

Weekly Legislative Update: **Waste Diversion**

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Bills Move to Opposite Chamber, and Now Need Action

*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.*

⚠️ Call the Legislative Hotline 1.800.562.6000 to ask your Legislators to bring the following bills to a Floor Vote—and then Vote YES

HB 1551 Reducing lead in cookware. This bill bans, beginning January 1, 2025, the sale of cookware or cookware component containing lead or lead compounds at a level of more than five parts per million in or into Washington. **Status: Scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means February 26 at 10:00 AM**

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. **Status: Scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 10:00 AM**

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: Referred to Appropriations.**

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. **Status: Passed to Senate Rules Committee for second reading**

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. **Status: Scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means Feb. 26 at 10:00 AM**

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. **Status: Scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means Feb 26 at 10:00 AM**

Status of Other Bills

HB 1933/SB 6276 Right to Repair—Promoting the fair servicing and repair of consumer products. Amendments to this bill identified only wheelchairs as affected devices. **Status: Dead**

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: Dead**

HB 2068/SB 5965 Concerning the environmental impacts of fashion. Fashion retail sellers or fashion manufacturers with annual worldwide gross income greater than \$100,000,000 must disclose its environmental due diligence policies, processes, and outcomes, including significant real or potential adverse environmental impacts and then disclose targets for prevention and improvement. **Status: no action**

HB 2070 / 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. **Status: no action**

HB 2049 Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. Re-WRAP Act. Legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling, and waste reduction will put \$104 million back into our economy on an annual basis by saving resources, improving recycling and reducing environmental impacts. EPR is already in place 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. Combined with HB 2144, Washington will see the greatest recycling outcomes. **Status: Died in the House**

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. Combined with HB 2049, Washington will see the greatest recycling outcomes. **Status: Died in the House**

SB 6005 Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. Re-WRAP Act. Legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling, and waste reduction. 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 and an Executive Session on February 3). **Status: no action**

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**.