



# **Climate Conversations**

## **Climate Policy – The Impact on Your Life, Your Pocketbook and the Planet**

St Mark's Creation Care Ministry

January 2024

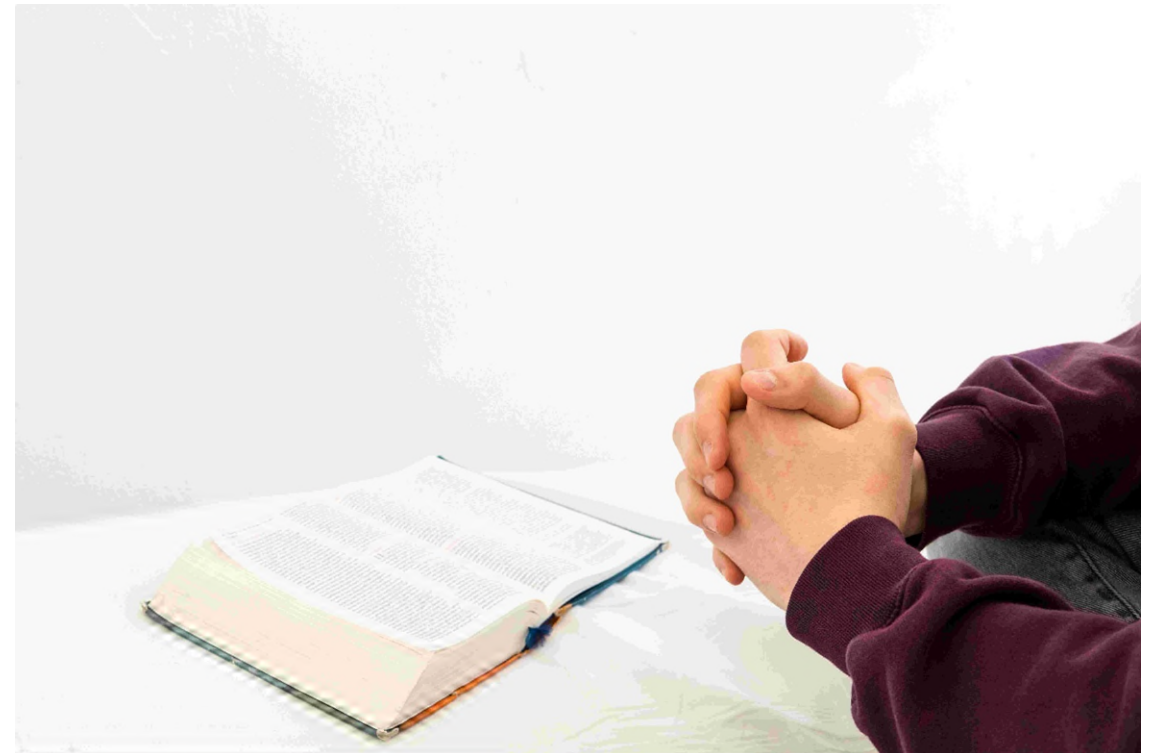


# Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
- Opening Prayer
- Framework
- Discussion
- Actions
- Sharing and Q&A
- Closing Prayer

# Opening Prayer

Prayer



# Public Policy affects Creation

- Laws can protect or exploit Creation, such as:
  - Environmental protection
  - Resource exploitation
- Election results affect Creation
  - 2024 is an important election year, locally and nationally
  - Elected leaders set policy
- Individuals can engage with public policy





# Options for Policy Engagement

- Reflect, understand and heal through prayer and connection with the Earth
- Participate in movements for greater study, reflection and conversation across the Church
- Educate and encourage new actions and thought processes so that Creation Care becomes a way of life, embodying our Christian call to love God and neighbor
- Identify and address local, state and federal influence or advocacy opportunities
- Advocate for and support legislation and other public policies that directly address climate change's impacts



# Examples from the Bible - Public Policy

- Proverbs 31: *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves*
- Daniel 4: *Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed.*
- Esther 4, 7: *I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish... Queen Esther answered, “grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.*
- Romans 13: *Be subject to the governing authorities... The authorities that exist have been established by God.*
- Matthew 21: *Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple*



# Statement from the US Episcopal Church

- As we are called by God to care for creation, The Episcopal Church supports policies that protect the natural resources that sustain all life on Earth. The Church calls for policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable energy, encourage the safe and just use of natural resources, and support communities impacted by a lack of environmental stewardship and environmental racism.





