

LWW

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2023 Action Workshop

Forest Health to Waste Diversion
Potential legislation affecting our natural and manufactured resources



Introduction

LWVWA Presenters

- Kate Lunceford - Issue Chair - Forests
- Ann Murphy - Issue Chair - Waste Diversion

Discussing current issues and possible legislation in the coming legislative session.

The presentation will be followed by questions and answers.

Reference slides will be made available after the webinar.

FORESTS

The LWV supports natural resource management that promotes an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

- What's a mature forest?
- What are their benefits?
- How can we advocate for them?



What are Mature Forests?



They are rare, remnant patches, many in lowland areas.

They regenerated naturally after being logged in the late 1800s and early 1900's and are at least 80 years old.

A nurse log = a fallen tree that provides ecological facilitation to seedlings as it decays. - Photo from Shutterstock



Photo by Shutterstock

The Benefits

Mycorrhizal network below ground – photo by Shutterstock









Photo by Center for
Responsible Forestry

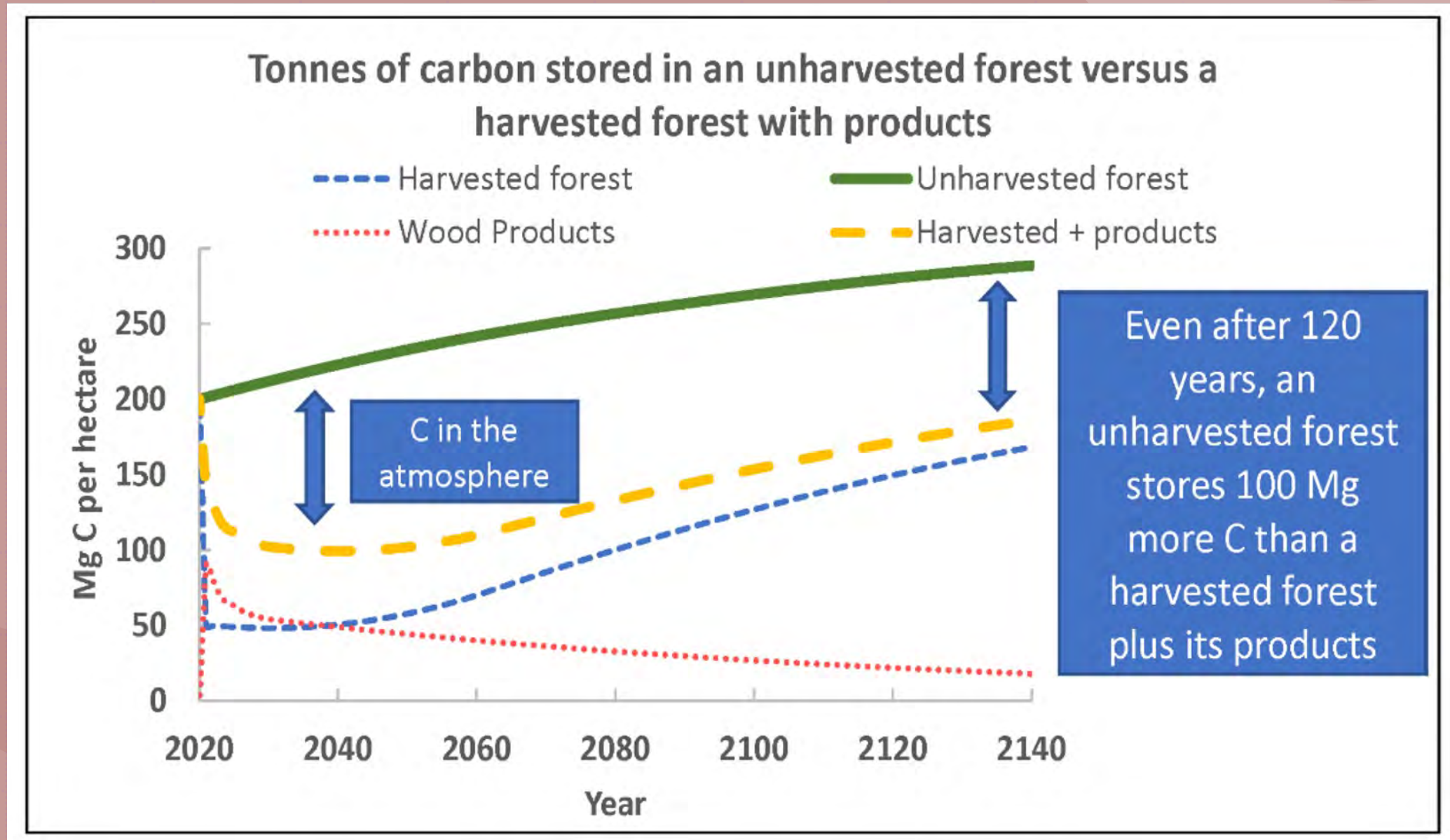


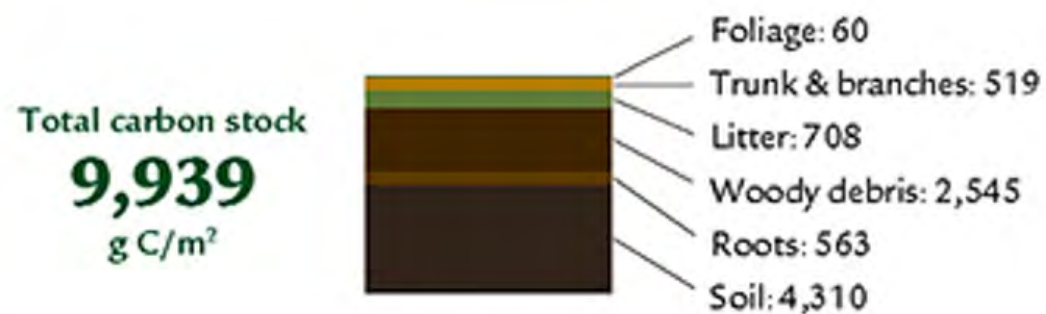
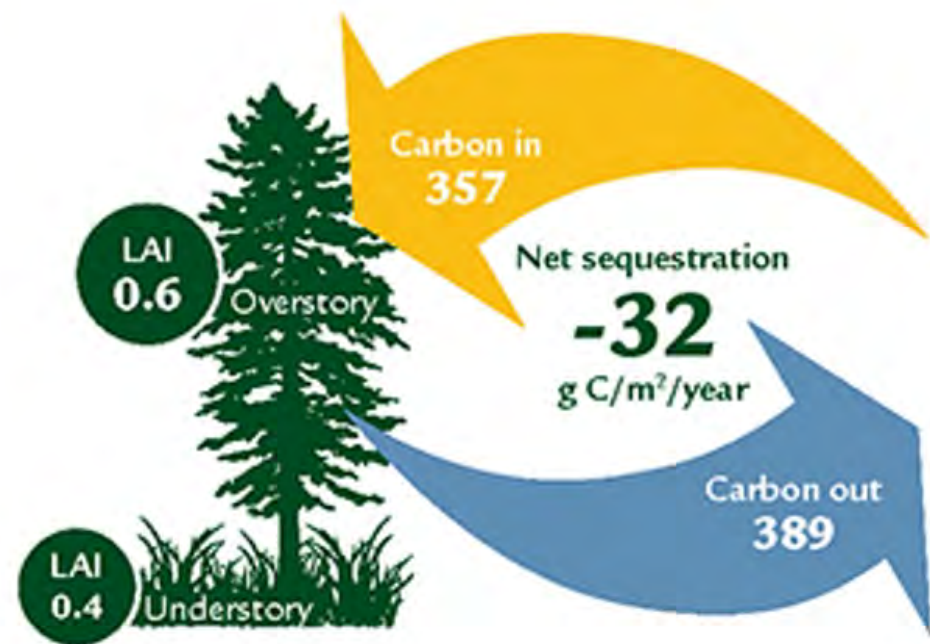
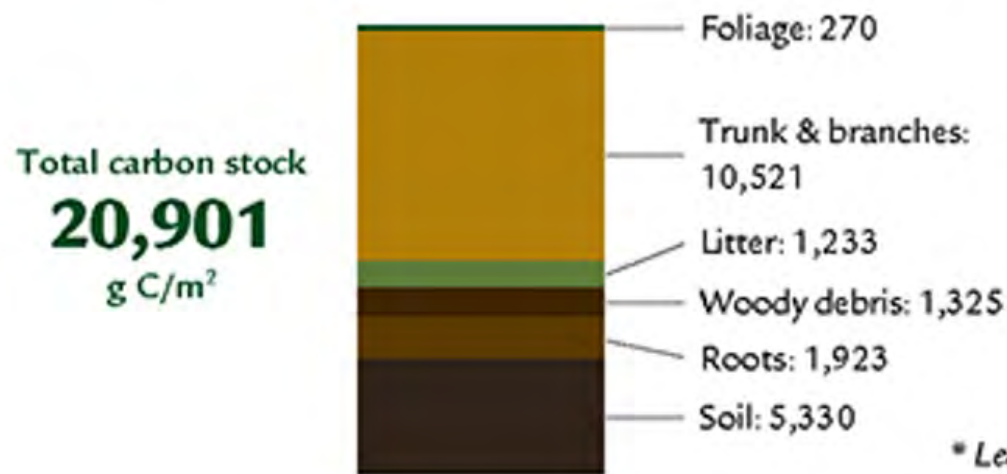
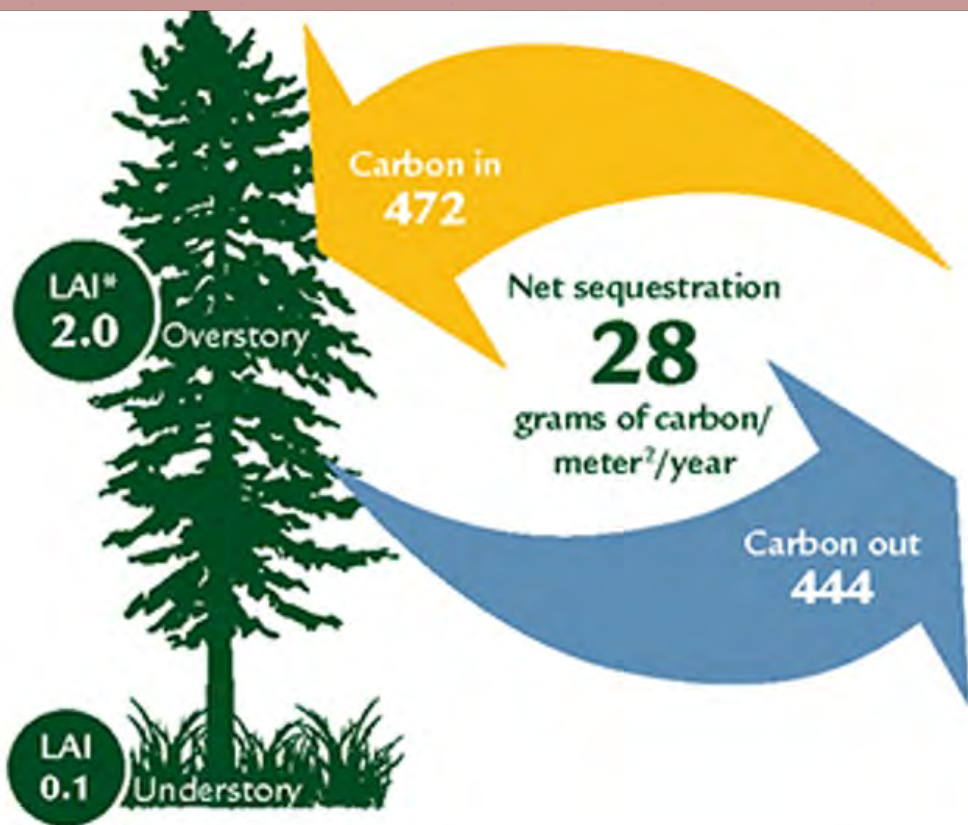
Tulalip Tribes use prescribed burning to manage small patches of meadow habitat that support mountain huckleberry.



