

Key Actions



Communities

Climate change will inflict its greatest harm on highly impacted communities, Tribes, rural areas and low-income households, just as the economic and health impacts of COVID-19 are now disproportionately affecting those same populations. Absent deliberate and committed efforts, the envisioned clean energy transformation could easily leave these communities worse off.

- Adopt state policies to achieve universal broadband access.
- Examine clean energy policies for equity impacts in development and during implementation.
- Provide needed funding for communities to participate in the clean energy transformation.
- Support workers to ensure they have the skills for clean energy jobs and adopt policies to protect workers in transition.



Transportation

No sector is as important as transportation to achieving decarbonization, nor as complex in its operation and governance.

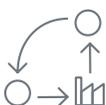
- Establish specific targets for vehicle sales, transportation demand and emissions with accountability measures for meeting those targets.
- Adopt a low carbon fuel standard – a comprehensive mechanism to replace fossil fuels with electricity, hydrogen and clean synthetic or biogenic fuels.



Buildings

There is great potential to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of fossil fuels to heat and power Washington’s residences, offices, warehouses, shops and other buildings.

- Replace the direct consumption of fossil fuels, primarily natural gas, with high-efficiency electric heat pumps for space and water heating.
- Strengthen and deepen energy efficiency programs and standards to focus on avoiding and reducing emissions.
- Adopt specific targets and accountability for greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment.



Industry

Policy makers and the private sector would benefit from more information, technology and coordination.

- Conduct a thorough assessment of opportunities to transition to low-emission industrial production and collect information about the use of fossil fuels in industrial processes and the opportunities to increase efficiency and switch to electricity.
- Coordinate with other jurisdictions to adopt consistent policies that recognize and reward lower emission in-state production.
- Enhance research and development programs and state agencies’ data and analytical resources.
- Promote development of green hydrogen production, clean fuels refining and carbon capture.



Electricity

Washington is on its way to eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from electricity with the implementation of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). Structural changes are needed to ensure the capacity to provide electricity to replace fossil fuels in transportation, buildings and industry.

- Invest in new transmission capacity and renewable generation, coordinating with other states.
- Develop distributed energy resources along with smart grid capabilities and in consumer equipment to ensure reliability and flexibility.
- Strengthen market mechanisms to ensure resource adequacy and efficient electricity markets.