

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

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The 2023 legislature continues to introduce bills, and over 50 so far propose a mitigation or adaptation to climate change. 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. The bills below are a few that have hearings this week. You can make your personal position known before committee hearings through the [committee sign](#) in process. Links in the descriptions below will take you directly to the sign-in page for the bill. Your name will appear in the legislative record.

Priority Bills Needing Action This Week

[HB 1391](#) Increasing energy efficiency in buildings. Defines grants and processes for overburdened and low-income communities to retrofit buildings with energy efficiency appliances, insulation, repairs, indoor air quality improvements, and health and safety improvements. Funding optimized from the Climate Commitment Act and Federal Inflation Reduction Act. This is a climate justice focus.

Scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Environment & Energy on Tuesday, January 24 at 8:00 am. [Please sign-in Pro](#) by **3:00 pm** on that date with this link:

[HB 1427](#) On-premises electrical energy generation. Enables customers of private electric utilities get credits for renewable electricity they generate up to 200 kilowatts (net metering). Stipulations define end dates, monitoring, forecasts, and limitations to ensure the results are equitable for everyone.

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Find additional 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.

We requested minor amendments to these bills in hearings last week:

[HB 1170](#) / [SB 5093](#) Integrated Climate Response Strategy updates for climate resilience. We requested that the bill language be strengthened to rely on *the best available and independent science*, and to *seek assistance from qualified nonpartisan and independent scientific experts and sources*.

[SB 5325](#) Enhancing access to clean fuel (green hydrogen) for agencies providing public transportation. This bill encourages development of green hydrogen for busses. Hydrogen may become an energy storage process and a fuel of choice for some needs such as large trucks or public transportation (reducing pollution from internal combustion engines), but the technology and infrastructure will require much development. Green hydrogen is made in an entirely carbon-free process, but requires more energy input than can be extracted as a fuel. We requested that RCW 54.04.190 improve the precision for the definitions green hydrogen.

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.

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.