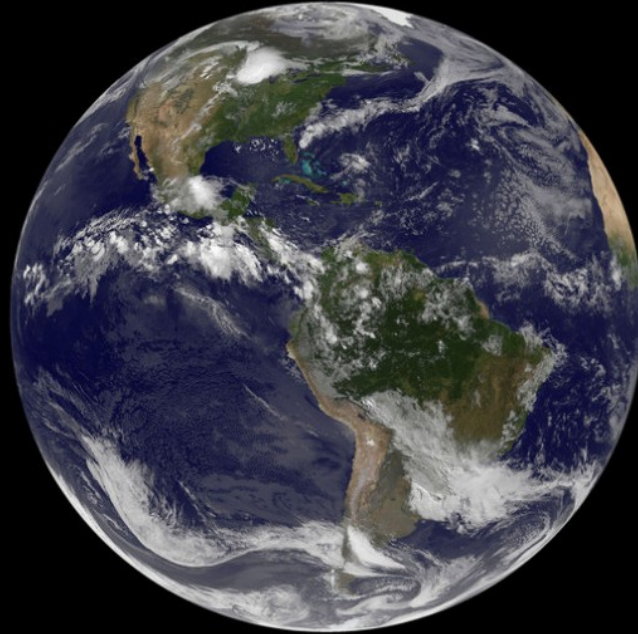


Climate Crisis & Energy Breakout



Martin Gibbins, Issue Chair

12/2/2023

Image: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Agenda

- League positions on climate change and the crisis
- Who's on the team.
- WA status and progress
- Outlook for continuing legislative action.
- Your opportunities for action.
- Type questions in the Chat or raise your hand during Q&A at end.

First, let's stipulate...

- The climate change science is settled.
- It's a global problem.
- Some regions have benefited more than others from fossil fuel...
...and have more responsibility.
- Every region must do their part.
- We can delay no longer.

Why We Advocate for Climate Policies

- The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet.
- Energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources [are] necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem.
- [Pursue] climate goals and policies consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.
- 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.

Positions on Climate Change

- Legislation to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner, more-efficient energy standards.
- Investment in renewable energy...and addressing the long-term impacts climate change has on public health.
- A price on carbon emissions, whether cap-and-trade, carbon tax or fee, or other viable pricing mechanisms.

