

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

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The cut-off calendar is driving committees to consider as many bills as they can by the end of this week. Bills must pass their chamber of origin finance committee by Friday, February 24 or they cannot move further. (The Legislature does make exceptions for bills *necessary to implement the budget*.) The intense committee action and even floor votes have set the staff behind in keeping status current on leg.wa.gov. The Appropriations committee in the House and the Ways & Means committee in the Senate have most of the work this week, and that is mostly to consider amendments and vote on them. Finance committees consider if the state can fund the cost of implementing a bill. The Legislature does not offer opportunities to sign in Pro or Con for committee votes. As of this writing, no opportunities exist to weigh in on hearings.

After finance committees, the next step is to the Rules committee, which selects bills for floor votes. Bills unlikely to succeed are seldom selected for floor votes.

Find bill descriptions on the [Climate & Energy](#) web page or detailed information at the bill number links.

You can also comment at any time to your district's legislators. Select the bill number link to open the bill information page, then select the box "**Comment on this bill**." Fill in your information and verify your district, then craft your comments. Tell them why the content of the bill, good or bad, is important to you.

In all cases please speak for yourself, not the League. A powerful statement is made when many constituents express their own opinion and tell their own story.

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 LWWVUS 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 make a positive influence.

A recent [Rhodium Group study](#) suggests that economic incentives, standards, and regulations will be all necessary, and this must occur at all government levels. It is our privilege to freely participate in our democracy.

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.