

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

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Committees continue to schedule hearings for the bills that passed their *chamber of origin*, so take the opportunities to sign-in prior to the hearing. Although you may have taken action on these bills in the past few weeks, they will go through committee hearings and voting in the opposite chamber.

Thanks for your messages to your legislators last week that helped in a successful House floor vote on HB 1170 Integrated Climate Response Strategy updates for climate resilience.

Priority Bills Needing Action This Week

SB 5165 Improving electric power system transmission planning. Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act requires a transition away from fossil fuel sources to clean and renewable sources. These sources, such as solar and wind, will require additional transmission capacity, and may also improve resiliency as power sources and power movement will benefit from additional transmission options. To obtain the additional transmission infrastructure will require comprehensive forecasting, planning and efficient permitting.

Hearing in the House Committee on Environment & Energy on 3/13/23 at 1:30 pm.

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HB 1012 Creating an extreme weather response grant program. The legislature recognizes the increasing risks and threats to socially vulnerable people (including pets) from extreme weather events such as heat, cold, smoke, and flooding. This bill will provide funding for communities with a demonstrated lack of resources, to meet the costs of responding to community needs during such periods. This is for cities, counties, towns, and tribes that have emergency management organizations.

Hearing in the Senate Committee on State Government & Elections on 3/14/2023 at 1:30 pm. [Sign in Pro.](#)

HB 1216 Clean energy siting. Streamlines the permitting process for Clean Energy Projects of Statewide Significance (CEPSS), and makes these eligible for a coordinated permitting process.

Hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology on 3/15/2023 8:00 am. [Sign in Pro.](#)

[HB 1282](#) Buy clean, buy fair - environmental and labor reporting for public building construction. This bill follows a Buy Clean Buy Fair Washington Project pilot study commenced in 2021. Embodied carbon is the greenhouse gas required to make a product, in this case buildings. The bills require analysis and reporting on the cradle to grave embodied carbon of new buildings and significant renovations funded by the state. The Department of Commerce will implement a data base of material information to assist. Labor practice reporting is also required.

Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology on 3/15/23 at 8:00 am. [Sign in Pro.](#)

Find more 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 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 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.