

100% FOR CLIMATE ACTION - LOBBY DAY 2018

TALKING POINTS

BIG PICTURE/OVERVIEW

- *Urgency:* We must take action on climate now. We are already seeing the impacts of climate change in the state and it will only get worse and become more costly for the state to deal with in the years ahead. [feel free to add a short personal story]

To solve the climate crisis in time, we need to:

- transition to 100% fossil free electricity,
- account for the cost of carbon pollution, and
- transition to clean fuels for transportation, the leading source of carbon emissions in our state

- *Opportunity:* When you look at the science, there is still a window of time to solve this. But that requires action now, not later.
- *Duty of the Legislature:* The Legislature has been talking about action on climate for ten years. They must do something. It is their duty to govern.
- *The people want this:* A majority of Washingtonians believe that global warming is happening, know that humans are causing it, and are very worried about it. The public has expressed concern about the risks that climate change poses and desires action.
 - There are a number of policies being considered by the Legislature that would set Washington state on a path toward a clean energy future.
 - Our polling shows strong voter support for the policies described below.
- *Collaborative and Bipartisan effort:* We believe effective and durable climate policy requires bipartisan support, and we will work collaboratively with elected officials, businesses, organizations, and people across the state to pass much-needed legislation this session.

100% FOSSIL FREE FUTURE – SENATE BILL 6253

We urge [*name of legislator*] to support SB 6253. It would require all new resources acquired by a utility to be clean, setting us on a path to zero-carbon electricity over the course of the next generation.

- Clean energy and energy efficient technologies are rapidly improving and becoming less expensive, making them more broadly accessible. To reach full-scale adoption, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy. That starts with a commitment to a steady shift to 100 percent clean energy.
- Initial research shows that this policy would achieve an approximately 70 percent reduction in electricity-sector carbon emissions by 2035, and full decarbonization of Washington's electricity sector, the second largest source of state emissions, by the 2040s.

PLEASE SEE THE 2-PAGE FACT SHEET FOR TALKING POINTS ON OTHER CLIMATE LEGISLATION

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Have you conducted polling on the 100% clean and low carbon fuel policies? What are the results?

A: Poll data shows strong voter support for climate policy that will set Washington state on a path toward 100 percent carbon free energy by 2045, including the phasing out of coal from Washington's utility rates by 2030.

The poll, conducted late last year by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3), shows that 71% of likely voters would support a ballot measure that would require electrical utilities to phase out coal-generated electricity by 2030, and phase in electricity generation from solar, wind, hydroelectric and other clean and renewable resources, to reach 100 percent by 2045. Another poll found 65% support for Clean Fuels. The public also said they would support legislators that support these programs.

Questions on 100% fossil free electricity/SB 6253

Q: Does the 100% fossil free electricity bill/SB 6253 allow for new hydroelectric or nuclear projects in the state?

A: To be very clear, this bill does no such thing. No law pertaining to nuclear is changed. It makes it no easier to build any nuclear facility and existing state siting laws remain untouched, as they should. Existing state laws that require a statewide vote of the people still stand. It doesn't make it cheaper or provide tax preferences for nuclear. And, the policy makes sure that new hydro has low environmental impact.

The policy is about stopping more fossil fuel infrastructure to generate electricity in our state. What this policy does is make sure we put a stake in the ground and affirm that we will not take big steps backward. We have to get off fossil fuels to have a bright clean future.

Q: What about the 50% bill/Rep. Gael Tarleton's bill?

A: We appreciate and agree with the intent of this bill, however, the climate science is very clear: we need to get rid of all fossil fuels from our electricity grid. We would be happy to work with Rep. Tarleton and others to improve the policy to put us on a path to 100% clean resources.

Q: What happens to existing natural gas plants?

A: This policy doesn't seek to close existing facilities. We want to make sure that as they age out they are replaced with clean, renewable power that gets us to 100% clean by 2045.

Carbon Tax Proposals

Q: Do you support the Governor's carbon tax proposal?

A: It is great to see so many of our elected leaders calling for strong action and a meaningful price on pollution. It's also great to see a range of policy options available that would be complementary and would achieve our goals of climate action.