Landslides on timber harvests on public land in Whatcom County.

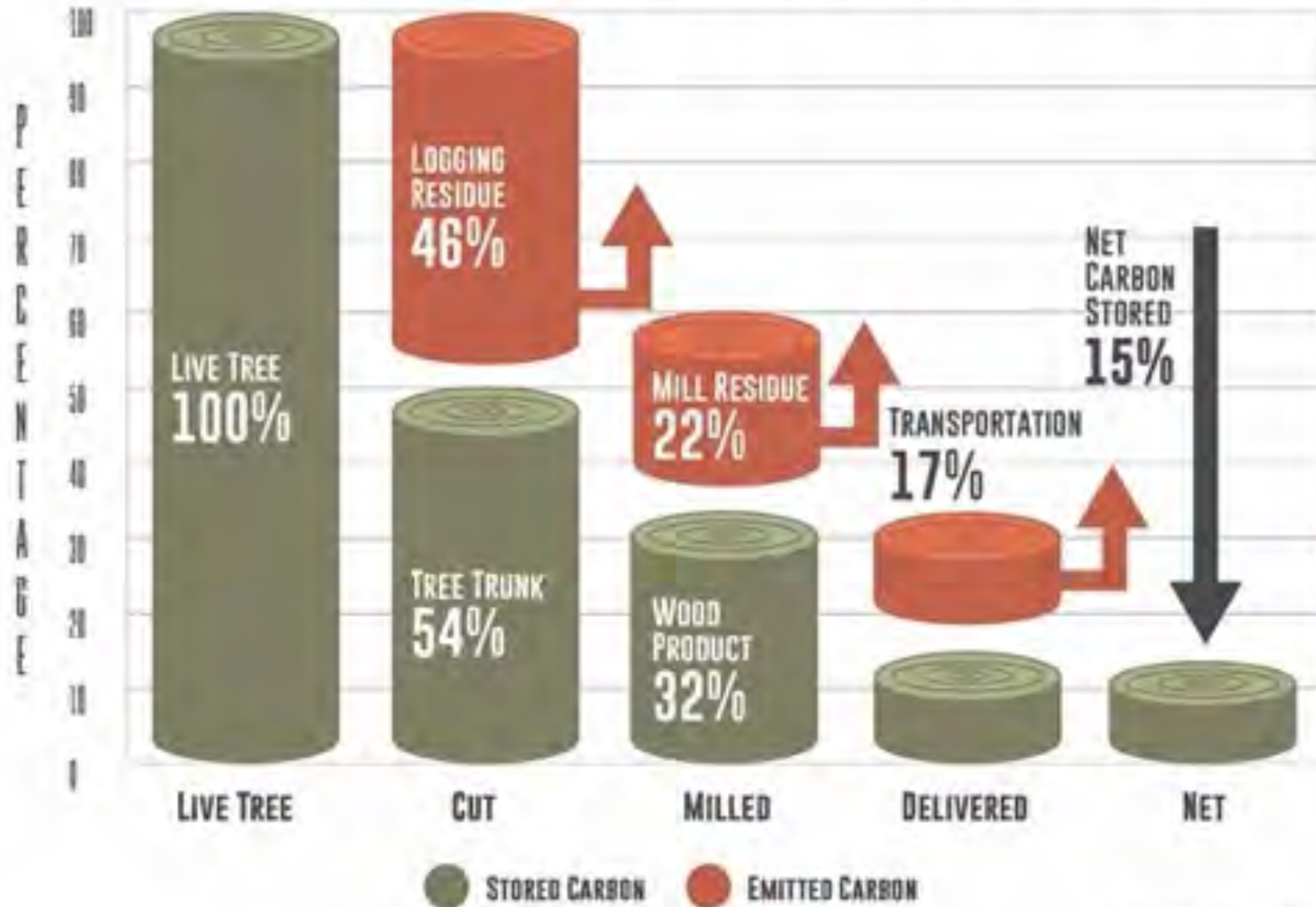
A Natural Climate Solution – Old Trees Store and Sequester Carbon





* Leaf Area Index (LAI): leaf surface area per meter² of ground area. For example, 2.0 LAI means the top surface of leaves cover twice the amount of area as the flat ground beneath.