Program in Action, and Impact on Issues <https://www.lwwa.org/league-positions>

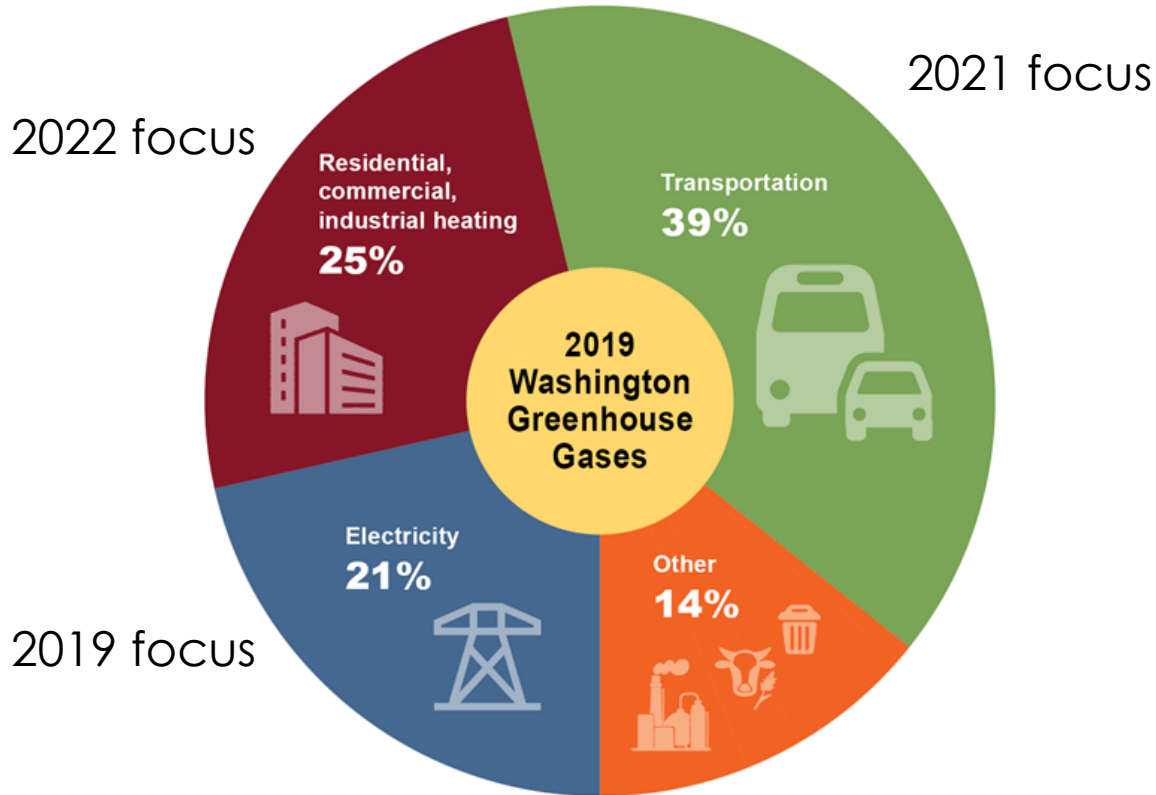
Who's on the Climate Team

- Marty Gibbins – Issue Chair
- Phyllis Farrell – Advocate
- Mary Moore – Advocate

Climate Change in WA

- Cascade Mountain glaciers receding
- Snowpack melting faster in the spring
- Annual mean temperature increasing
- Lower stream flows in the summer

Addressing Climate Change in WA



- 2023, 2024 focus
- Implementation
 - CCA investments
 - Electrification

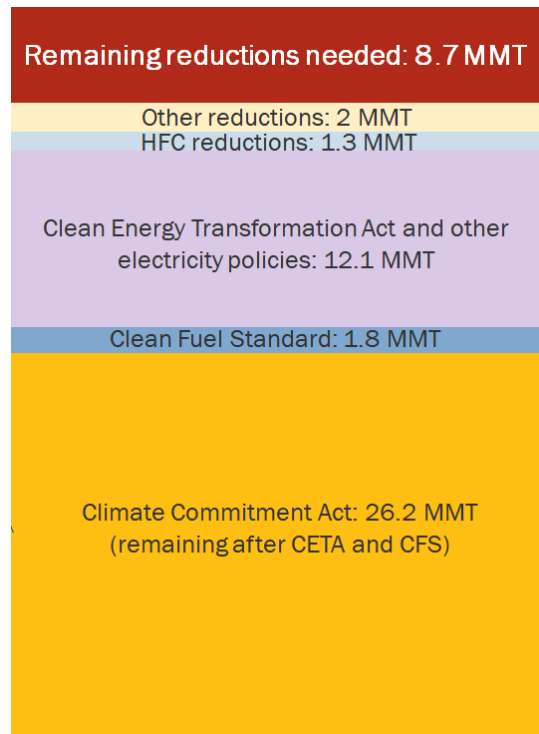
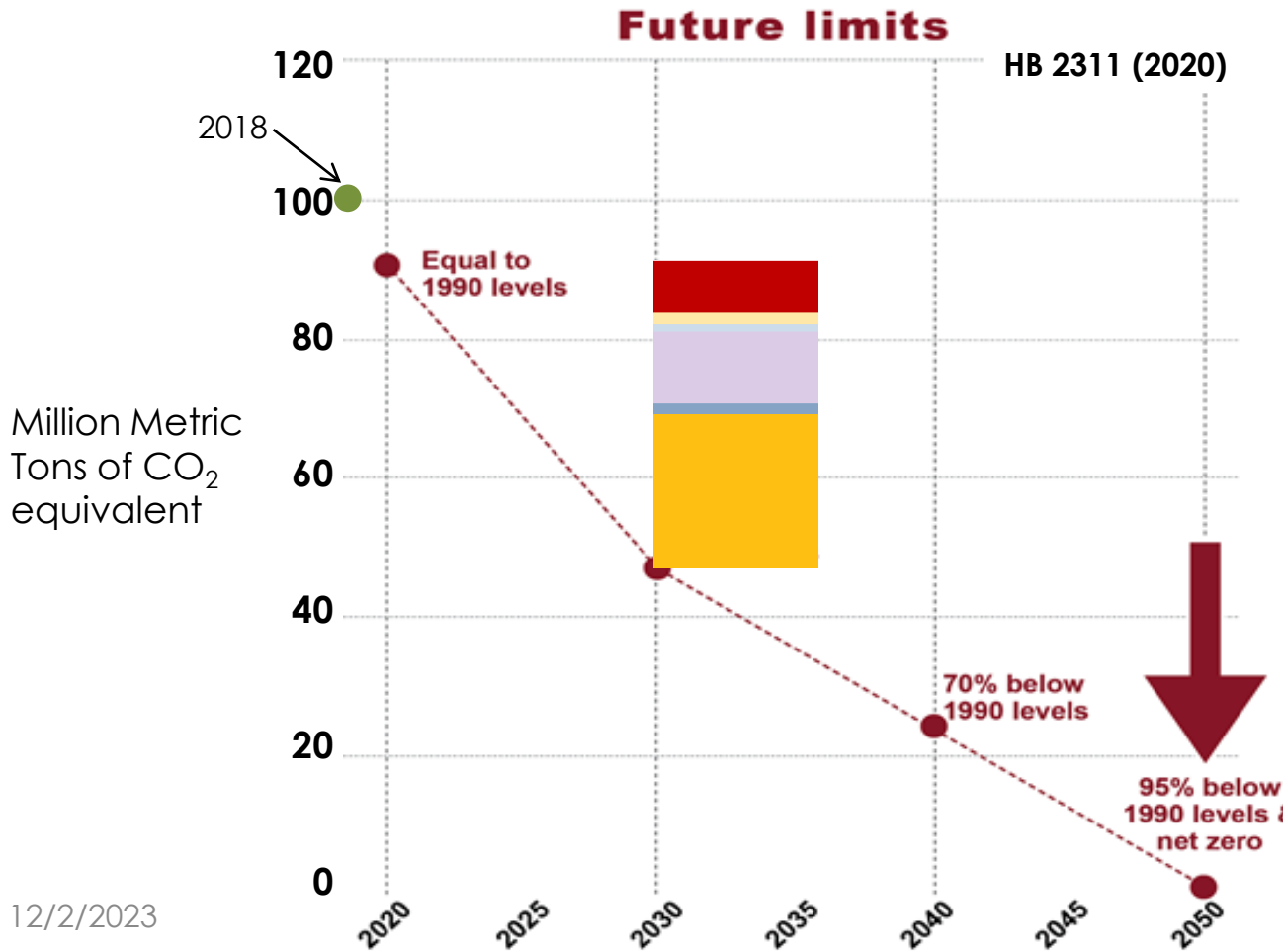
Recent Legislative & Regulatory Progress

