



Faithful Advocacy and the 2023 WA Legislative Session



MNCJ's Mission Statement

Rooted in our spiritual and moral responsibility to protect the Earth, our common home, we engage the faith and wisdom traditions to respond to the many environmental and social impacts of the climate crises.

Holding this mission in our hearts and minds, the Policy and Legislation Subcommittee created this document to support and guide you in responding to the climate crisis through faithful advocacy.

Faithful Advocacy

(Key ideas from Jessica Zimmerle's* 2023 training on Faithful Advocacy)

Faithful Advocacy is faith in action. This means speaking up for systemic environmental justice based on your faith traditions' values. Through these actions we co-create a just and loving society in harmony with nature.

Attributes of Faithful Advocacy:

Values-based

- Heart centered
- Seeks justice and equity
- Hopeful

Builds Bridges

- Dialogue and collaboration

Supported by Community

- Amplifies and sustains

Faithful Advocacy is Storytelling!

Who are you?

- Personal connection
- Communal identity

What do you value?

- Connect to your lived experience

What do you want?

- Big picture
- Specific ask to get there

Faithful Advocacy resources from Earth Ministry/WA Interfaith Power and Light (EM/WAIPL)

[Recording of Jessica Zimmerle's 2023 Faithful Advocacy Training](#)

[Faithful Advocacy Information Sheets](#)

[WA State Legislative Advocacy Tools](#)

*Jessica Zimmerle was EM/WAIPL's Advocacy Director for the past 10 years.

A Good Place to Start: [EM/WAIPL's Legislative Priorities and Action Page](#). Here you can learn about the legislation that EM/WAIPL supports and how to take action on them. We suggest you bookmark this page and check it regularly for updates and time-sensitive actions! We also recommend [signing up for their action alerts](#).

Sign-Up for Action Alerts!

The easiest way track and act on important legislative priorities is by signing up to receive action alerts from one or more environmental organizations, especially EM/WAIPL (see above). They often contain links to the legislature's web page where you can indicate your position (pro or con) for a particular bill. It's effective, easy to do and only takes 1 – 2 minutes to complete!

Note: To reduce the number of action alerts you receive from us, we will not be forwarding all action alerts from EM/WAIPL. Don't risk missing out on key opportunities to take action! In addition to signing up for EM/WAIPL's alerts, *we recommend signing up for additional action alerts by clicking on the links below.*

Faith Action Network (Statewide interfaith group advocating for a just, peaceful & sustainable world.)

[Legislative Priorities](#)
[Action Alerts Sign Up](#)

RE-Sources (Our local environmental champions! Prioritizes several locally relevant bills.)

[Legislative Priorities](#)
[Action Alerts Sign Up](#)

350.WA (Very informative and well-organized action alerts sent out twice weekly.)

[Legislative Priorities](#)
[Action Alerts Sign Up](#)

WA Sierra Club

[Legislative Priorities](#)
[Action Alerts Sign Up](#)

League of Women Voters Washington

[Legislation updates and tracking](#) (Thorough and well organized! Tracks the progress of each bill and indicates when action is needed. Highly recommended to bookmark and return to often!)
[Action Alerts Newsletters](#)

Front and Centered (Strong focus on environmental justice.)

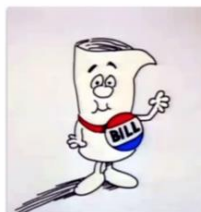
[Legislative Priorities](#)
Action Alerts Sign Up (not available)

City of Bellingham Legislative Priorities: In addition to supporting the legislative priorities of Earth Ministry/WAIPL, the MNCJ also supports legislation that would support the implementation of the City of Bellingham's Climate Action Plan. We are in communication with city staff about this and will be sending out occasional action alerts related to their legislative priorities as well. Stay tuned for more!

How the State Legislature Works

Washington State Legislature

- Policy Committee
 - "First Reading" = introduction
 - Public Hearing - sign in/testify
 - "Executive Session" = vote
- Fiscal Committee
 - Only if there's an associated cost AKA "fiscal note"
 - Senate Ways & Means, House Appropriations
- Rules Committee
- Floor vote!
- Repeat in opposite chamber
- If passed, Governor reviews and signs/vetoes



When to take action:

You will have the opportunity to either state your position, submit written testimony and/or testify remotely when a bill is in each committee and during the floor vote. This means at least four times for each bill!

To get details on a specific bill and find out its status, go to the [Washington State Legislature Bill Information site](#) and search for it by entering the bill number.