



## 2026 Legislative Session Weekly Report

### CleanTech Alliance

### January 24, 2026

#### Week 2

On Monday, January 29, both the House and Senate honored the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by adopting resolutions on the floor. Following those ceremonies, the second week of session brought public hearings on several high-profile issues, including legislation related to data centers, artificial intelligence, and medical debt. The week also marked the first floor action of the session, with lawmakers voting on bills that remained in Rules from last year.

This week the House Finance Committee held a public hearing on a proposal that would implement a new payroll tax on large companies. The proposal would impose a 5% tax on payroll expenses for companies meeting certain size thresholds, roughly targeting employers with high-paid workers and significant gross receipts, with the goal of raising billions in revenue for the state budget. Supporters say it's needed to protect state services from federal cuts, while critics, including employers, oppose it and warn it could discourage business investment. You can read more about the proposal [here](#). Democratic leadership has said that while last year the payroll expense tax was under serious consideration, they have since shifted their focus to other options but they want to hold a hearing so that members can carefully review different revenue tools.

The first major cutoff is February 4th, where all bills will need to be passed out of their policy committee in order to stay alive this session. Bills deemed necessary to implement the budget are not subject to cutoffs, this includes all revenue proposals. Informal discussions continue around a range of revenue options, including eliminating certain tax exemptions, increasing nicotine taxes, and raising beer and wine taxes. While not yet formally introduced, the most significant new tax under consideration remains a statewide income tax on households earning more than \$1 million annually.

#### Key Insights:

- **Caucus Newsrooms:**
  - [This Week In The Senate - Week 2: Housing, affordability and MLK Day - Washington](#)
  - [The House Hot Sheet for Week 2 of the 2026 Legislative Session – Washington State House Democrats](#)
  - [House Republicans Caucus Newsroom](#)
  - [Senate Republicans Caucus Newsroom](#)
- **Press Conferences**

- [Legislative Democratic Leaders Media Availability - TVW](#)
- [Legislative Republican Leaders Media Availability - TVW](#)
- [Attorney General Nick Brown Media Availability - TVW](#)
- [House Democratic Representatives Press Conference - TVW](#)
- [Democratic Rep. Monica Stonier Press Conference - TVW](#)

### Helpful Links for Session:

- [The Washington State Legislative Website](#)
- [Find My Legislator](#)
- [Legislative Committees](#)
- [Bill Searcher](#)
- [Washington State Legislative Roster](#)
- [Sign Up for Legislative Email Updates](#)
- [Agendas, Schedules, and Calendars](#)
- [Participating in the Process \(Email or Testimony\)](#)

### Important Session Dates:

- **February 4th, 2026:** House of Origin Policy Cutoff
- **February 9th, 2026:** House of Origin Fiscal Cutoff
- **February 17th, 2026:** House of Origin Floor Cutoff
- **February 25th, 2026:** Opposite House Policy Cutoff
- **March 2, 2026:** Opposite House Fiscal Cutoff
- **March 6, 2026:** Opposite House Floor Cutoff
- **March 12, 2026:** Last Day of Session

## CleanTech Alliance Specifics

I met with Representative Barnard this week regarding a nuclear budget proviso. She is interested however she acknowledge she is in the minority and didn't know how much she was going to be able to influence the ultimate outcome.

**SB 5241**, sponsored by Senator Marko Liias (D-21), expands the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's (EFSEC) authority to include site certification for fusion energy facilities. The bill distinguishes fusion energy from fission nuclear energy in state law and makes technical updates to improve clarity and consistency.

**HB 1018**, sponsored by Representative Clyde Shavers (D-10), amends state law to include fusion energy facilities within EFSEC's certification process while maintaining distinct provisions for fission nuclear energy facilities. The bill also introduces technical adjustments to improve numerical and policy clarity.

