



PHOTO: JOHN WESTROCK

# 2019 Environmental Priorities

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is made up of over 20 environmental organizations statewide. For more than 15 years, we have worked together to bring a unified agenda to the state legislature. Our 2019 Priorities are:

## 100% CLEAN ELECTRICITY



Washington is uniquely positioned to achieve a fossil free, clean, and renewable electricity grid. Urgent action is needed to address climate change, and we have a critical opportunity to phase away from dirty fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and fracked gas, and toward clean and sustainable energy sources like solar and wind. Building off of the strong work and partnerships forged through Initiative 1631, a 100% Clean Electricity standard is a complimentary and necessary policy to accelerate our efforts to achieve our state's 2035 climate goals and invest in a clean energy economy.

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## ORCA EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Our southern resident orcas are on the brink of extinction, warranting an all-hands-on-deck commitment to bold action. At a minimum, we expect that the legislature to take action on the three biggest threats to orcas: their lack of food, and impacts from noise and pollution. Legislation must address healthy shoreline habitat, establish a "slow-go zone" around the orcas, and replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives. These specific actions are the building blocks to address the three biggest threats to orcas.

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## OIL SPILL PREVENTION



Washington continues to face significant risks of oils spills in Puget Sound and the coast. These risks threaten local economies and the survival of iconic species like salmon and orcas. To address these risks, the state must have the same protections on barges and other vessels that exist for large tankers, require an emergency response tug that can protect high-risk areas like the San Juan Islands, and ensure that oil drilling will never happen off of Washington’s coast.

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## REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION



Thin plastic bags are used for only a few minutes and discarded. Only 6% of these bags are ever recycled. Plastic bags blow into our waterways and the ocean, clog the stomachs of wildlife, and break down into smaller pieces that also get eaten. Plastic bags also clog recycling equipment – costing money because they have to be extracted – and are the major contaminant in our commercial compost. The Reusable Bag Act would eliminate thin carry-home plastic bags at all retail establishments and include a pass-through charge to motivate people to bring their own reusable bags and help cover the stores’ cost of more expensive bags.

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### about the coalition

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty leading environmental groups in Washington state that influence policy at the state level. For over a decade, the Coalition has selected joint priority issues to work on during legislative session to help focus environmental community resources and best achieve our shared goals.

