovative policy design.

How does WA STRONG tackle *both* our economic *and* climate crises?

The WA STRONG Act creates fiscally responsible "green" recovery bonds that allow our state to immediately invest in infrastructure our communities desperately need to prepare for the climate crisis. Because the funding for critical projects like school ventilation upgrades and hospital energy efficiency improvements is available immediately, the construction of these necessary projects can start right away and play a vital role in jump-starting our economic recovery.

In Washington, we already have the skilled workforce and technical expertise to put billions of dollars of public investment into the historically underserved communities hit hardest by the pandemic. The WA STRONG Act will simply put Washingtonians to work doing the same jobs they've always done. The only difference is that they'll be using new, more efficient, and more resilient materials to construct the infrastructure both our rural and urban communities need to prepare for the climate crisis.

Critically, these investments will not hamper our state's ability to pursue other aggressive policies aimed at controlling the climate crisis and reinvigorating our economy. The bonds created by the WA STRONG Act are tied to an economy-wide price on carbon instead of Washington's general tax revenue, meaning that the funding from WA STRONG does *not* add to our state's deficit spending limit. The crises we face are too great to address with piecemeal solutions, so WA STRONG was designed to work in tandem with existing climate policy.



How does WA STRONG protect working people from footing the bill?

Any transition away from dirty, carbon-producing energy will be expensive, and we know we cannot depend on large corporations to absorb the costs of creating a sustainable energy economy. That's why the WA STRONG Act was designed with multiple safeguards to ensure the benefits of billions of dollars of investment go to working people and not special interests.

The WA STRONG Act requires that the billions of dollars generated for public investment are targeted to Washington's communities who have been hardest hit by both the pandemic and decades of underinvestment. Just like Washington's previous green bonds program, WA STRONG's investments will help modernize public services like schools, hospitals, and drinking water systems in rural areas and underserved communities of color. Independent economic analysis of the WA STRONG Act shows that for every dollar invested in these projects, communities will see six dollars of savings down the road -- money that can be used to support growing populations and small businesses instead.

The WA STRONG Act also ensures that the benefits of the billions of dollars it creates stay invested in the people who need the most help recovering from the economic fallout of the pandemic. By creating family-wage jobs that cannot be outsourced, the projects funded by the WA STRONG Act will bring immediate economic relief *right now* -- when we need it most.

How does the WA STRONG Act actually create billions of dollars for investment?

Easily -- by appropriately valuing the costs polluters impose on all of us when they rely on dirty sources of energy production. An economy-wide price on carbon and other greenhouse gases that pollute our communities and worsen the climate crisis gives every industry motivation to do its part to ensure a sustainable future for all of us. By allowing the state to issue bonds against the revenue created by a carbon price, the WA STRONG Act makes billions of dollars in new funding available immediately so that we can put that money to use jump-starting our economy. Best of all, since the WA STRONG Act requires that this funding be used for infrastructure projects with a positive climate impact, every dollar spent will make Washington's economy more resilient against future climate disasters -- reducing disaster relief costs, protecting our communities, and even saving lives.