**Senate Bill 5246**, sponsored by Senator Sharon Shewmake, seeks to streamline the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's (EFSEC) permitting process by establishing clear timelines, criteria for approval, and procedural requirements for energy facility applications. The bill amends EFSEC's public hearing and adjudicative procedures, requires council recommendations to the governor within 12 months of a complete application (with expedited 180-day timelines for certain projects and flexibility by agreement

with the applicant), and repeals existing statutes related to expedited processing and gubernatorial efficiency evaluations.

[House Bill 1237](#), sponsored by Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, proposes similar reforms to streamline EFSEC processes, with additional emphasis on environmental and community benefit criteria and specific approval standards for alternative energy, clean energy manufacturing, biofuels, fusion, storage, and transmission projects. HB 1237 also aligns EFSEC timelines and procedures for council recommendations, including 12-month deadlines and expedited processing for certain facilities, and repeals the same expedited processing and efficiency evaluation statutes as SB 5246.

The clean energy development bill ([HB 1328](#)), sponsored by Representative Beth Doglio, aims to establish a Clean Energy Development Office within the Department of Commerce to accelerate clean energy and transmission projects in Washington State.

The Senate companion bill ([SB 5359](#)), sponsored by Senator Sharon Shewmake, focuses on expanding state support for clean energy project siting, planning, and development, including new responsibilities for the Department of Commerce to provide information, planning, and support for clean energy projects while protecting the environment, tribal rights, and overburdened communities.

[HB 1409](#), sponsored by Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, strengthens Washington's Clean Fuels Program by increasing carbon intensity reduction targets and tightening compliance measures. The bill raises greenhouse gas reduction targets for transportation fuels to 45% below 2017 levels by 2038, with flexibility for the Department of Ecology to make adjustments based on biofuel production, zero-emission vehicle enforcement, and credit market conditions. It also introduces new penalties for violations, enhances credit market transparency, and requires stakeholder engagement to incentivize agricultural and forestry sequestration.

[Senate Bill 5466](#), sponsored by Senator Shewmake (D), would create the Washington Electric Transmission Authority as a new statewide entity with planning, siting, financing, and limited ownership powers to expand and modernize transmission, including SEPA streamlining and rate incentives for grid-enhancing technologies. [Senate Bill 5466](#) received a public hearing in the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee on [Wednesday, January 21](#) at 8:00 a.m. [House Bill 1673](#), sponsored by Representative Ramel (D), similarly would establish the Washington Electric Transmission Authority with a governor-appointed board, long-term transmission needs assessments, dedicated operating and capital accounts, SEPA exemptions for certain upgrades, and Utilities and Transportation Commission incentives for qualifying transmission investments.

[House Bill 1975](#), sponsored by Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (D-34), amends Washington's Climate Commitment Act to adjust auction price containment mechanisms, ceiling prices, and the Department of Ecology's authority to amend rules for linkage with other jurisdictions. The bill also introduces requirements for market dynamic analysis and economic modeling to inform program design and implementation. Key provisions include setting a price ceiling of \$80 for 2026–2027 with annual adjustments, allocating allowances to a price containment reserve, and allowing flexibility in emissions reporting deadlines and compliance obligations.

[HB 2090](#), sponsored by Rep. Barnard (R), directs the Department of Commerce, contingent on nonstate

funding, to develop and integrate a comprehensive advanced nuclear power strategic framework into Washington's clean energy strategy, including objectives, siting preferences, regulatory recommendations, and economic impact analysis. [SB 5821](#), sponsored by Sen. Braun (R), similarly requires the Department of Commerce, subject to sufficient nonstate funding, to produce and fold into the state energy strategy a nuclear power strategic framework addressing deployment pathways, financing, permitting, siting, workforce needs, and integration with decarbonization targets.

[Senate Bill 5015](#), sponsored by Senator Matt Boehnke, seeks to centralize decision-making authority for energy facility site certifications within the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) by removing the governor's approval role. This bill amends various sections of the Revised Code of Washington to grant EFSEC the final authority to approve or deny site certifications, streamlining the process and enhancing efficiency by eliminating the governor's involvement in the final decision.

