

# POWER Washington

## Sensible solutions for our energy future

### *Keeping the lights on and costs down*

It's time for better energy policies in Washington state. Our **Power Washington** plan is the first step on a path toward a more reasonable approach.

For too long, the people of Washington have borne the costs of unachievable, politically motivated, and unaffordable policies that have given us bigger energy bills, less energy security, and little environmental improvement. Record gas prices, a threatened power grid, and energy inflation are the result.

In this plan, we offer new pragmatic and equitable solutions that will benefit all Washingtonians.

We are pleased to present the **Power Washington** plan, a series of real proposals that will produce real results for our state.

### **Power Washington focuses on seven major goals:**

- Help people access different kinds of alternative vehicles, such as hybrids and hydrogen.
- Preserve, improve, and expand Washington's clean hydropower system.
- Enable the capture of carbon and invest in our working forests and natural resources to maximize carbon absorption.
- Slash high fuel prices for drivers.
- Ensure that the transition to new energy technology is environmentally responsible.
- Shore up our electric grid to keep providing affordable and reliable power.
- Keep energy costs low so people can be secure in their homes and businesses.

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*We are excited to share these ideas with you and look forward to enacting these important policies in the next legislative session.*

**We must help people access different kinds of alternative vehicles, such as hybrids and hydrogen.**

## **PROBLEM:**

**Electric vehicles are not a one-size-fits-all option for the public, businesses, or the state.**

## **SOLUTIONS:**



### **Incentivize passenger and commercial hybrid-vehicle adoption:**

Electric vehicles are cost- and lifestyle prohibitive for many Washingtonians, and widespread adoption risks overloading the state's electric grid. Hybrid vehicles are only slightly more expensive than their traditional counterparts, do not adversely impact electrical grids, and still provide near-term emissions reductions. Comprehensive legislation must focus on expanding current electric vehicle tax exemptions to hybrids, creating a new exemption for

hybrids, reducing or eliminating fees on hybrids, helping people who use high-mileage vehicles switch to hybrids, or promoting hybrid adoption in areas that lack sufficient charging stations.

### **Promote hydrogen fuel as an additional alternative option:**

A major concern for freight haulers is that battery electric trucks are insufficient for long-haul routes over 200 miles. The industry has expressed that hydrogen-powered vehicles would provide the necessary range for long-haul routes. It is essential that the Legislature examine how to accelerate advancements in the hydrogen field and how Washington can become a leader in hydrogen production. The state must promote fueling infrastructure deployment, as well as research, development, and manufacturing processes, in the hydrogen fuel sector.



### **Allow state agencies to purchase vehicles that best suit their needs:**

State agencies must currently seek an exemption from a different agency to purchase any non-battery-powered vehicle. It is necessary for the Legislature to remove this barrier and allow agencies to purchase hybrid and other non-battery-powered vehicles in addition to electric vehicles.





We need to preserve, improve, and expand Washington's clean hydropower system.

## PROBLEM:

Hydropower, the backbone of our clean energy system, is under attack.

## SOLUTIONS:



### Build and upgrade hydropower facilities to meet our clean energy goals:

Our state places unnecessary restrictions on the types of hydropower facilities that may be built. We should remove those restrictions, improve the permitting process for hydropower projects, and make hydropower the centerpiece in our renewed effort to build a durable, emissions-free electricity system.

### Keep our dams in good shape:

We must be responsible and ensure that hydroelectric dams are always maintained in a safe working condition. Legislation should set up a regular schedule for state inspectors to check hydroelectric dams on a consistent basis.



### Show support for the facilities on the Snake River:

The four Snake River dams in Washington are essential energy infrastructure that provide billions in economic benefits for our state and the entire Northwest. We must oppose efforts to breach those dams.



### Find practical ways to support endangered fish and other species:

Much of the attack against hydropower is done in the name of protecting salmon. There are many ways we can support salmon, by limiting predators' access to juvenile salmon, enhancing the salmon population through innovative hatchery policies, and funding culvert replacement. Rather than attacking our clean, green energy system, we can aggressively invest in actions known to support salmon and other species.





**We should incentivize the capture of carbon and invest in our working forests and natural resources to maximize carbon absorption.**

## **PROBLEM:**

**We are not taking full advantage of opportunities to capture carbon.**

## **SOLUTIONS:**



### **Prioritize capturing carbon:**

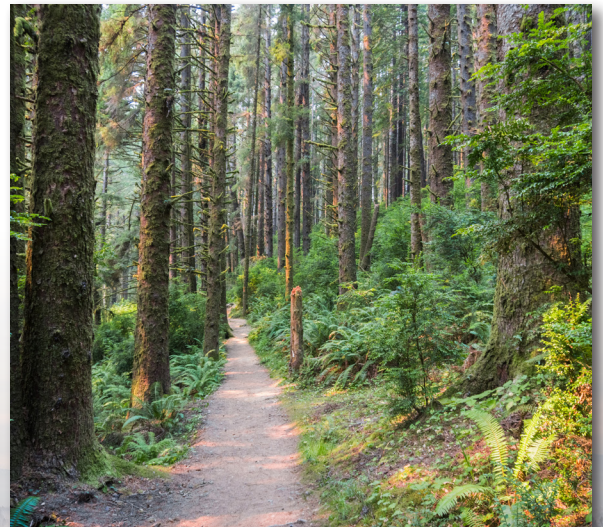
We are missing our chance to stop carbon at the source and store it using Washington's geology and natural resources. State programs could be expanded to better enable carbon capture by utilities and power plants, as well as the timber industry and forestland owners. Washington's working forests are one of the most effective and natural ways to sequester greenhouse gases from our atmosphere.