# National Policies affect us in Washington State

Examples include:

- Departments and agencies
  - Department of the Interior
  - Environmental Protection Agency
- Legislation and regulation
  - Endangered Species Act
- Taxation and fiscal policy
  - Inflation Reduction Act
  - Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

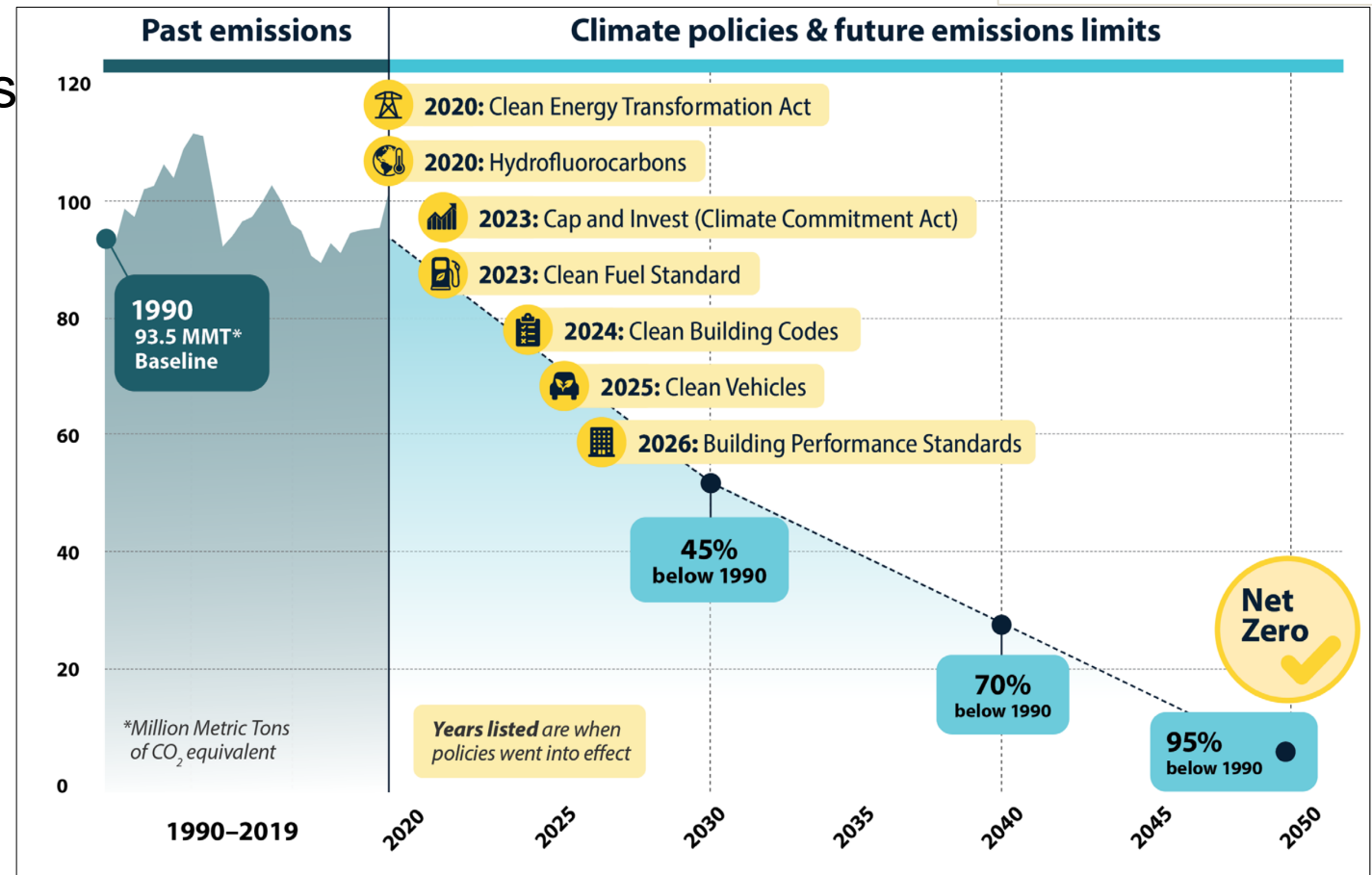


