Transportation is by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington, accounting for almost 45% of total emissions in 2018. Within the transportation sector, our personal cars and trucks account for almost half of overall emissions.

Reducing the carbon intensity of the fuels that power those cars and trucks is an important tool to cutting Washington’s statewide emissions of greenhouse gases and other types of air pollution. The Clean Fuel Standard passed by the Legislature in 2021 (E3SHB 1091) does just that – requiring fuel suppliers to reduce the carbon intensity of their products 20% below 2017 levels by 2038. This is expected to cut statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 4.3 million metric tons a year by 2038 – and also drive new investment in clean fuel technology and production.

With the new law, Washington joins its West Coast neighbors in California, Oregon, and British Columbia that have all adopted their own clean fuel standards.

The Clean Fuel Standard will work alongside the Climate Commitment Act to directly target the largest source of emissions in Washington.

**There are multiple options for fuel suppliers to comply with the standard, including:**

- Improving the efficiency of their fuel production processes.
- Producing and/or blending low-carbon biofuels into the fuel they sell.
- Purchasing credits generated by low-carbon fuel providers and from supporting programs to increase zero emissions vehicles and infrastructure in the state.
Expanding Washington’s clean economy

Washington businesses are already major suppliers of clean, low-carbon fuels, including biodiesel and renewable natural gas. Today, however, most of those fuels are sold out of state – taking their emissions benefits with them.

The Clean Fuel Standard law has several provisions designed to expand the supply of clean fuels produced in Washington, including:

- Requiring a 15% net increase in in-state liquid biofuel production in Washington; and
- Completing permitting approval for a new or expanded biofuel production facility with at least 60 million gallons of annual capacity before reducing the carbon intensities beyond 10%.

Working with other climate policies

The Clean Fuel Standard will work hand-in-hand with Washington’s new, comprehensive climate policy, the Climate Commitment Act. By targeting emissions from the transportation sector, the Clean Fuel Standard ensures we will reduce the largest source of emissions in our state.

The Clean Fuel Standard will also pair with policies such as the Zero Emission Vehicle standard and the Clean Energy Transformation Act to accelerate the transition to electric or fuel-cell vehicles.

To ensure the communities that bear the greatest burden from air pollution today see the benefits of this switch, the Clean Fuel Standard also requires electric utilities to use a portion of the credit revenue generated under the program from selling electricity to charge electric vehicles to benefit disproportionately impacted communities.


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