



for the  
**Washington State**  
Senate

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a coalition of over twenty-five leading environmental groups who lobby in Olympia on a regular basis and organize around a set of priority bills each legislative session. We established three to be our highest priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session, they are listed below. As in the past, we will be sending you this weekly "Hot List" to assist you in your efforts to promote this common agenda.

Please feel free to contact Clifford Traisman (Washington Conservation Action, previously known as Washington Environmental Council & Washington Conservation Voters) at [clifford@ctassociates.org](mailto:clifford@ctassociates.org) if you have any questions regarding our positions on any bills affecting the environment, not just those found on the Hot List each week. The Hot List can also be found [here](#). The three priorities for the 2024 legislative session are the following:

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## 2024 Priorities



**Hold Oil Companies Accountable. (HB 2232/ SB 6052).** We all need affordable ways to get around, but oil companies are price gouging anyone fueling up a vehicle with gas. While we struggled through the pandemic and inflation, oil companies made over \$200 billion in profits in 2022 alone and then tried to blame climate policy for high prices at the pump to deflect attention from their profits. Instead of investing in clean energy, they are pursuing oil and gas expansion and spending money on lobbying and misleading ads to fight cleaner options. We need transparency around how oil companies set their prices as well as accountability to stop their greenwashing and price gouging. Our legislators need to protect Washingtonians by requiring oil industry transparency and accountability.



**100% Clean School Buses (HB 1368/ SB 5431).** All school kids deserve healthy, safe rides to school, but almost all school buses in our state currently run on diesel. Research shows that air pollution inside the bus can be more than four times worse than outside, meaning kids are especially exposed once they're on their way to school. There are more than 10,000 diesel school buses transporting kids in Washington. With many models of electric school buses available, five other states have set a date in law by which new school buses must be 100% clean. Our Washington legislators can pass such a law and support our kids and school districts in this critical transition.



**Re-WRAP Act (HB 1131/ SB 5154).** In this state, more than 50 percent of our consumer packaging and paper goes to landfills, rather than being recycled. Across the planet, plastic waste litters our shorelines and open spaces. It is time to modernize our recycling system, to reduce packaging and to decrease plastic pollution. The WRAP Act tackles these problems by creating a set of graduated fees on packaging manufacturers based on the recyclability/sustainability of their packaging. The funding generated from this fee will then be used to fund our recycling system in Washington, including improvements in infrastructure, uniform access to recycling for residents across the state, and a harmonized list of what people can recycle. Recycling and reuse targets will be set. This bill will have the added benefit of shifting the costs for the recycling system from ratepayers to the manufacturers that have created the problem.

## 2024 Partnership Agenda

**Buy Clean, Buy Fair (HB 1282/ SB 5322).** The Buy Clean and Buy Fair Washington Act is a reporting-only bill that establishes reporting requirements on the carbon content and working conditions of building materials purchased for large state-funded building projects. This harnesses existing state spending to incentivize manufacturers to produce lower-carbon products and grow high-wage manufacturing jobs. If passed, the state and other entities buying building materials would have a publicly available resource to make climate-smart purchasing decisions while also supporting workers and communities.

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**Even-Year Local Elections (HB 1882/ SB 5723)** We know that change happens at the local level. Unfortunately, a state law from the 1960's requires Washington to hold local elections in odd-numbered years, when most voters do not return their ballots. Voter turnout is up to twice as high and far more diverse in even years, when we are also voting for president or our national representatives. Washington can elect leaders that truly speak for all of us by giving cities and towns the freedom to switch to even-year elections

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**CURB Act (HB 2070/ SB 5990).** In Washington, communities of color and Indigenous peoples live in places that carry a disproportionate burden when it comes to environmental pollution, affecting health, well-being, and life expectancy. Under current laws, the process that permits businesses to pollute is not required to consider the effects of this history of environmental racism and the cumulative health risk and burden the most impacted communities face. The CURB (Cumulative Risk Burden) Pollution Act will require a lead agency to deny permit applications for new facilities that add cumulative pollution effects while elevating frontline community voices in the permit evaluations process.

## *about the coalition*

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty-five 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.