FATE OF CARBON FROM HARVESTED WOOD



80 – 85% of the carbon stored in trees is returned to the atmosphere through the harvest, manufacturing and transport of wood products.

There are about 77,000 acres of unprotected mature forests in Washington. They sequester and store immense amounts of carbon dioxide. Logging them would emit 31 million metric tons of CO₂.



We can protect mature forests, trust land beneficiaries, and rural communities.



Photo by Shutterstock

LWVWA resolved to conserve all remaining mature and old growth forests on public lands in Washington State.

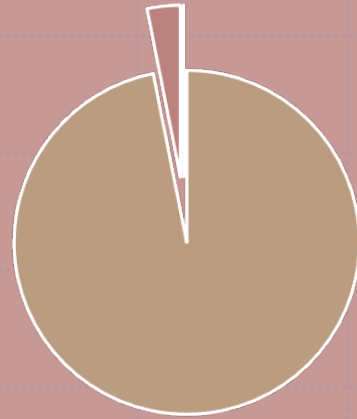
This means:

- Permanent conservation of unique older forests on public lands.
- Acquisition of replacement land for the trusts, to maintain or expand the state trust land base with new land managed as working forests.
- Climate-smart forest management on replacement lands for more carbon sequestration and timber production.
- Compensation to trust land beneficiaries to ensure essential local services are maintained.

Photo by Center for Responsible Forestry



MATURE FORESTS COVER LESS THAN 5% OF STATE LANDS



- 2,400,000 Total Acres of Forests on Public Lands
- 77,000 Acres of Mature Forests on Public Lands

They are storing over 31.5 million metric tons
of carbon

What about revenue for schools? Trust revenue for schools from timber is down from 2% of costs a decade ago to less than 1% today.

What about rural counties? The State must develop new revenue sources and funding approaches to help fund the important services provided by rural counties and their junior taxing districts. _

We can leave mature forests standing without hurting schools, hospitals, Tribal rights or rural communities. But we need to act now.

Washington State has funding for these programs:

Trust Land Transfers

Carbon Parks

Natural Climate Solutions funding

Reconveyance





Take Action

Look for **Action Alerts** in the *Legislative Newsletter* during the short legislative session.

Are there opportunities in your county or city to protect mature forests?

Join the Forest Issue Team.

