

2020 ISSUE PAPER: ENERGY

Position Statement

Clean, Renewable Energy:

EN-6 The use of renewable energy systems such as solar, wind and recovery of energy from biowastes should be encouraged.

Energy Efficiency

EN-2 State governments should articulate a new energy ethic based on conservation through promotion of a) thermal efficiency in buildings and residences.

Clean Fuels

EN-2 State Governments should articulate energy conservation methods.

AQ-1 Coordinated action by all levels of government to control, limit and reduce air pollution.

Clean, Renewable Energy: For a number of years LWVWA priority on Energy has been the protection of the Washington Energy Independence Act, I-937, or EIA which passed in 2006. The Act ensures that large utilities obtain 15% of their electricity from non-traditional renewable energy sources by 2020. Non-traditional sources include renewable sources such as solar, wind or biomass energy. Hydropower produced by an already existing facility is not included, but hydropower from a project completed after March 31, 1999 was included. This Act will terminate in 2020.

In the 2019 session, major progress was made with the passage of SB 5116 WA 100% clean energy bill, that mandates all electricity sold in the state come from renewable wind, solar, geothermal or hydropower by 2045.

Energy Efficiency: In the 2019 session, two important energy efficiency bills were passed regarding buildings and appliances. E3SHB 1257 encouraging energy efficient buildings, and 2SHB 1444 applied energy efficiency standards for appliances.

Clean Fuels: Washington State's largest source of carbon emissions and air pollution is from the transportation sector's use of gasoline and diesel fuels. In the 2019 session, HB 1512 a transportation electrification bill incentivizing electric vehicle purchases was passed.

Summary of Issues for the 2020 Legislative Session

In the 2020 session a Clean Fuel Standard bill will be introduced that is a priority of the Environmental Priority Coalition (LWVWA belongs to). Transportation fuels are responsible for half of our climate and air pollution. A Clean Fuel Standard would help provide Washingtonians with more options for cleaner fuels that support local economic development in rural communities, improve public health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our leading source of climate pollution. The policy requires oil refineries and importers to reduce the carbon intensity of their fuels, increasing the use of clean fuels and electricity to fuel our transportation system.

Dam Removal, Hydropower and Salmon: *See Rivers Issue paper.*

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