# Policy in Washington State



<https://www.sos.wa.gov/washington-state-flag>

- Sources of policies
  - Governor/Mayor & Legislators
  - Staff and departments
  - Citizens, through initiatives
- Impacts of policies
  - Personal
  - Neighborhood
  - Regional
  - State
  - National influence





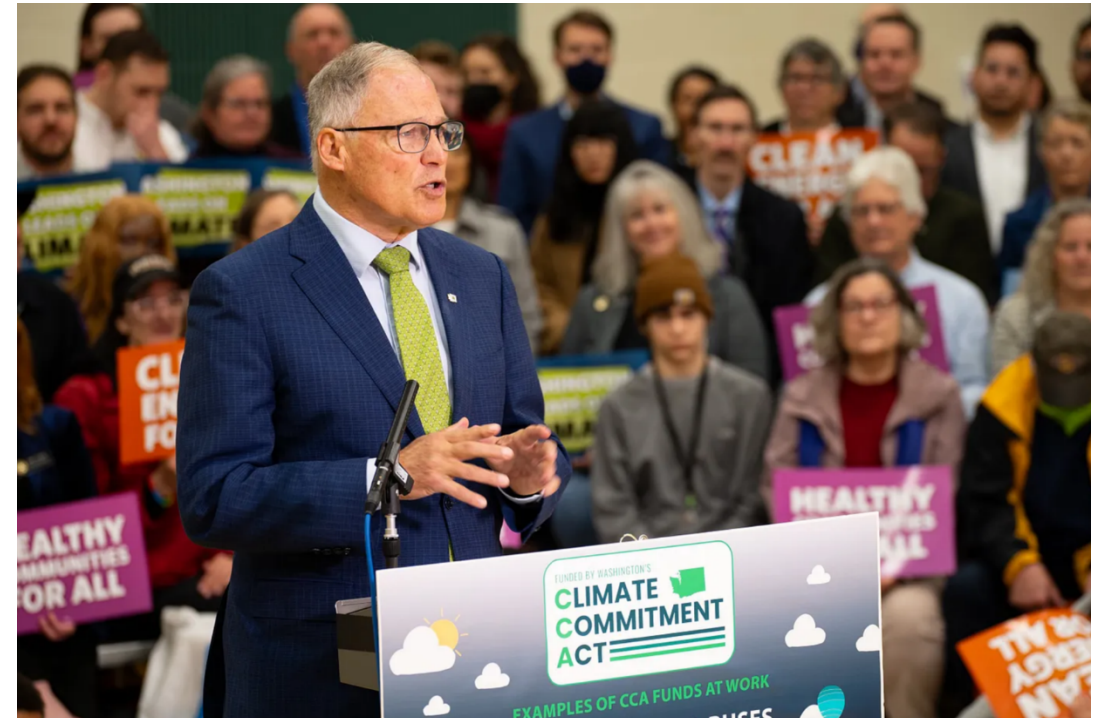
# 2023 Washington State Policies Included...