For reference, Carbon WA has created a matrix comparing the various carbon tax proposals: <http://carbonwa.org/2018-carbon-tax-bill-matrix-updated-1212018/>

Q: Will there be a carbon tax on the ballot this fall?

A: We are hopeful that the Legislature will do its job and pass effective climate policy this session. It is likely that if the Legislature does not act that there will be an initiative to the people. It is clear that the people of Washington state want to see climate action taken as quickly as possible.

Clean Fuels

Q: Aren't biofuels bad for the environment? Isn't switching to biofuels bad for food production?

A: This policy is carefully designed to avoid just that outcome. In fact, right now, because we're the last state to adopt this policy, biofuels Washington gets are at risk of exactly those concerns. That's because the 'good' biofuels, that are produced from animal, agriculture, forestry and other waste are being sent to our neighbors, who reward producers for

this high quality product. Washington has no policy creating that incentive, so we get the bad stuff. Adopting a Clean Fuels program will solve that.

COST ARGUMENTS FOR ANY OF THE POLICIES

Q: Won't this just hurt lower income people? Won't this just raise cost of living?

A: When it comes to economic costs, Washington's Dept of Ecology estimates that the average household will pay nearly \$4,000 per year in climate related damages to our economy. We will continue to pay the price if we don't act.

Let's be clear: the oil industry and its allies are not credible voices for the poor. They are not looking out for low-income families, the elderly, people of color, or rural residents. They are looking out for their own profits. That means maintaining the status quo—pollution as usual. Pollution disproportionately impacts low-income people. It's the poorest families across Washington State who suffer the most health impacts from air pollution.

We have a chance to move forward with local solutions that benefit people. Holding major fossil fuel polluters accountable means giving families in our communities more choices about energy, efficiency, and transportation. Transitioning to clean energy is the best investment we can make for keeping energy dollars here in the state and creating good, local jobs that support families in our communities. That's why community groups and consumer advocates in Washington support these solutions.

100% Clean Electricity: This policy doesn't require utilities to make new builds, but it does require them to make long-range plans to achieve our climate goals. This policy ensures we achieve carbon reductions at the minimum cost.

Clean Fuels: In Oregon, this policy has had tiny impacts on gas prices—raising them by a quarter of a penny—while creating big new investments in clean biofuels and zero-emission cars, trucks and buses.

Carbon tax: The policy includes components that protect low-income communities, while driving significant job creating investments we need.

Q: Isn't Washington already doing enough/our carbon emissions are low compared to other places

A: Washington emits more per capita than California, Oregon or Idaho. On a per capita basis, our transportation emissions are number 26 in the country. It's time to enforce the limits on carbon pollution we already have on the books. That means our families and our communities will no longer have to pick up the tab for the big polluters in the state. By leading the way on this transition, Washington will inspire innovation and create jobs. Our state's past successes in clean energy should give us the confidence to move forward. Washington needs to create a more diverse supply of clean energy to replace fossil fuels. Leading on this front is the best way to create good, middle class jobs for Washington families, boost our economy, and secure a healthy future for our kids.

Q: Won't these policies put Washington businesses at a competitive disadvantage compared to other states and countries that do not have the same strict regulations?

A: The concerns of the business community in Washington are valid, however last week we saw many businesses testifying in support of the governor's policy to price carbon pollution. All we have to do is look at our neighbors: British Columbia and California have held emitters of fossil fuel pollution accountable for years and they are doing just fine. BC's economy has grown faster than the rest of Canada. California has grown its GDP since implementing their pollution price and they've grown green jobs. The northeast states have been making emitters pay for pollution, and their economies have grown at the same pace as the rest of the U.S. More than 200 major employers in Washington, including Virginia Mason, Microsoft, and REI signed the Business Climate Declaration and support taking action because they see that our best way to create good, local jobs and transition to clean energy is to account for the price of carbon pollution in our economy. Amazon is the second largest corporate buyer of renewables in the world and has set a 100% clean electricity goal, Microsoft just separated from PSE because it wasn't receiving enough clean energy. There are many other examples—business is demanding a clean transition.