

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

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As illustrated in the Grid, bills are passing their chambers of origin and being referred to committees in the other chamber. A few have hearings scheduled as of this writing, opportunities to sign in prior to the hearing. Although you may have taken action on these bills in the past few weeks, they will go through the same committee and voting process in the opposite chamber.

Other bills may still make the March 8 cutoff, so you may write your legislators to encourage their consideration for floor votes.

Priority Bills Needing Action This Week

HB 1170 Integrated Climate response strategy updates for climate resilience.

The current Climate Response Strategy was completed in 2012, so is due for an update. This bill will increase the focus on climate justice considerations. This is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology on March 10 at 8:00 am.

Please sign in Pro by the end of the day on March 9 or by 7:00 am on March 10.

HB 1282 Buy clean, buy fair - environmental and labor reporting for public building construction.

This bill follows a Buy Clean Buy Fair Washington Project pilot study commenced in 2021. Embodied carbon is the greenhouse released in the process of making a product, in this case buildings. This bill requires analysis and reporting on the cradle to grave embodied carbon of new buildings and significant renovations funded by the state. Reporting on labor practices are also required. A data system would streamline the reporting process. **Tell your representatives that you support this bill and ask them for their vote [at this link](#).**

Find more 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.

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.

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.