- HB 1181: Changes to the Growth Management Act (GMA) to incorporate climate change into local government plans
- SB 5452: Transportation impact fee revenue spending on pedestrian and bicycle facilities, in addition to public streets and roads
- HB 1216: Permit process for clean energy projects that don't apply to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
- SB 5412: Expands State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) categorical exemption to include residential housing units, to facilitate more housing
- SB 5374: A city with a population under 25,000 may adopt the county's critical areas regulations to satisfy GMA critical areas requirements
- HB 1544: Expands the Shoreline Master Program review schedule to every 10 years



# Governor Inslee's 2024 Priorities

- 3 policy proposals
  - Oil company accountability
  - Strengthen the state's cap-and-invest program to facilitate connecting it with others
  - Phase out methane gas
- Climate Commitment Act fund usage to include:
  - Convert diesel buses to electric and upgrade schools to improve air quality
  - Make sure affordable multifamily housing has clean and efficient energy
  - Install thousands of EV chargers
  - Partner with communities to design and develop sustainable neighborhoods
  - Enable Tribes to decarbonize
  - Assist Washingtonians with electricity bills



Flanked by legislators, laborers, parents, students and more, Gov. Jay Inslee previews his 2024 climate policy legislative agenda at Miller Community Center in Seattle.

# King County priorities

- King County says the Legislature can take 3 steps to mitigate and prepare for the climate crisis and address environmental decline:
  - Enact the WRAP Act, enhancing and growing product stewardship programs to make products safer
  - Increase Climate Commitment Act (CCA) appropriations to the Natural Climate Solutions Account, and provide CCA funding to local governments to reduce climate emissions, develop climate solutions and eliminate PFAS, 6PPD and other forever chemical pollution
  - Increase funding for the Trust Land Transfer program.

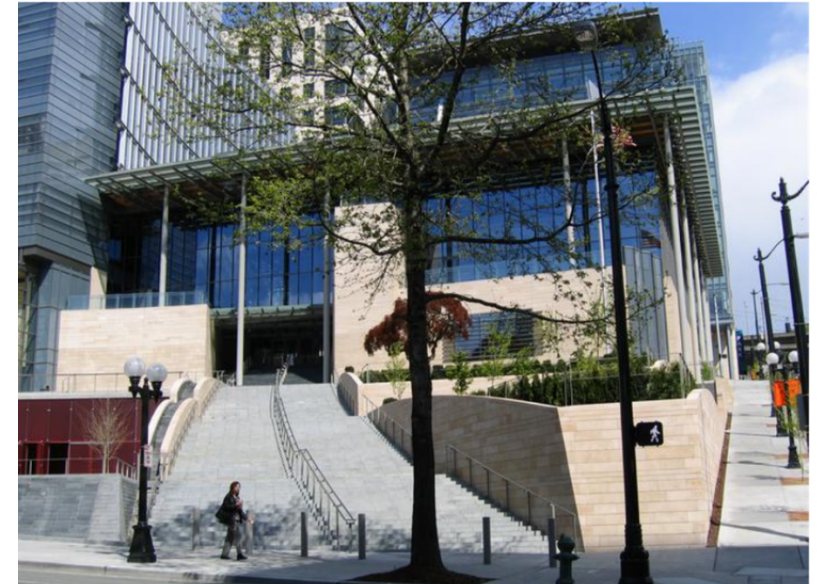


**Protect Our Climate and Environment**



# Seattle Priorities

- Mayor Bruce Harrell
  - Building Emissions Performance Standards (BEPS)
  - One Seattle Climate Justice Agenda
    - Building an Equitable Clean Energy Economy
    - Ensuring a Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels
    - Building Healthy, Climate Resilient Communities
- City Council
- Office of Sustainability & Environment



# Citizens' Petitions

- I-2117 to repeal the Climate Commitment Act
  - Let's Go Washington has turned in petition signatures for proposed initiatives to the Legislature.
  - If lawmakers don't take action in the current legislative session, initiatives automatically go to the ballot.





# Impacts of Policy on Consumers

Impacts include:

- Cleaner air and water
- IRA incentives for EVs, solar power, heat pumps and more
- Tax exemption for solar in Washington
- CCA impact
  - Gas prices 5¢-50¢/gallon higher
  - Methane (natural) gas prices higher
- Convert diesel buses to electric
  - 10,000 school buses > \$2.35 billion



# Discussion & Breakout Session

Questions:

- What policies or proposals are of greatest concern to you?
- How do environmental policies affect your everyday life?
- What positive or negative impacts of policies stand out for you?