DEALING WITH OUR WASTE

Assure that policies are implemented

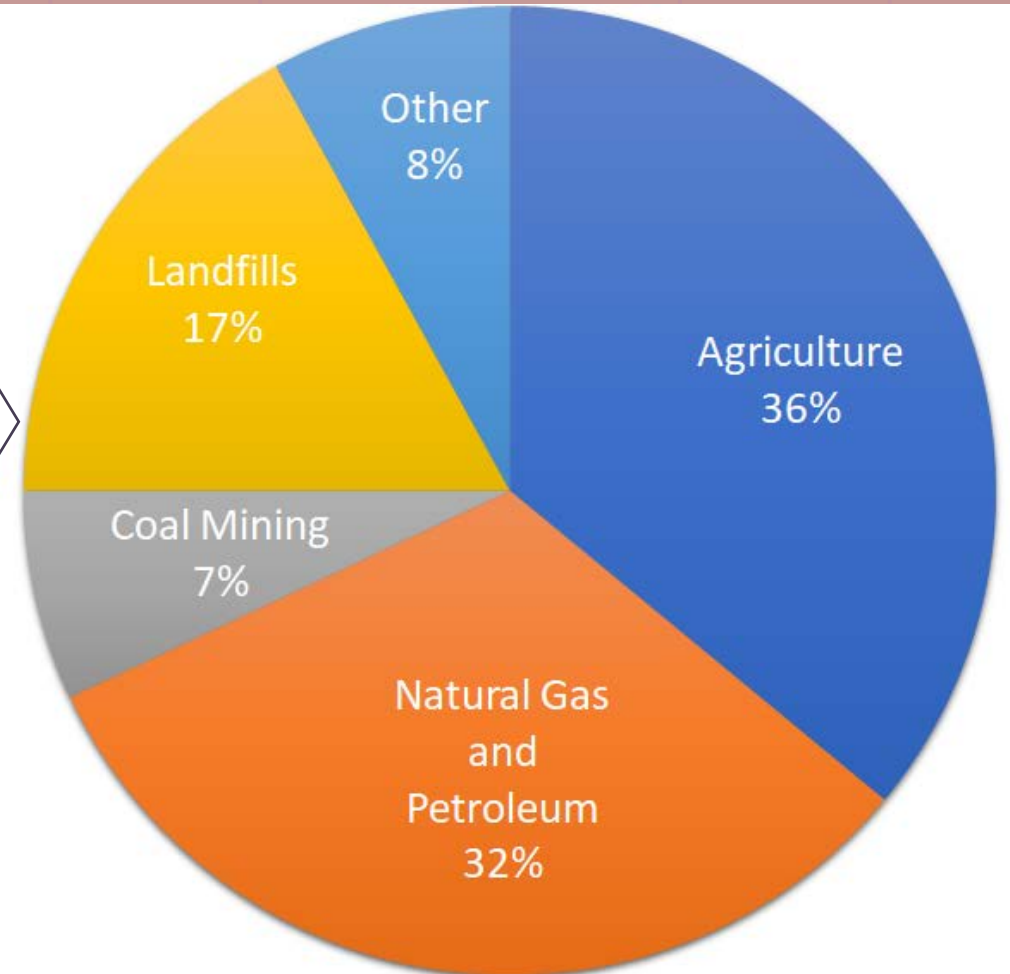
- to produce less waste
- to safely and sustainably manage the remainder



Green House Gases... MATERIAL CLASSES

TYPES

Paper Packaging 8
Paper Products 8
Plastic Packaging 17
Plastic Products 12
Glass 6
Metal 9
Organics 10
Wood Debris 9
Construction Materials 12
Consumer Products 18
Hazardous and Special Wastes 29
Residuals 5
Total 143



LWVWA Supports

- **Recent Legislative Progress in Washington State**
- Five bills passed the **2023** session:
- **ESHB 1033** Establishing an advisory committee to standardize composting across Washington.
- **SHB 1047** Eliminates sale of cosmetics that contain one of nine toxins as identified in the bill.
- **SHB 1085** Reducing plastic pollution with drinking fountain refill stations, phasing out mini-toiletries plastic packaging in lodgings, and banning foam-filled dock floats.
- **2SSB 5144** Providing for responsible environmental management of batteries.
- **SB 5287** Requiring a study on the recycling of wind turbine blades.

WRAP Act

- EPC
- <https://environmentamerica.org/washington/resources/the-washington-recycling-and-packaging-wrap-act/>
- DOWNLOADS
- [Washington Producer Responsibility Factsheet](#)
- [NW Product Stewardship Council EPR Factsheet](#)
- [The Benefits of a Producer Responsibility Program for Local Governments in WA](#)

Major Benefits of WRAP

- Incentivize producers
- Provide universal recycling services for Washingtonians
- Reduce pollution causing climate change
- Reduce confusion and contamination
- Reduce packaging and increase reuse.
- Support Washington's economy



Right to Repair

- **HB 1392 Right to Repair**

Household Appliances

- **HB 1164 Responsible management of appliances containing harmful gases and other materials**



Other

- **HB 1185 Reducing environmental impacts associated with lighting products.**
- **SB 5245 Concerning biosolids.**
- And look for bills to expand recycling to include EV batteries, reduction of plastics, recycling of wind turbines, and increased composting. There are plans to introduce a stand-alone bottle bill.

