

State Government

Score: 6.5 out of 7

State Government Summary

The state offers significant incentives for energy efficiency investments. The state government leads by example by requiring energy-efficient public buildings and fleets, benchmarking energy use, and encouraging the use of energy savings performance contracts. Washington is one of the few states to require commercial building energy use disclosure. Research focused on energy-efficiency is conducted at the Smart Buildings Center and Washington State University's Energy Program.

Financial Incentives

Financial Incentive information for Washington is provided by the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency ([DSIRE Washington](#)). Information about additional incentives not present on DSIRE is listed here.

Efficiency Grants for Higher Education and Local Governments: The Energy Efficiency Grants for Higher Education and Local Governments provides \$38 million funding to public higher education institutions and local governments for energy efficiency improvements to facilities through lighting, heating and ventilation system upgrades and more.

Energy Revolving Loan Fund Grants: These grants finance the use of proven building energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies that currently lack access to capital; includes residential and commercial sectors. Almost \$15 million of funds were awarded to two financial institutions: Craft3 (commercial and residential) and Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union (residential). Projects completed with loans include residential and commercial energy retrofits, residential- and commercial-scale solar installations, anaerobic digesters to treat dairy and organic waste, and combined heat and power projects using woody biomass as a fuel source.

Community Energy Efficiency Program: The Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) is a community based program that identifies and funds pilot projects that will provide community-wide urban residential and commercial energy efficiency retrofits and upgrades. The implemented energy efficiency upgrades projects are estimated to produce about \$1.7 million per year in energy cost savings.

Clean Energy Fund Research, Development and Demonstration Match Program: Grant for entities seeking to obtain match required by non-state funders for clean energy technology projects. The Clean Energy Fund was created in 2013 and refunded in 2015 is effectively a green bank for the state.

Last Updated: July 2016

Building Energy Disclosure

Building type(s) affected: commercial

SB 5854 - 2009-10 requires all nonresidential customers and qualifying public agency buildings to maintain records of energy data with an energy star rating system. Resulting metrics will be disclosed to a prospective buyer, lessee, or lender.

Last Updated: July 2016

Public Building Requirements

[Washington State Executive Order 14-04](#) directed the Department of Enterprise Services, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, OFM, and the WSU Energy Program, to evaluate progress and develop recommendations for improving the energy efficiency of state buildings. Subsequent work led to 100% agency compliance with initial benchmarking targets. A cross-agency team is currently piloting a simple, scalable process for building retro-commissioning for facilities that are identified (through benchmarking) as performing at less-than-average efficiency.

[Washington State Executive Order 12-06](#) established new targets for energy savings in state buildings. State agencies are required to achieve a 20% reduction in building energy use by 2020, compared to their 2009 energy consumption. The executive order also requires state agency buildings to be benchmarked. If benchmarking demonstrates that the building has greater than average energy use for the building type, the building must enter an audit and improvement protocol. A previous order, [Executive Order 05-01](#) (signed on January 5, 2005) required a reduction in state agency energy use by 10% by September 1, 2009, (using fiscal year 2003 as the baseline). It also requires major state construction projects over 25,000 sq. ft. to be designed and built according to the [LEED](#) Silver standard.

[WA Statute RCW 39.35D.030](#) (January 2005) requires that all major facility projects of public agencies receiving any funding in a state capital budget must be designed, constructed, and certified to at least the LEED Silver standard and must include [building commissioning](#) as a component of the design process. LEED has been adopted by state colleges and universities as well as state agencies. All public schools must meet a LEED equivalent standard approved by State the Superintendent of Public instruction.

[Washington Senate Bill 5854](#) , passed in 2009, set benchmarking requirements for public facilities as well, requiring utilities to maintain utility data and transfer the data to facility managers using [EPA](#) Portfolio Manager. To date, the state has benchmarked about 99% of state agencies representing over 45 million square feet. Of all state-owned and leased buildings, including universities and community colleges, the state has benchmarked about 74%.