- **Clean Energy Transformation Act (2019)**
 - Eliminates GHG from our electricity sources by 2045
- **Amended state greenhouse gas emission limits (2020)**
 - Limits aligned with the climate science of 2020
 - Requires greenhouse gas emissions near zero by 2050
- **Clean Fuel Standard (2021)** reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels
- **Washington Climate Commitment Act: cap and trade and invest (2021)**
 - Sales of allowances underway
- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings (2019, 2022)**
 - Down to 20,000 sq ft, including multifamily housing
- **Reducing methane emissions from landfills. (2022)**
- **Community solar projects. (2022)**
 - Enables those whose housing is not easily retrofitted for solar panels.

Legislative & Regulatory Progress in 2023

- **Improving electric power system transmission planning.**
- **Consolidate and streamline the siting of clean energy projects.**
- **Creating a Washington Climate Corps.**
- **Update the state's planning framework, GMA.**
 - Comprehensive planning process update for climate change mitigation & resiliency.

Need to reduce 52.1 MMT GHG emissions by 2030



Outlook for 2024

In the short session, 2023 bills can be taken up again

- **[SB 5431](#)/[HB 1368](#) Zero emission school buses.**
- Buses purchased in WA after 2027 must be zero emissions
- All WA state school buses operated after 2035 be zero emission.
- Funding in part would come from the Federal [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) of 2022
- A budget proviso of \$60 million from CCA income will ensure schools can afford this investment.
- Benefits: reduced GHGs, healthier air for children, reduced operating costs.
- Some electric buses can serve as mobile electrical power stations
- Target overburdened communities for initial funding.

Outlook for 2024

In the short session, 2023 bills can be taken up again

- **HB 1391 Energy Upgrade Navigator.**
- Provide guidance for purchasing and installing energy efficiency improvements
 - For overburdened and low-income communities
 - For small businesses
- Retrofit residences and buildings with
 - energy efficiency appliances,
 - Insulation & repairs,
 - indoor air quality improvements,
 - health and safety improvements.
- Provide guidance for contractors for resources and compliance.
- Funding from the CCA and the Federal Inflation Reduction Act.
- A budget proviso in 2023 began development of the database.
- Collect data to improve process clarity and identify barriers.
- Anticipate a substitute bill to increase language clarity and organization.
- This is a climate justice focus.