Senator MacEwen has introduced [SB 5208](#), which establishes the Clean Energy Fund Program to provide loans for projects supporting Washington's clean energy goals. The program will fund initiatives such as renewable energy installations, electric and hydrogen vehicle acquisition, grid modernization, advanced nuclear technology development, and facility decarbonization, with loans administered by the Department of Commerce.

[Senate Bill 5989](#), sponsored by Sen. Boehnke (R), redirects a dedicated share of aircraft fuel-related excise, sales, and use tax revenues into the aeronautics account for aviation purposes, while requiring new project-level annual reporting and biennial fiscal impact reporting to key legislative committees. The bill phases in an increased portion of aircraft fuel tax revenue dedicated to the aeronautics account beginning July 1, 2026, moving from an amount equivalent to a zero point five percent tax on aircraft fuel sales through June 30, 2027, to an amount equivalent to a one percent tax thereafter, and measures resulting economic returns to the state general fund from funded airport projects. [Senate Bill 5989](#) is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on [Monday, January 26](#).

[SB 6121](#), sponsored by Sen. Boehnke (R), establishes a distinct rate and long-term contracting framework for "large energy use facilities" of 20 megawatts or more, requiring that their rates and contracts directly reflect the full costs and risks of serving them to avoid cost-shifting to other customers. The bill directs the UTC and Department of Commerce to develop separate model tariffs by mid-2027, mandates 10-year minimum service contracts beginning in 2028 for qualifying facilities, and requires biennial Commerce reports on large-load impacts through 2035. The bill has not yet received any hearings, actions, or amendments this session.

## Upcoming Events Report

### Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/26 @ 1:30pm

- HB 2496 - Public Hearing - Concerning tribal consultation conducted by the energy facility site evaluation council. (Remote Testimony Available).
- HB 2509 - Public Hearing - Improving the efficiency of the review of applications by the energy facility site evaluation council. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 1/26 @ 4:00pm**

- SB 5989 - Public Hearing - Concerning the distribution of aircraft fuel tax revenue. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/27 @ 8:00am**

- HB 2608 - Public Hearing - Modifying the targeted urban areas tax preference for projects related to nuclear facilities. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 1/27 @ 10:30am**

- HB 2446 - Exec Session - Developing the quantum technology industry into the state's economic development and workforce.

### **Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/27 @ 1:30pm**

- SB 6284 - Public Hearing - Providing consumer protections for artificial intelligence systems. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/28 @ 4:00pm**

- HB 1607 - Exec Session - Concerning recycling and waste reduction.

### **Business, Trade & Economic Development (Senate) - SHR 2 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/29 @ 8:00am**

- SB 6289 - Public Hearing - Creating a statewide economic development and competitiveness strategic plan. (Remote Testimony Available).

## **Bill Status**

Bill #	Companion	Abbrev. Title	Title	Status	Sponsor	Priority
<a href="#">SHB 1071</a>	<a href="#">SB 5058</a>	Recycling rates	Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system.	H Approps	Fey	
<a href="#">HB 1117</a>		Motor vehicle emissions	Removing the delegation of	H Env & Energy	Barkis	

			authority related to California motor vehicle emissions standards to generate new transportation revenue for the state by reducing administration burdens on the government and the people.			
<a href="#">2SHB 1150</a>	<a href="#">E2SSB 5284</a>	Solid waste management	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.	H Rules X	Berry	
<a href="#">SHB 1155</a>	<a href="#">SB 5437</a>	Noncompetiti on agreements	Prohibiting noncompetitio n agreements and clarifying nonsolicitatio n agreements.	H Rules C	Berry	
<a href="#">HB 1237</a>	<a href="#">SB 5246</a>	Energy facility site eval.	Facilitating predictable and timely application decisions by the energy facility site evaluation council.	H Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon	High
<a href="#">HB 1249</a>		Advanced nuclear commission	Creating the commercial liftoff for energy from advanced nuclear advisory commission.	H Env & Energy	Barnard	
<a href="#">2SHB 1303</a>	<a href="#">SB 5380</a>	Environmenta l justice	Increasing environmental justice by improving government decisions.	H Approps	Mena	

