Climate Framework and Laws In May 2019, Governor Jay Inslee signed a package of climate legislation advancing Washington’s progress towards achieving its emissions-reduction goals and solidifying the state’s climate leadership. One of the four bills signed establishes a pathway to 100% clean electricity by 2045, with intermediate milestones for utilities to eliminate coal power by 2025 and achieve carbon neutrality for Washington’s electricity supply by 2030.

Power Generation With more than 75% of its electricity coming from hydro and other renewable sources, Washington leads the nation in carbon-free electricity. Washington supports renewable energy development through a range of programs such as its renewable energy standard (RES), Solar Incentives Jobs Program, and Renewable Energy Sales Tax Exemptions. In May 2019, Governor Inslee signed an updated renewable electricity target, requiring Washington utilities to transition to a carbon-neutral electricity supply by 2030 and to entirely eliminate fossil fuels from electricity generation by 2045.

Washington passed a landmark clean energy package in 2019, ensuring clean electricity by 2030, phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), implementing a first-of-its-kind energy standard for commercial buildings and incentivizing electric vehicles (EVs).
**Energy Efficiency** Washington was the first state in the country to adopt high-performance green buildings standards for state-funded buildings and is on track to reduce energy use in new construction 70% by 2030. As part of the suite of climate legislation signed in May 2019, the *Clean Buildings Act* establishes a first-of-its-kind standard that will improve the energy performance of thousands of large commercial buildings in Washington. The act requires commercial buildings to achieve efficiency standards starting in 2026 and creates a new statewide incentive program to help underwrite early retrofits. A separate bill signed in 2019 focuses on appliance standards and requires improved efficiency for 17 product categories.

**Transportation** Washington has the second-highest sales rate of electric vehicles (EVs) of any state in the nation. In 2014, Washington set a goal of putting 50,000 EVs into use by 2020. As of July 2019, Washington is on track to meet this goal with 46,500 EVs on the road. The 2019 climate package signed by the governor builds on this success by adding six new programs: 1) an EV sales tax incentive, 2) a grant program for zero-emissions transit options, 3) a sales tax incentive for zero-emissions buses, 4) a pilot program to expand access to zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) to low-income residents, 5) authorization of $140.5 million for ferry fleet electrification, and 6) new authorization to utilities to invest in transportation electrification.

**Resilience** The Interagency Climate Adaptation Network (ICAN) and the Washington Coastal Hazards Resilience Network (CHRN) both work across many government departments and state agencies to enact studies and plans for climate resilience, addressing issues such as coastal erosion and best land use practices considering long-term climate impacts. Governor Inslee directed the formation of a resilience subcabinet under the Washington Military Department’s Emergency Management Division in 2017. The multi-agency Resilient Washington Subcabinet has issued recommendations for strengthening natural disaster preparation and response.

**Climate Financing** Established by Governor Inslee in 2013, the Washington State Clean Energy Fund (CEF) is designed to expand clean-energy projects and technologies statewide. As of 2019, $125 million had been invested, leveraged by an additional $200 million in federal and private funds, in a range of areas spanning clean, renewable, and efficient energy. As part of the CEF investments, $10.6 million has been invested in grid-modernization projects. Additionally, meter-based financing has completed 574 loans for a total of $6.7 million to pay for energy-efficiency projects in Washington homes.

**Short-Lived Climate Pollutants** Washington introduced a law to phase down super-polluting HFCs as part of the series of four climate bills signed in May 2019 (House Bill 1112). The law ensures that newly manufactured equipment uses HFC alternatives that are safer for the climate. Requirements become effective in 2020 for certain equipment, with multiple effective dates through 2024 for all equipment types.

**Natural and Working Lands** The Washington Legislature has directed the Department of Natural Resources to launch a statewide carbon sequestration advisory group for natural and working lands, and to conduct carbon inventory studies for the state. This effort will culminate in recommendations to state policy makers in December 2020. The Ocean Acidification Policy and Management and the Washington Shellfish Initiative are both multi-group collaborations that inform ocean management in the interest of ocean habitats and the thriving shellfish industry. Inland, the Chehalis Basin Strategy, the Yakima Integrated Basin plan, and the state’s Floodplains by Design programs each seeks to tackle both flooding issues and habitat loss through large-scale flood damage mitigation and restoration measures.