#### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2025



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 four to be our highest priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session, as listed <u>here</u>. 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 <u>clifford@ctassociates.org</u> 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 <u>here</u>.

### **House Committee Action**



House Committee on Appropriations: Executive Session, Wednesday, 2/26 HB 1150: The Recycling Reform Act: Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.

- One of the 2025 top 4 environmental priorities.
- Modernizes Washington's recycling system, making recycling accessible for all.
- Reduces excess packaging (including plastic), increases recycling, refill and reuse, creates a uniform recycling list, and reduces costs for local governments and residents across the state.



House Committee on

Appropriations: Public

Hearing, Monday, 2/24

HB 1409: Concerning the clean fuels program.

- The Clean Fuel Standard cuts climate pollution from transportation the largest source of greenhouse gases in Washington through reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuels and increasing the use of low-carbon fuels and electricity.
- HB 1409 strengthens the program, providing for more investment in clean fuels.



House Committee on Appropriations: Executive Session, Tuesday 2/25 HB 1448: Increasing representation and voter participation in local elections.

- Ensures that the WA Administrative Code provides consistent & clear rules governing the use of ranked-choice voting.
- HB 1448 helps jurisdictions stay in compliance with the Washington Voting Rights Act by giving them a clear pathway to adopt ranked-choice voting



House Committee on Capital Budget: Public Hearing, Tuesday, 2/25

- HB 1458: Reducing embodied carbon emissions of buildings and building materials.
  - Provides three alternatives for reducing the embodied carbon in very large commercial buildings by 1. Reusing part of an existing building, 2. Using lower-carbon materials, or 3. Designing the building to reduce emissions through a lifecycle assessment (already common for large construction projects).
  - Establishes a goal to reduce embodied carbon by 30% in new construction of very large commercial buildings starting in 2032 through updates to building codes.



House Committee on Appropriations: Executive Session, Wednesday, 2/26

- HB 1462: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with hydrofluorocarbons.
  - Helps Washington adapt to the national phasedown of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerant gases and limit climate pollution by stimulating reclamation and reuse of HFCs. Guides the long-term transition to more affordable and climate-friendly alternative refrigerants.
  - Rep. Doglio's amendment addresses stakeholder concerns and reduces implementation costs.



House Committee on Appropriations: Executive Session, Wednesday, 2/26

# HB 1497: Organics management: Improving outcomes associated with waste material management systems

- Addresses composting and other management of organic (yard and food waste) in order to divert the material from the landfill and avoid methane gas generation.
- Includes enhanced education, standardized color-coded collection bins and lids, a pathway for bringing organics collection to more multi-family buildings, support for food waste reduction efforts in K-12 schools and more



*House Committee on Appropriations:* Public Hearing, Tuesday, 2/25

**SUPPORT** 

House Committee on

Appropriations:

Public Hearing, Monday, 2/24

#### HB 1550: Improving the end-of-life management of electric vehicle batteries

- Modeled after a 2024 New Jersey EV battery bill, this would set up a program so that EV Batteries are responsibly recycled and repurposed.
- It is important capture the critical minerals in batteries and ensure that all batteries are captured and recycled.

HB 1563: Establishing a prescribed fire claims fund pilot program.

- Encourages more prescribed fire by certified burn managers and cultural fire practitioners, which can improve forest health and protect communities from catastrophic wildfires.
- Part of the environmental community's Partnership Agenda for 2025.



#### SHB 1670: Increasing transparency regarding sewage-containing spills

- One of the 2025 top 4 environmental priorities.
- Dozens of sewage spills occur every year and few are widely reported to the general public.
- House Committee on Appropriations: Executive Session, Tuesday, 2/25
- It's time that Washington joins South Carolina and Massachusetts and ensures that the public has access to timely information on sewage spills across the state.

#### 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.





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