<a href="#">HB 1328</a>	<a href="#">SSB 5359</a>	Clean energy development	Accelerating the development of clean energy and transmission.	H Env & Energy	Doglio	High
<a href="#">SHB 1360</a>	<a href="#">SB 5451</a>	Quantum economic development	Concerning advancement of quantum economic development.	H Approps	Ryu	
<a href="#">HB 1481</a>		Nuclear energy study	Concerning the commercial liftoff for energy from advanced nuclear study.	H Env & Energy	Barnard	
<a href="#">SHB 1550</a>	<a href="#">SB 5586</a>	Electric vehicle batteries	Improving the end-of-life management of electric vehicle batteries.	H Rules C	Street	
<a href="#">2SHB 1607</a>	<a href="#">2SSB 5502</a>	Recycling & waste reduction	Concerning recycling and waste reduction.	H Approps	Stonier	
<a href="#">SHB 1673</a>	<a href="#">ESSB 5466</a>	Electric transmission system	Improving reliability and capacity of the electric transmission system in Washington state.	H Approps	Ramel	
<a href="#">HB 1679</a>		Nuclear reactor projects	Encouraging electric utility investments in advanced nuclear reactor projects for clean energy transformation act compliance.	H Env & Energy	Barnard	
<a href="#">HB 1712</a>		Qualified biomass facilities	Allowing the use of electricity generated by qualified	H Env & Energy	Waters	

			biomass facilities in the Pacific Northwest to meet renewable resource requirements.			
<a href="#">ESHB 1819</a>		Transmission capacity	Increasing transmission capacity.	H Rules 3C	Barnard	
<a href="#">HB 1844</a>	<a href="#">SSB 5601</a>	Alternative jet fuels	Advancing the production and use of alternative jet fuels in Washington.	H Env & Energy	Gregerson	
<a href="#">2SHB 1847</a>		Distributed alt. energy dev.	Prioritizing the development of distributed alternative energy resources in targeted circumstances.	H Approps	Doglio	
<a href="#">HB 1860</a>	<a href="#">ESB 5649</a>	Supply chain competitiveness	Creating a Washington state supply chain competitiveness infrastructure program.	H Transportation	Reed	
<a href="#">2SHB 1871</a>	<a href="#">SB 5727</a>	Residential energy storage	Incentivizing grid-connected residential battery energy storage systems.	H Approps	Hunt	
<a href="#">2SHB 1960</a>		Renewable energy	Encouraging renewable energy in Washington through tax policy and investment in local communities.	H Finance	Ramel	
<a href="#">HB 1994</a>		Renewable energy hosts/tax	Encouraging local support of	H Finance	Klicker	



			communities that host renewable energy through changes in tax policy.			
<a href="#">HB 2045</a>		Business and occupation tax	Investing in Washington families by restructuring the business and occupation tax on high grossing businesses and financial institutions.	H Finance	Fitzgibbon	
<a href="#">HB 2046</a>		Intangible assets tax	Creating fairness in Washington's tax by imposing a tax on select financial intangible assets.	H Finance	Berg	
<a href="#">HB 2082</a>	<a href="#">ESSB 5813</a>	Tax rates/cap. gains, estate	Increasing funding to the education legacy trust account by creating a more progressive rate structure for the capital gains tax and estate tax.	H Finance	Street	
<a href="#">HB 2083</a>	<a href="#">ESSB 5814</a>	Excise taxes	Modernizing the excise taxes on select services and nicotine products and requiring certain large businesses to make a one-time prepayment of	H Finance	Stonier	

