

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Climate Change & Energy**

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### January 16, 2022

This week the Legislature introduced more bills affecting our policies on energy and climate change, and the legislative process is underway. The LWVWA lobby team provided testimony in committee hearings, and Washington residents from all viewpoints made their positions known through the [committee sign](#) in process. In addition to the climate change and energy bills, we will cover bills to reduce and better handle our waste stream, important in reducing our greenhouse gas production and improving our environment.

Your committee hearing sign-ins are effective in showing interest and support for these issues. Sign-ins are accepted until 1 hour before the committee hearing begins.

### Priority Bills Needing Action This Week

#### **[HB 1792](#) – Green Hydrogen production**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the House Environment and Energy Committee on 1/18.

**Please sign in Pro** by 7:00 am at:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mId=29503&aId=144013&caId=18786&tId=3>

#### **[HB 1682](#) – Emissions-intensive, trade-exposed businesses**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the House Environment and Energy Committee on 1/18.

**Please sign in Pro** by 7:00 am at:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mId=29503&aId=144012&caId=18785&tId=3>

#### **[HB 1767](#) – Targeted electrification through outreach and investment in system conversion**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the House Environment and Energy Committee on 1/18.

**Please sign in Pro** by 7:00 am at:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mId=29503&aId=144415&caId=18880&tId=3>

#### **[SB 5697](#) – Renewing Washington’s recycling system and reducing waste – RENEW Act**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy and Technology Committee on 1/18. **Please sign in Pro** by 9:30 am at:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=Senate&mId=29524&aId=144100&caId=18644&tId=3>

### **SB 5666 – Targeted electrification through outreach and investment in system conversion**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee on 1/19. **Please sign in Pro** by 7:00 am at:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=Senate&mId=29525&aId=144105&caId=18666&tId=3>

### **SB 5492 – Wind turbine blade recycling**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee on 1/19. **Please sign in Pro** by 7:00 am at:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=Senate&mId=29525&aId=144106&caId=18667&tId=3>

### **HB 1799 – Organic materials management to reduce methane**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the House Environment and Energy Committee on 1/20. **Please sign in Pro** by 12:30 pm at:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mId=29504&aId=144014&caId=18787&tId=3>

### **HB 1814 – Community solar projects**

⚠ Scheduled for a hearing in the House Environment and Energy Committee on 1/20. **Please sign in Pro** by 9:00 am at:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=House&mId=29505&aId=144022&caId=18791&tId=3>

You may express support for bills in hearings with the [online process](#). Select House or Senate then the committee and the date and time of the meeting, then follow the menus. Detailed instructions are in this week's Legislative Newsletter. Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the "Organization" box blank. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.

## Bills We Support

**[HB 1792](#) – Green Hydrogen production.** Hydrogen gas may have a significant role to play in energy storage for and alternative fuels for bridging generation service gaps and for uses difficult to electrify with current technology such as aviation and long-haul trucking. Challenges remain so success will depend on technology development. The hydrogen must be produced without fossil fuels to make progress on reducing climate change.

**[HB 1619](#) - Appliance efficiency standards.** Energy saved through increasing efficiency is equivalent to green energy generated, and saves money so we must continue to invest in improved appliances. We cannot depend on federal policy to take action, so the states must act and work to align regulation with other states.

**[SB 5697](#) – Renewing Washington’s recycling system and reducing waste – RENEW Act.** Our waste stream affects climate and the accumulation of refuse. This bill covers product stewardship for packaging and printed paper, including recycling and reuse targets, accurate labeling provisions and requirements for post-consumer recycled content in plastic tubs, thermoform containers (e.g., clamshells), and single-use cups. It implements the top recommendations in the Department of Ecology’s Plastics Study ([October 2020](#)) which was required by SB 5397 in 2019 to address our recycling crisis and the increasing amount of plastic pollution.

**[SB 5722](#) - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings.** Greenhouse gas release from buildings, primarily in heating systems, is second only to transportation in Washington. This bill is a step toward adjusting building codes to design more new buildings, including multifamily housing, to incorporate more carbon-free energy sources.

**[HB 1767](#) / [SB 5666](#) – Targeted electrification through outreach and investment in system conversion.** Authorizes the governing body of municipal electric utilities and public utility districts (PUDs) to adopt a targeted electrification plan, including incentives, once they establish that utility outreach and investment in the electrification of customers' end use equipment in residential and commercial buildings will provide net benefits to the utility.

**[HB 1814](#) – Community solar projects.** Enables residents, whose housing is not easily or efficiently retrofitted for solar panels, to join a community solar project installation and enjoy the benefits.

## How You Can Be Involved

- During the legislative session we will send Action Alerts in the [Legislative Newsletter](#). Please respond to these, which will direct you to an application to facilitate

communicating with your legislators on an important votes in committees or on the chamber floor.

- 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.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA Issue Chairs. We will take your perspectives under considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Martin Gibbins, Climate Issue Chair, [mgibbins@lwvwa.org](mailto:mgibbins@lwvwa.org)