

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

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The 2023 legislature continues to introduce bills, and over 60 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

SB 5312 – Creates a residential property assessed clean energy and resiliency (R-PACER)

program. Allows loans for improvements to be repaid through a lien on the property assigned so the obligation to repay the debt would remain with the property. Improvements in this case would be limited to energy efficiency, water conservation, clean and renewable energy, and resiliency projects. (We already have such a program for commercial properties, [C-PACER](#).) These PACER programs enable property owners to make substantial investments that will save money well into the future and tie the investments to the benefits even they sell the property.

Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs on Tuesday, January 31 at 8:00 am. **Please sign-in Pro by 7:00 am** on Tuesday or better yet by Monday with this link:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=Senate&mlid=30504&ald=150172&caid=20820&tld=3>

HB1012 Creating an extreme weather response grant program. The legislature recognizes the increasing risks and threats to socially vulnerable people (including pets) from extreme weather events such as heat, cold, smoke, and flooding. This bill will provide funding for communities with a demonstrated lack of resources, to meet the costs of responding to community needs during such periods for cities, counties, towns, and tribes that have emergency management organizations.

Scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Appropriations on Monday, January 30 at 4:00 pm. **Please sign-in Pro by 3:00 pm** on Monday with this link:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mlid=30576&ald=150137&caid=20907&tld=3>

HB 1391 Increasing energy efficiency in buildings. Defines grants and processes for overburdened and low-income communities to retrofit residences and 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, and such policies can make a big difference in the lives of people who otherwise would lack the resources to make improvements.

Scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Environment & Energy on Tuesday, January 31 at 4:00 pm. **Please sign-in Pro by 3:00 pm** on Tuesday with this link:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mId=30594&aId=150436&caId=20941&tId=3>

HB 1480 Energy resilience, cyber security, and all-hazard emergency management. Directs the Department of Commerce to include all hazards, including human and natural, in contingency plans in the event of energy shortages or emergencies. Previous law was not explicit on the hazards and risks. Weather events over the past years have disrupted energy supply sources prominently in several states. Internet disruption has also caused major power outages in North America. Our state experienced intentional damage to substations causing power outages. As we electrify to cleanup or energy sources, we must ensure we anticipate the significant risks to reliability.

Scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Environment & Energy on Tuesday, January 31 at 10:30 am. **Please sign-in Pro by 9:30 am** on Tuesday with this link:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mId=30614&aId=150309&caId=20976&tId=3>

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.

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.