			state sales tax collection.			
<a href="#">SHB 2084</a>		Tax preferences	Increasing funding for K-12, health care, and public safety by repealing or modifying tax preferences for certain industries and goods.	H Rules X	Ramel	
<a href="#">SHB 2281</a>		State-tribal relationship	Concerning the state and tribal government-to-government relationship.	H Cap Budget	Stearns	
<a href="#">HB 2416</a>	<a href="#">SB 6092</a>	Waste to energy facilities	Concerning fair treatment of waste to energy facilities under the climate commitment act.	H Env & Energy	Hill	
<a href="#">HB 2446</a>		Quantum technology industry	Developing the quantum technology industry into the state's economic development and workforce.	H Tech, Econ Dev	Barnard	
<a href="#">HB 2496</a>	<a href="#">SB 6010</a>	EFSEC tribal consultation	Concerning tribal consultation conducted by the energy facility site evaluation council.	H Env & Energy	Stearns	
<a href="#">HB 2509</a>		EFSEC application review	Improving the efficiency of the review of applications by the energy facility site	H Env & Energy	Bernbaum	

			evaluation council.			
<a href="#">HB 2515</a>	<a href="#">SB 6171</a>	Large energy use facilities	Addressing emerging large energy use facilities.	H Env & Energy	Doglio	
<a href="#">HB 2608</a>		Nuclear facilities/tax pref.	Modifying the targeted urban areas tax preference for projects related to nuclear facilities.	H Finance	Barnard	
<a href="#">SB 5015</a>		EFSEC governor approval	Increasing efficiency at the energy facility site evaluation council by removing the governor from the project approval process.	S Environment, E	Boehnke	High
<a href="#">SB 5058</a>	<a href="#">SHB 1071</a>	Recycling rates	Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system.	S Environment, E	Chapman	
<a href="#">SSB 5160</a>	<a href="#">HB 1226</a>	Additive transp. funding	Concerning additive transportation funding and appropriations.	S Rules X	Liias	
<a href="#">SB 5208</a>		Clean energy fund program	Establishing a new clean energy fund program.	S Environment, E	MacEwen	High
<a href="#">SSB 5241</a>	<a href="#">HB 1018</a>	Fusion energy facilities	Adding fusion energy to facilities that may obtain site certification for the	S Rules X	Liias	High

			purposes of chapter 80.50 RCW.			
<a href="#">SB 5246</a>	<a href="#">HB 1237</a>	Energy facility site eval.	Facilitating predictable and timely application decisions by the energy facility site evaluation council.	S Environment, E	Shewmake	High
<a href="#">SB 5283</a>		Energy storage siting/EFSEC	Prohibiting the energy facility site evaluation council from preempting local laws that forbid the siting of certain storage facilities in critical areas.	S Environment, E	Wagoner	
<a href="#">SSB 5359</a>	<a href="#">HB 1328</a>	Clean energy development	Accelerating the development of clean energy.	S Ways & Means	Shewmake	High
<a href="#">SB 5401</a>	<a href="#">EHB 1329</a>	Wholesale power purchases	Concerning wholesale power purchases by electric utilities under the Washington clean energy transformation act.	S Environment, E	Slatter	
<a href="#">SB 5451</a>	<a href="#">SHB 1360</a>	Quantum economic development	Concerning advancement of quantum economic development.	S Ways & Means	Slatter	
<a href="#">ESSB 5466</a>	<a href="#">SHB 1673</a>	Electric transmission system	Improving reliability and capacity of the electric transmission system in	S Environment, En	Shewmake	High