Take Action



LWW[®]

Look for **Action Alerts**
in the *Legislative
Newsletter* during the
2024 legislative
session.

Are there opportunities
in your county or city to
**support state
legislation and local
activity**

Join the **Waste
Diversion Team.**

Q & A



Thank you

Contacts

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The logo for LWW (Landscape Waste Watch) is displayed in a bold, blue, serif font. A thick, red, brushstroke-like graphic element is positioned below the letters, extending from the right side towards the left. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the 'W'.

References - Forests

Slide 3: <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf> Pg. 91

Slide 5: <https://www.laboratoryequipment.com/592525-Old-Trees-are-More-Drought-Tolerant-than-YoungerOnes/#:~:text=The%20new%20study%20on%20five,resistant%20than%20younger%20tree%20species.>

Slide 6: The Importance of Snags and Downed Logs <https://ofnc.ca/conservation-how-to/the-importance-of-snags-and-downed-logs-to-wildlife>
<https://mothertreeproject.org/about-mother-trees-in-the-forest/>
<https://mothertreeproject.org/team/>

Slide 8: Mixed-severity wildfire and habitat of an old-forest obligate <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ecs2.2696>
<https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/osu-research-suggests-forest-service-lands-not-main-source-wildfires-affecting-communities>

Slide 10: <https://cig.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/12/Managing-Western-Washington-Wildfire-Risk-in-a-Changing-Climate.pdf>

Slide 12: Creating Strategic Reserves to Protect Forest Carbon and Reduce Biodiversity Losses in the United States
<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/11/5/721>

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2020.594274/full>

Slide 13: Wild Carbon: A Synthesis of Recent Findings on Carbon Storage in Old Forests <https://ijw.org/wild-carbon-storage-in-old-forests/>

References - Forests cont'd

Slide 14: Timber harvest to meet global wood demand <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/07/timber-harvests-to-meet-global-wood-demand-will-bring-soaring-emissions-study/>

Hudiburg, Law, Moomaw, Harmon, and Stenzel, in Meeting GHG reduction targets requires accounting for all forest sector emissions, *Environ. Res. Lett.* 14 (2019.)

Timber harvest to meet global wood demand <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/07/timber-harvests-to-meet-global-wood-demand-will-bring-soaring-emissions-study/>

Data from [Patterns and mechanisms of the forest carbon cycle](#) - Gower, et al. (2006)

Slide 15: Law, B.E.; Moomaw, W.R.; Hudiburg, T.W.; Schlesinger, W.H.; Stermann, J.D.; Woodwell, G.M. Creating Strategic Reserves to Protect Forest Carbon and Reduce Biodiversity Losses in the United States. *Land* 2022, 11, 721. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11050721>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBKlofDmdpo>

Slide 16: LWVWA Program in Action <https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Documents/2022%20Issue%20Papers/Program%20In%20Action%202021-23.pdf> Pg. 31

Slide 17: LWVWA Resolution to protect mature forests: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18mJYCJrhQpgHQ9iQjIjqEs8tAHk4AQZK/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111132838089022556265&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Slide 18: Law, B.E.; Moomaw, W.R.; Hudiburg, T.W.; Schlesinger, W.H.; Stermann, J.D.; Woodwell, G.M. Creating Strategic Reserves to Protect Forest Carbon and Reduce Biodiversity Losses in the United States. *Land* 2022, 11, 721. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11050721>

Slide 19: <https://tvw.org/video/washington-state-board-of-natural-resources-2019121013/?eventID=2019121013&startStreamAt=4900&stopStreamAt=5076&autoStartStream=true>

<https://tvw.org/video/state-superintendent-chris-reykdal-press-conference-2022071111/>

<https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/20515430/intact-forests-in-the-united-states-proforestation-mitigates-climate-change-and-serves-the-greatest-goodmoomaw-et-al-2019.pdf>

Slide 20: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_bc_bnr_tlpilotpjct_09062022.pdf

References

Solid Waste Management