# Earth Ministry Priorities

- Raise up a multifaith voice for environmental justice in the state legislature
- Cumulative Risk Burden (CURB) Pollution Act: Applies the HEAL Act to health-impacting pollutants in overburdened communities
- 100% Clean (Zero Emissions) School Buses  
HB 1368: (1) a switch (from diesel) to 100% clean, electric school buses, and (2) a funding source (CCA)
- The Washington Recycling & Packaging Act (WRAP): Curbside recycling for all WA residents, incentives for sustainable packaging
- Others
  - Holding Oil Companies Accountable
  - Community Solar
  - Navigator for Energy Cost Savings & Access



# Statewide Coalition Priorities


- Environmental Priorities Coalition - 27 statewide environmental organizations
  - WRAP Act: Combat plastics pollution and climate change
  - School districts to replace diesel-powered buses with electric ones
  - Oil firm transparency for gasoline and diesel prices
- Washington Association of Land Trusts
  - Community forest programs residents in managing logging near where they live
  - Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program
  - Ensure Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Funds invest wisely in natural climate solutions









# Sierra Club – Washington State Priorities

- Defend the Climate Commitment Act
  - Defend the Climate Commitment Act from misinformation and powerful lobby efforts
- Expand Clean Energy
  - An equitable transition to 100% clean energy, incentives and regulations for more clean energy
- Clean Transportation for All
  - Convert Washington's school buses to zero emission vehicles
  - Encourage housing density around mass transit
- Protect Washington's legacy forests
  - A well-designed carbon credit program and funding to conserve more mature forests.



## 2024 Legislative Agenda

<b>Defending the Climate Commitment Act</b> 	 <b>Expanding Clean Energy</b>
<b>Clean Transportation for All</b> 	 <b>Protecting Washington's Legacy Forests</b>



# Suggestions for Priorities in Seattle

Commentary (December 2023)

- The Office of Sustainability & Environment says Seattle must reduce GHG emissions 50% by 2030 - 10%/year, 17 times our current rate
- For the mayor and the new city council:
  - Call on city departments for plans, schedules & budgets to cut transportation and building emissions 10% by 2024, 30% cut by 2026, and 50% by 2030 (transportation causes 61% of Seattle emissions, buildings 37%)
  - Pass an update to the Comprehensive Plan to address housing density & affordability
  - Call on stakeholders (business, labor, real estate, developers, education, healthcare, finance) to develop plans to cut emissions
  - By James Little, a member of the Climate and Health Task Force of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility; Jim Street, a former Seattle city councilmember; Robin Briggs, Chair of Climate Advocates Hub of Seattle / King County.



# Creation Care Ministry

- St Mark's: Work with the Saint Mark's and broader world communities to educate ourselves and take action together to preserve our shared planet and sustain life for the generations to come

Actions can include:

- Prayers, study, and action to honor and protect the web of life that God entrusted to our care
- Hymns, readings, preaching ideas, and reflections

<https://revivingcreation.org/tag/prayer>  
<https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/>





# Sharing, Discussion and Q&A

## Questions

- Would you plan to get involved in policy, and if so how?
- What levels and types of action are most comfortable for you?
- What impact would you like to have based on what you do?



# Make a Difference

*This is a government by the people themselves, that the Constitution is theirs, that the courts are theirs, that all the government agents and agencies are theirs... It is for the people themselves finally to decide all questions of public policy and to have their decision made effective – Theodore Roosevelt*

# Closing Prayer

God, we thank You for the men and women who serve our country in leadership roles and for their families.

Please provide our leaders with reminders each day of why they decided to dedicate their lives to public service and use that commitment to encourage them. Wrap your arms around these men and women to show them love, grace, strength and encouragement. Provide them with the knowledge needed to approach each situation in the best way possible. Help them to know You and see Your presence in the work they do. Amen