			Washington state.			
<a href="#">SSB 5601</a>	<a href="#">HB 1844</a>	Alternative jet fuels	Advancing the production and use of alternative jet fuels in Washington.	S Ways & Means	Liias	
<a href="#">ESB 5649</a>	<a href="#">HB 1860</a>	Supply chain competitiveness	Creating a Washington state supply chain competitiveness infrastructure program.	S Passed 3rd	Liias	
<a href="#">SB 5673</a>	<a href="#">HB 1924</a>	Manufacturing /sales tax	Providing a sales and use tax exemption for manufacturing facilities and green manufacturing facilities.	S Ways & Means	Boehnke	
<a href="#">SB 5674</a>		Manufacturing facilities/tax	Concerning manufacturing facilities.	S Ways & Means	Boehnke	
<a href="#">SB 5675</a>		Manufacturing /B&O tax	Providing a business and occupation tax exemption for manufacturing facilities and green manufacturing facilities.	S Ways & Means	Boehnke	
<a href="#">SB 5795</a>		Sales and use tax rate	Reducing the state sales and use tax rate.	S Ways & Means	Krishnadasan	
<a href="#">ESB 5797</a>		Intangible assets tax	Enacting a tax on stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible assets for the benefit of public schools.	S Ways & Means	Frame	
<a href="#">SSB 5798</a>		Property tax	Concerning property tax reform.	S Ways & Means	Pedersen	

<a href="#">SB 5811</a>	<a href="#">SHB 2077</a>	Zero-emission vehicle prg.	Establishing a tax on certain business activities related to surpluses generated under the zero-emission vehicle program.	S Ways & Means	Lovelett	
<a href="#">SB 5812</a>	<a href="#">ESHB 2049</a>	K-12 education funding	Investing in the state's paramount duty to fund K-12 education and build strong and safe communities.	S Ways & Means	Wellman	
<a href="#">SB 5815</a>	<a href="#">ESHB 2081</a>	Business and occupation tax	Modifying business and occupation tax surcharges, rates, and the advanced computing surcharge cap, clarifying the business and occupation tax deduction for certain investments, and creating a temporary business and occupation tax surcharge on large companies.	S Ways & Means	Saldana	
<a href="#">SB 5821</a>	<a href="#">HB 2090</a>	Advanced nuclear energy	Integrating advanced nuclear energy into the state energy strategy.	S Environment, E	Braun	High
<a href="#">SB 5989</a>		Aircraft fuel tax distrib.	Concerning the distribution of	S Ways & Means	Boehnke	High

			aircraft fuel tax revenue.			
<a href="#">SB 6010</a>	<a href="#">HB 2496</a>	EFSEC tribal consultation	Concerning tribal consultation conducted by the energy facility site evaluation council.	S Environment, E	Shewmake	
<a href="#">SB 6076</a>		Utility procurement	Streamlining consumer-owned utility procurement requirements for clean energy generation, energy storage, transmission, and distribution projects.	S Environment, E	Goehner	
<a href="#">SB 6092</a>	<a href="#">HB 2416</a>	Waste to energy facilities	Concerning fair treatment of waste to energy facilities under the climate commitment act.	S Environment, E	Riccelli	
<a href="#">SB 6121</a>		Large energy use facilities	Providing electricity service to large energy use facilities.	S Environment, En	Boehnke	High
<a href="#">SB 6165</a>		Eminent domain/electrical	Limiting the exercise of eminent domain for the purposes of constructing electrical transmission facilities on agricultural lands.	S Environment, E	Boehnke	
<a href="#">SB 6168</a>		CCA suspensions	Providing cost relief to Washingtonia	S Environment, E	Boehnke	

			ns by suspending certain requirements in the climate commitment act.			
<a href="#">SB 6171</a>	<a href="#">HB 2515</a>	Large energy use facilities	Addressing emerging large energy use facilities.	S Environment, E	Shewmake	
<a href="#">SB 6284</a>		AI consumer protections	Providing consumer protections for artificial intelligence systems.	S Environment, E	Liias	
<a href="#">SB 6289</a>		Economic dev. strategic plan	Creating a statewide economic development and competitiveness strategic plan.	S Business, Trad	Kauffman	