

WEEK 8: MARCH 2, 2026



House HOT LIST

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is made up of 26 statewide environmental organizations working to safeguard Washington's environment and the health of our communities through policy and budget advocacy at the Washington State Legislature. During legislative session, we send you this weekly "Hot List" as a tool to easily identify environmental community priorities that are up for action in the coming week.

If you have any questions regarding our position on these bills or other bills affecting the environment, please reach out to state lobbyist Clifford Traisman at clifford@ctassociates.org.

House Floor Action

HB 1607: Concerning recycling and waste reduction.

1. Washingtonians are sick of all the litter by our roads and in our open spaces. A recent study by Ecology found that 42 pounds of beverage containers are littered per mile along our highways. Beverage container litter accounts for 3 of the top 5 types of litter collected along Washington's waterways. Ultimately, most of these bottles and cans enter our waterways, impacting wildlife like salmon, orcas and coastal birds.
2. HB1607 will reduce waste and increasing recycling rates specifically for beverage containers by creating a refund program. Currently, we only recycle 30% of beverage containers in WA. That means a larger number of bottles and cans are ending up in our landfills or as litter.
3. Bottle bills in other states have been shown to drive up recycling rates for beverage containers north of 90% and reduce beverage container litter by 80%.
4. The bill recognizes small producers, like craft breweries, may have a harder time participating in the program, so there's a de minimis exemption for entities below \$5m in annual gross revenue. This is the same treatment we offer them under packaging EPR.
5. People will be able to return their bottles and cans, individually or in bags, for immediate refunds or through an online account at convenient locations near them. People will be able to designate funds in their online account to their child or grandchild's college account. And nonprofits, including school PTAs, service groups, food banks and others can give out special bags and people can have their refunds go to them. In Oregon, thousands of nonprofits use this as very successful fundraisers.
6. The convenience standard for collection locations will be determined by an Equity, Accessibility, and Community Perspectives Recycling Refund Model Study conducted by Ecology.
7. In Oregon, under their bottle program, major grocers provide a 20% bonus when people spend their refunds at their stores, so for example, \$2.00 becomes \$2.40.
8. Under the bill, the recycling refund system would start January 1, 2030, leaving a long implementation timeline so that infrastructure can be built and all of the program components can be put into place. Payments to the state, to cover their oversight and other costs, would start May 1, 2027.
9. **The fiscal note is a positive for the state, with the program bringing in new B&O tax revenue and other revenue which directly offsets costs, so the passage of this bill now is unusually timely.**
10. Passing HB1607 now will allow for the program to be developed alongside the Recycling Reform Act (passed in 2025). They work together. Ecology's study showed that a bottle and can recycling refund program combined with the 2025 Recycling Refund Act would increase our current residential recycling rate from 40% to 70% by 2032.



SUPPORT

Possible Floor Vote

House Committee Action



SUPPORT

House Environment & Energy:
Public Hearing on
Wednesday, March 4

HB 2741: Concerning the electric transmission system.

Strengthens the grid to support Washington's clean energy transition through creating a state transmission authority to facilitate new lines.



SUPPORT

House Appropriations:
Public Hearing on
Monday, March 2

SB 5971: Establishing a green fertilizer incentive program to support the production and adoption of low-carbon nitrogen fertilizer in Washington state.

The bill incentivizes fertilizer production using clean electrolytic hydrogen, which reduces emissions 80% in this hard-to-decarbonize industry. Incentives will help spur private financing to unlock about-to-expire federal tax credits for clean hydrogen production.



SUPPORT

House Finance:
Executive Session on
Monday, March 2

SB 6097: Adding federally recognized Indian tribes to the list of entities that may participate in the conservation futures program.

Adding Tribes as eligible recipients allows counties, land trusts, and other partners to partner on conservation acquisitions or transfer such lands where tribes are better suited for or interested in managing long-term. This is a long-needed change to conserve more threatened lands and natural resources, expand partnership opportunities, address past inequities, protect cultural identities, and distribute local grant funding fairly.



SUPPORT

House Appropriations:
Executive Session on
Monday, March 2

SB 6246: Concerning emissions from emissions-intensive, trade-exposed facilities under the climate commitment act.

Establishes a reporting and planning framework for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed facilities (EITEs) to support decarbonization in line with our climate pollution limits. Also requires the Department of Ecology to develop a report that will support the Legislature in determining an updated compliance pathway under the Climate Commitment Act for EITEs.