### **Invest in Washington's forest health to control wildfires:**

Wildfires are one of the biggest emitters of unhealthy air pollution. Continuing to invest in forest health and actively managed forests helps reduce catastrophic wildfires and dangerous smoke, protects and enhances carbon storage, reduces invasive pests, and cuts dangerous emissions.

### **Replant burned areas and actively manage forests:**

Allowing thinning and removal of diseased trees will create better forest management. We should also continue to promote the use of timber products.





**We have to slash high fuel prices for drivers.**

**PROBLEM:**

**Extreme fuel regulations in our state are driving up the price of gas.**

**SOLUTIONS:**



**Put a cap on cap-and-tax:**

A new cap-and-tax law beginning in 2023 will add 47 cents to the price of a gallon of gas. We should immediately pass another bill to suspend this new law if gas prices stay too high for too long.

**Track the price impacts of fuel standards:**

New fuel standards beginning next year will eventually raise the price of gas by another 39 cents per gallon. The Legislature should demand frequent price impact data from this program, so the public knows how much it is paying for it.

**Untie a key fuel tax from inflation:**

Another state tax on petroleum has been increasing solely because of inflation. This tax is set at \$1.09 per barrel, but inflation has pushed it to \$1.20 per barrel. We should provide tax relief to drivers by de-linking this tax from inflation, which will lower the tax.



We need to ensure that the transition to new energy technology is environmentally responsible.

## PROBLEM:

Clean energy technology creates new problems that must be tackled.

## SOLUTIONS:



### Restore local review for solar and wind-farm projects:

New solar and wind-farms projects are allowed to bypass local review even when they might affect local farmland and habitat. Legislation should allow for greater local input by preventing solar and wind farms from receiving fast-track approval when they are going to be built in agricultural areas.

### Require wind turbine blades to be recycled:

Used-up wind turbine blades are very large and difficult to dispose of, and concerns are growing about putting them in landfills. We should require wind turbine blade manufacturers to create a stewardship program and recycle old blades.

### Establish a greater understanding of the lifetime impacts of vehicle batteries:

Hybrid vehicles and electric-vehicle batteries have a variety of shared and different lifetime impacts. The Legislature must fully examine and understand those impacts to ensure the state is ready for widespread battery adoption, including battery disposal and recycling.



### Jump-start the recycling program for solar panels:

Washington already has a plan to make sure solar panels are recycled when they need to be replaced, but that plan will not take effect right away. We need to accelerate the solar panel recycling plan to keep up with the major buildout of solar energy that we are experiencing now.





We should shore up our electric grid to keep providing affordable and reliable power.

## PROBLEM:

Our electric grid will soon become unstable if we do not make changes now.

## SOLUTIONS:



### **Create more flexibility for meeting emissions goals:**

Washington is on a path to eliminating carbon emissions from electricity, but we cannot achieve that goal and have a reliable grid without more flexibility. The Legislature should allow many different fuel sources to be used to generate electricity when those sources meet the state's high standard for emissions reduction. This will ensure that power remains reliable as we lower emissions—nuclear energy and natural gas meet our emissions standard and must be part of our plan.

### **Stick with one electricity requirement, not many different requirements:**

Electricity providers must follow numerous state laws in their production of electricity. We should merge and rationalize these laws to help electricity providers save on costs, promote conservation, and lower prices for customers without disrupting the state's clean-energy goals.

### **Embrace local “in-house” energy solutions:**

Red tape hampers people's ability to produce power in new and creative ways, such as installing hydropower equipment in irrigation canals. The Legislature should explore different options for empowering individuals who want to produce more of their own clean energy on-site.

### **Promote the manufacturing and use of advanced nuclear technology:**

Small modular reactors and other advancements in nuclear technology offer tremendous promise for producing clean and reliable power. Washington should embrace, encourage, and incentivize this exciting technology, the manufacturing supply chain, and nuclear power production.



We must work to keep energy costs low so people can be secure in their homes and businesses.

## PROBLEM:

High home energy costs are hurting families and communities.

## SOLUTIONS:



### Provide energy relief for vital community services:

The state's expensive energy performance standard for buildings recently expanded to smaller buildings, even including houses of worship and child care centers. Legislation should lift these onerous requirements to reduce costs and prevent essential community services from closing.

### Encourage affordable and reliable natural gas heat at home:

The state is considering new rules that would ban natural gas as a source of heat in most buildings, including homes. The Legislature should clarify that we should meet energy efficiency goals while still allowing the public to use natural gas, which is affordable, convenient, clean, and safe.



### Empower people by removing limits on the types of appliances they can buy:

Even though many appliances must meet national energy requirements before they can be sold in the U.S., our state continues to set its own strict rules for lots of common household items. Eliminating unnecessary state rules would increase the supply of home appliances for Washingtonians and help them save money.

