

Catholic Advocacy Day 2021

Policy Brief



Care for God's Creation

Care for Creation is a moral issue. Protecting the land, water, and air we share is a religious duty of stewardship and reflects our responsibility to born and unborn children, who are most vulnerable to environmental assault. ... There are many concrete steps we can take to assure justice and solidarity between the generations. Effective initiatives are required for energy conservation and the development of alternate, renewable, and clean-energy resources.

- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2020

Clean Fuel Standard: [House Bill 1091](#) (HB 1091)

House Bill 1091 (HB 1091), the Clean Fuel Standard (CFS), establishes a Clean Fuels Program (CFP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel. The Clean Fuels Program will limit greenhouse gas emissions per unit of transportation fuel energy to:

- 10 percent below 2017 levels by 2028
- 20 percent below 2017 levels by 2035.

Washington is the only state on the West Coast without a Clean Fuel Standard. Following California and Oregon's implementation of Clean Fuel Standards, neither experienced disruptions to fuel markets nor significant impacts to the cost of transportation fuels. California and Oregon also experienced biofuel sector growth and sited large biofuel projects that were originally planned for Washington. Washington state studies project that a Clean Fuel Standard will decrease greenhouse gas and conventional air pollutant emissions, while positively impacting the state's economy.

Objectives of the Clean Fuels Program are to reduce carbon intensity of fuel in Washington in order to:

- Reduce levels of conventional air pollutants from diesel and gasoline that are harmful to public health,
- Reduce greenhouse gas emission associated with transportation fuels, which are the state's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, and
- Create jobs and spur economic development based on innovative clean fuel technologies.

HB 1091 was passed by the House and is currently in the Senate.

ACTION: Ask your senator to support the Clean Fuel Standard (**HB 1091**) to reduce pollution and address climate change.

HB 1091 is sponsored by Representatives [Fitzgibbon](#) (34), [Slatter](#) (48), [Berry](#) (36), [Dolan](#) (22), [Bateman](#) (22), [Ramos](#) (5), [Simmons](#) (23), [Ramel](#) (40), [Senn](#) (41), [Peterson](#) (21), [Duerr](#) (1), [Ryu](#) (32), [Valdez](#) (46), [Callan](#) (5), [Kloba](#) (1), [Chopp](#) (43), [Ormsby](#) (3), [Frame](#) (36), [Macri](#) (43), [Pollet](#) (46), [Goodman](#) (45), [Bergquist](#) (11). Legislative meetings are an opportunity to thank them for their support.

The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act: [Senate Bill 5141](#) (SB 5141)

Low income and communities of color are disproportionately affected by environmental burdens. SB 5141, the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act, seeks to reduce environmental and health disparities and improve the health of all Washington state residents by implementing the recommendations of the [Environmental Justice Task Force](#). Among its provisions, the HEAL Act:

- Requires the Puget Sound Partnership (the state agency leading collective efforts to restore and protect the Puget Sound) and the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Ecology, Health, Natural Resources, and Transportation to:
 - complete environmental justice assessments for significant agency actions and
 - incorporate environmental justice principles into agency budget and fiscal processes. Other state agencies are encouraged to do the same.
- Requires the above agencies to create and adopt a community engagement plan for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations when evaluating existing and new programs.
- Incorporates Tribal consultation.
- Establishes an environmental justice council.
- Requires that the Department of Health develop and maintain the environmental health disparities map, which ranks the cumulative risk neighborhoods face from environmental factors that influence health outcomes.

SB 5141 was passed by the Senate and is now in the House.

ACTION: Ask your House Representatives to support the HEAL Act (SB 5141) to reduce environmental health disparities and improve the health of all Washington residents.

SB 5141 is sponsored by Senators [Saldaña](#) (37), [Lovelett](#) (40), [Carlyle](#) (36), [Das](#) (47), [Frocket](#) (46), [Hasegawa](#) (11), [Hunt](#) (22), [Keiser](#) (33), [Kuderer](#) (48), [Lias](#) (21), [Nobles](#) (28), [Pedersen](#) (43), [Rolfes](#) (23), [Stanford](#) (1), [Wilson, C.](#) (30). Legislative meetings are an opportunity to thank these senators for their support.