

Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Executive Committee January 8, 2024

Legislative Updates

Update on 2024 WA Legislative Bills related to TCMP strategies.

TCMC Staff Team

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2024 Legislative Session



Short Session (60 days): Monday January 8 – Monday March 7

- January 31: Last day to pass bills out of committee in the house of origin.*
- February 13: Last day to consider (pass) bills in the house of origin.
- February 21: Last day to pass bills out of committee from opposite house.*
- March 1: Last day to consider (pass) opposite house bills (some exceptions).
- March 7: Last day allowed for regular session.

^{*} Except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and means Transportation Committee.

Building Decarbonization





Concerning energy in buildings.

- Directs the Department of Commerce to contract with an administrator to establish a Statewide Building Energy Upgrade Navigator Program by March 1, 2024, to provide outreach, and deliver energy services to residential building owners and renters and owners of commercial buildings under 20,000 square feet.
- Status: Introduced in 2023. Updates expected for 2024.





Concerning energy labeling of residential buildings.

- Directs the Department of Commerce to adopt by rule the asset-based Home Energy Score developed by the United States Department of Energy as the primary home energy performance scoring system by which a person may evaluate the energy efficiency and relative greenhouse gas emissions of a building.
- Directs the Department of Licensing to adopt rules and implement a program for the licensing of home energy assessors.
- Status: Introduced in 2023. Updates expected for 2024.

HB 1589: Gas Utility Decarbonization



An act relating to supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future.

- Prohibits any large gas company that serves more than 500,000 retail natural
 gas customers in Washington as of June 30, 2023, from providing natural gas
 service to any commercial or residential location that did not receive gas
 service or have filed applications for gas service as of June 30, 2023.
- Creates exemptions to the prohibition on the extension of natural gas service for certain types of facilities, including manufacturing, medical care, correctional, and military facilities
- Status: Introduced in 2023. Updates expected for 2024.

Waste Reduction

HB 1131: Producer Responsibility



Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.

- Establishes an extended producer responsibility program for certain packaging and paper products, establishes a container deposit system, and specifies recycling labeling requirements.
- Status: Introduced in 2023. Updates expected for 2024.

Transportation





Requiring and funding the purchase of zero emission school buses.

- Requires school buses purchased by public kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) schools to be zero-emission school buses beginning September 1, 2033, and requires 70 percent of school bus purchases to be zero emission beginning September 1, 2030.
- Establishes a zero-emission school bus grant program for K-12 schools to be administered by the Department of Ecology.
- Status: Introduced in 2023. Updates expected for 2024.

Climate Commitment Act

Climate Commitment Act



- CCA is the economy-wide cap-and-trade system adopted by the 2021
 Washington Legislature.
- CCA has generated an estimated \$2.1 billion in revenue for climate action.
- Initiative 2117 (I-2117): Repeal Washington's Climate Commitment Act
 - Prohibits state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, and repeals legislation establishing a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - More than 400,000 signatures submitted in support.
 - If rejected by the legislature, I-2117 will appear on Washington's November 2024 ballot.

HB 2201: WA Carbon Market



Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.

• Status: Introduced in 2024. Bill details not available yet.

Questions & Discussion



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Concerning fair access to community solar.

- Requires that electric utilities compensate subscribers of community solar projects for electricity generated by the project with a retail-rate bill credit that must be rolled forward until the credit is used.
- Increases the allowable size of community solar projects to 5000 kilowatts (kW) from 1000 kW for projects in the service territory of an investor-owned utility, and limits projects to 200 kW in the service territory of a consumer-owned utility, unless the utility approves a larger size.
- Status: Introduced in 2023. Updates expected for 2024.