

Weekly Legislative Update: **Climate Crisis & Energy**

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Over 2000 bills were introduced this session. Perhaps only 300 will make it through to the governor's desk. The final tallies are TBD because bills that pass both chambers may contain different details due to amending, so must be resolved, and the bills must survive the governor's veto pen. Nevertheless, the following list we think will be the way it turns out. The web page grid contains longer descriptions.

Bills on the Grid that Passed.

[SB 5165](#) Improving electric power system transmission planning.

[SB 5447](#) Promoting the alternative jet fuel industry in Washington.

[HB 1170](#) Integrated Climate Response Strategy updates for climate resilience.

[HB 1176](#) Creating a Washington Climate Corps.

[HB 1216](#) Consolidates and streamlines the siting of clean energy projects.

[HB 1329](#) Preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat.

[HB 1416](#) Apply the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) to consumer-owned utilities.

An unnecessary bill we opposed that could have been improved.

[HB 1117](#) Assessing the risk of rolling blackouts and power supply inadequacy events. The floor votes were nearly unanimous. It does not do overt harm, but the bill text seemed to duplicate existing studies and assessments by the Dept of Commerce, which testified against the bill. Risks not specified include substation sabotage, reduced stream flows (reducing hydropower), and internet hacking.

Other bills of interest that passed.

[HB 1390](#) Decarbonization planning for state-owned district energy systems.

[HB 1236](#) Access to clean fuel for agencies providing public transportation. This bill supported hydrogen for public transportation. Current hydrogen fuel technology remains problematic because fossil-fuel sourced hydrogen is more emitting than methane (natural gas), and Green hydrogen consumes renewable electricity that could be used to enhance a clean grid. We should make only careful investments in hydrogen energy.

Disappointing Failures; But That Can Come to Life Again in 2024

[HB1012](#) Creating an extreme weather response grant program.

[HB 1282/SB 5322](#) Buy clean, buy fair - environmental and labor reporting for public building construction.

[HB 1391](#) Increasing energy efficiency in buildings.

[HB 1427](#) On-premises electrical energy generation.

[HB 1433](#) Energy labeling of residential buildings: Home Energy Score.

[HB 1480](#) Energy resilience, cyber security, and all-hazard emergency management. A more comprehensive policy than HB 1117.

[HB 1509](#) Fair access to community solar.

[SB 5312](#) Creates a residential property assessed clean energy and resiliency (R-PACER) program.

[SB 5431/](#)[HB 1368](#) Zero emission school buses. This policy holds promise for cleaner air and resilience during civic emergencies. May be covered with a budget proviso.

Decoding bill numbers

The bills in the above list have their original prefixes, but if you go the links, they will probably have an extended prefix as described here. Bills are numbered sequentially as they are introduced, starting in the long legislative session (odd numbered years). Additional bills introduced during the short session continue the number sequence. House bills (HB) begin with 1000 or higher and Senate bills (SB) begin with 5000 or higher, so we can always tell from which chamber they originated. If the bills become significantly amended, a Substitute bill or striker replaces the original (SHB or SSB). If a 2nd Substitute replaces the first substitute the prefix changes to 2SHB. If all the committees agree on the amendments, it becomes Engrossed (E2SHB).

Why We Focus Attention on These Bills

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. ... Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global. Approved by the LWVUS Board at the January 2019 meeting.

We cannot fully evaluate or track all the bills, so we will focus on those most related to [League positions](#), positively or negatively. We may also suggest revisions (amendments) to bills that need revision to have a positive influence.

How You Can Be Involved

- If you would like to receive periodic news of environmental presentations, projects, and updates, join the LWVWA Environment Affinity Group. Contact Martin Gibbins, Climate Issue Chair, mgibbins@lwvwa.org
- Local Leagues in Washington have Action Chairs who coordinate action teams. Some Local Leagues have Environment or Climate teams to take action locally. Contact your Local League Action Chair to find out and join.