

Weekly Legislative Update: **Waste Diversion**

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Bills Needing Action this Week

*Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so **please leave the "Organization" box blank.** A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.*

Hearings are scheduled for the following bills. When you sign in to have your position noted for the legislative record, please leave the organization box blank.

SB 5990 Integrating environmental justice considerations into certain project decisions. The Cumulative Risk Burden of Pollution Act (CURB) will require monitoring of pollutants that affect health but are not currently addressed; Specify communities that have been disproportionately harmed by pollution for specific protections; Require the Department of Ecology to deny new permit applications that add cumulative pollution effects and work with applicants seeking permit renewals that add cumulative pollution effects, with the goal to reduce pollution over time; Elevate voices of community members through frontline community participation in the permit evaluations process. Companion Bill HB 2070 slated for Exec Session on Jan 29, **Hearing in Senate Environment, Energy & Technology, Tuesday, January 30 at 1:30 PM.**

 **Please sign in [PRO here](#) by Tuesday, January 30 at 12:30 PM.**

HB 2049 Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. Re-WRAP Act. Legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling, and waste reduction has resurface in the 2024 session with a reworked Re-WRAP Act —Washington Recycling and Packaging Act. EPR is already happening in many places around the world, and in the last three years, four states (Maine, Oregon, California, Colorado) have passed similar bills. Nine more states are considering such legislation. Bill supporters estimate that enacting The Re-WRAP Act will put \$104 million back into our economy on an annual basis by saving resources, improving recycling, and reducing environmental impacts. **Hearing in House Appropriations, Thursday, February 1 at 10:30 AM**

 **Please sign in [PRO here](#) by Thursday, February 1 at 9:30 AM.**

HB 2144 Providing for a deposit return program for qualifying beverage containers to be implemented by a distributor responsibility organization. Will establish a Deposit Return System for Qualifying beverage container (any separate, sealed glass, metal, or plastic bottle or can, that contains any beverage intended for human consumption, and in a quantity of greater than four

ounces and less than or equal to one gallon. Excludes dairy and baby formula containers. **Status: Passed out of House Environment & Energy Committee. This bill will have a hearing in House Finance Thursday, February 1 at 8:00 AM.**

 **Please sign in PRO here** by Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 AM.

The following bills will all have Executive Sessions this week prior to the Jan 31 cutoff date:

 **Monday, January 29 at 1:30 PM in the House Environment & Energy Committee. *If your Representative is on the House Environment & Energy Committee, please write to them and ask for a YES VOTE to move the following bills out of the committee:***

HB 1185 Reducing environmental impacts associated with lighting products. Phases out the sale of most mercury-containing lights beginning January 2026 and expands the product stewardship program for the same lights beyond its scheduled 2025 sunset.

HB 2401 Providing for the responsible management of refrigerant gases and other materials that are used in appliances or other infrastructure. Requires producers of bulk refrigerants and precharged appliances to participate in and implement a refrigerant gas stewardship program, preventing the release of hydrofluorocarbons.

HB 2070 Integrating environmental justice considerations into certain project decisions. The Cumulative Risk Burden of Pollution Act (CURB) will require monitoring of pollutants that affect health but are not currently addressed; Specify communities that have been disproportionately harmed by pollution for specific protections; Require the Department of Ecology to deny new permit applications that add cumulative pollution effects and work with applicants seeking permit renewals that add cumulative pollution effects, with the goal to reduce pollution over time; Elevate voices of community members through frontline community participation in the permit evaluations process.

House Environment & Energy Committee members and emails:

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 **Tuesday, January 30 at 1:30 PM in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee.** *If your Senator is on the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee, please write to them and ask for a **YES VOTE** to move the following bill out of the committee:*

SB 6180 Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems. This bill addresses composting and other management of organic (yard and food waste) in order to divert the material from the landfill and avoid methane gas generation.

Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee members and emails:

Joe Nguyen, joe.nguyen@leg.wa.gov
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 **Tuesday, January 30 at 4:00 PM in the House Environment & Energy Committee.** *If your Representative is on the House Environment & Energy Committee, please write to them and ask for a **YES VOTE** to move these bills out of the committee.*

HB 2207 Providing tools designed to reduce the impacts of unlawful solid waste dumping. Addresses the use of fines from illegal dumping, providing for more funds for education.

HB 2301 Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems. This bill addresses composting and other management of organic (yard and food waste) in order to divert the material from the landfill and avoid methane gas generation.

House Environment & Energy Committee members and emails:

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Bill Status—Other Bills

HB 1933/SB 6276 Right to Repair—Promoting the fair servicing and repair of consumer products. This bill has expanded from the original requirement of digital electronic product manufacturers, such as Apple and Microsoft, to make repair information, parts and tools available to independent repair businesses and owners to make repairs. The bill now includes all the consumer products that have already passed in another state. There is a huge amount of e-waste! For example, on average, Washington disposes of 8,700 phones every day. This bill would make it possible for small businesses to repair these items. Extending the life of computers, tablets and cellphones, farm equipment, wheelchairs, and appliances will decrease the need for more resources, energy and transportation to manufacture new products – therefore also decreasing greenhouse gas. This bill will lower costs for consumers, get used computers, tablets and cell phones into the hands of people who need them, and help overcome digital inequities in Washington. This way, people will keep using their items instead of tossing them!

Status: Both bills have had hearings; awaiting Executive sessions (working on amendments)

HB 1900 Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system. Offered as an alternative to the Re-Wrap Act that does not have the EPR component. Championed by Rep Fey.

Status: Had a hearing in House Environment & Energy Committee

SB 6163 Concerning biosolids. Ecology must establish pollutant limits for PFAS chemicals in biosolids, based on the results of the USEPA's risk assessment for PFAS chemicals in biosolids. Ecology must ensure that biosolids are tested for PFAS chemicals for which this pollutant limit has been established. And land application of biosolids that do not comply with the PFAS chemical pollutant limit would be prohibited.

Status—Passed out of Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee; referred to Ways & Means

SB 6005 Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. Re-WRAP Act. Legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling, and waste reduction has resurface in the 2024 session with a reworked Re-WRAP Act —Washington Recycling and Packaging Act. EPR is already happening in many places around the world, and in the last three years, four states (Maine, Oregon, California, Colorado) have passed similar bills. Nine more states are considering such legislation. Bill supporters estimate that enacting The Re-WRAP Act will put \$104 million back into our economy on an annual basis by saving resources, improving recycling, and reducing environmental impacts. The companion **HB 2049** bill has passed out of the House Environment and Energy Committee (1/18/24) and is in Appropriations with a hearing on 2/1/24).

Status: Had hearing in Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee; awaits Executive Session

How You Can Be Involved

- If you are interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the webpage for that bill. These pages include staff summaries and reports including those who testified PRO versus CON on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- If you do nothing else, please scan the **LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter** each week (it's distributed each Sunday during the legislative session) and respond to the Action Alerts .
- If you have more time and are interested in a particular topic, we always appreciate and can use your assessments of bills, law implementation, and future concerns. For Forests topics send assessments of a few paragraphs to a few pages and include the sources of the facts you rely on. Send them to **Ann Murphy**, Waste Diversion Issue Chair.
- Join the LWVWA Environment Action group by emailing **Ann Murphy**.