New Policy Areas for 2024

- **Addressing fuel prices**
- Increase energy pricing accountability through
 - pricing transparency
 - controlling excessive fuel company profits.
- Usually states cannot regulate interstate commerce
 - collect and analyze more company information.
 - proprietary information must be protected.
- Expect the Senate to introduce perhaps 2 bills on this.
- This is a priority of the [Environmental Priorities Coalition](#) (EPC).
- Climate Solutions is the lead organization for the EPC.

Additional Action for 2024

In the short session, un-passed 2023 bills can be reconsidered

- **[HB 1391](#) Increasing energy efficiency in housing.**
 - Grants to retrofit residences with energy efficiency and indoor air quality improvements
 - Targets overburdened and low-income communities; climate justice focus.
 - Funding optimized from the Climate Commitment Act and Federal IRA.
- **[HB 1509](#) Fair access to community solar.**
 - Revises the size and operating parameters to enable more projects.
- **[SB 5312](#) Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (R-PACER).**
 - Improvements paid with a lien on the property; obligation remains with the property.
 - Target energy efficiency, water conservation, clean energy, resiliency.

Potential Action for 2024

2023 bills that could be reconsidered

- [HB1012](#) Creating an extreme weather response grant program.
- [HB 1480](#) Energy resilience, cyber security, and all-hazard emergency management.
- [SB 5391](#) Minimize embodied carbon emission in state-funded projects.

Focus with the Environmental Coalitions (EPC)

- **Climate Commitment Act Adjustments**
 - 2023 allowance auctions produced more than \$1.4 billion for investment.
 - Continued advocacy on budget to ensure allocation of funds as intended: reducing GHG releases, air pollution, environmental justice including rural and tribes.
 - Governor and some legislators propose [legislating against](#) possible fuel profiteering.
- **Continued legislative attention to a clean and healthy environment:** water purity, clean air
- **Progress on the Clean Energy Transformation Act;** oppose utility back-sliding
- **Codify housing building codes with legislation:** electrification
- **Possible Hirst Fix adjustments** (2018) well permitting
- Environmental Priorities Coalition and NW Energy Coalition

Challenges to continued progress

- Opposition to green, renewable energy siting
- Protection of heritage industries
- Discomfort with energy prices
- Permitting electrical transmission routes and energy facilities
- Delay of implemented policies and regulation

Related LWVWA Issues

- Waste in our economy
 - Methane in landfills and pipeline leakage
 - Plastics and packaging
 - Recycling
- Forests
- Land use and housing
- Transportation
- Health
- Revenue

Everyone can take action

- Express your concerns and support to your legislators
 - Representatives - <https://leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Senators - <https://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Senators/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Governor - <https://governor.wa.gov/contacting-governor>
- Express your concerns and support to your city and county government
 - New comprehensive planning requirements for climate change
- Keep up to date with environment events in Our Climate Radar
 - <https://www.ourclimateradar.org/>
- Respond to Action Alerts in the Legislative Action Letter

We can **all** add our energy to making policy change.

Messages for Legislators

- I am concerned about climate change, and I believe we can take action.
- I want you to do everything you can to ensure WA is reducing emissions.
- We need to transition to zero emission school buses, for the health of our children
- We need to give opportunities for low income families to benefit from zero emission appliances, and for efficient heating and cooling in their homes.
- We need to preserve mature forests that store carbon at the fastest rate.

- You can write your legislator any time
 - Leg.wa.gov
 - On screen left select *House of Representatives* or *Senate*
 - Select either *by Name* or *by District*
- Find your district at <https://lwvwa.org/who-represents-you>

Don't Give Up

- We don't need to convince the climate deniers.
- We need to convince all the concerned people to take action.
- We need not understand every detail and nuance.
- Every 0.1 degree of global temperature rise **prevented** makes a difference.
- **Tell** your friends and family what you are doing and how you are doing it.
- **Tell** your representatives:
 - County council,
 - State legislature,
 - Congress
- **Don't give up**

Questions, Ideas, Discussion

- What else have you heard happening in the legislature?
- What else should we be doing?
- What remains unclear to you?

References

- [Washington State Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Limits](#)
- Climate Commitment Act – [Department of Ecology](#)
- Opposition to renewable energy in Benton County – [Seattle Times](#)
- LWVUS [Climate Interest Group](#)
- How to [talk about climate change](#) with family and friends