Last Updated: July 2016

Fleets

The Washington State Electric Fleet Initiative, launched in December 2015, established the goal that at least 20% of all new state passenger vehicle purchases would be electric vehicles by 2017. Planning for procurement of vehicles and procurement and installation of adequate charging infrastructure is currently underway.

Washington state agencies must phase in [fuel economy](#) standards to achieve an average fuel economy of 36 miles per gallon for passenger vehicle fleets by 2015 ([RCW 43.41.130](#)). State agencies must purchase ultra-low carbon fuel vehicles or, when purchasing new conventional vehicles, achieve an average fuel economy of 40 miles per gallon (mpg) for light-duty passenger vehicles and 27 mpg for light-duty vans and sport utility vehicles. When calculating average fuel economy, emergency response vehicles, passenger vans with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or greater, off-road vehicles, ultra-low carbon fuel vehicles, and vehicles driven less than 2,000 miles per year are excluded.

The largest fuel use in in State Government is the Washington State Department of Transportation ferry system. Washington State Ferries operates the largest ferry system in the United States. In 2013,

Washington completed installation bio-fuel blending systems to reduce fleet CO2 impacts. In addition, Government Fleet magazine recognized DOT Fleet Operations for the fourth consecutive year as one of the nation's top 40 most sustainable and efficient public fleets, presenting WSDOT with a 2012 Green Fleet Award.

Governor's Executive Order 05-01 (signed by Governor Locke January 2005) directs agencies to give priority to the purchase and use of hybrid and other fuel efficient/low emission vehicles and new petroleum-efficient technology vehicles. State agencies were further directed to prioritize purchase of plug-in electric (PEV, such as the Nissan Leaf) and plug-in hybrid (PHEV, such as the Chevrolet Volt) light- and medium-duty vehicles where anticipated driving range will not require routine charging in the field and lifecycle costs are within 5 percent of an equivalent hybrid (HEV, such as the Toyota Prius) ([RCW 43.19.648](#)).

The State Administrative and Accounting Manual ([SAAM 12.20.30c](#)) established rules regarding minimum annual days of use and mileage requirements for state-owned vehicles. The utilization requirement eliminates all non-essential and cost-inefficient state fleet vehicles. The most fuel inefficient vehicles were removed from the fleet and petroleum use reduced as a right-sizing result.

Executive Order 1039 puts a freeze on the purchase of four-wheel drive support utility vehicles.

WSDOT Secretary's Executive Order E 1094 directs employees to minimize idling time in all aspects of WSDOT's operation.

WSDOT Secretary's Executive Order E 1047 directs employees to conserve fuel whenever possible by eliminating the need for business travel by using telecommunications, the most energy efficient vehicles, or combining vehicle trips.

Last Updated: July 2016

Energy Savings Performance Contracting

Washington has an extensive energy performance contracting program administered by the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services. The program is available to State Agencies, Colleges, Universities, Cities and Towns, Counties, School Districts, Hospital Districts, Library Districts, Port Districts and other local governments. Since the program was started in 1986, the program has completed more than \$1 billion in public facility efficiency projects, received \$442 million in utility rebates and now saves \$22 million in annual energy costs. The program, which started in 1986, has completed millions of dollars in public facility efficiency projects. In the last 5 years alone, the program has implemented \$288 million in public building energy efficiency upgrades.

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Research & Development

The [Smart Buildings Center](#), formerly known as the Northwest Building Energy Technology Hub (NBETH), is a statewide proof-of-concept center and regional test bed for building energy technology development and commercial acceleration. The State of Washington provided \$5 million in state capital funds for the program.

The [Energy Program at Washington State University](#) (WSU) is a self-supported department that operates similar to a consulting firm. Its mission is to advance environmental and economic well-being by providing energy services, products, education and information based on world-class research.

Last Updated: September 2016

Important Links

[DSIRE Washington](#)

[Oak Ridge National Laboratory: Washington ESPC Legislation](#)

[Northwest Building Energy Technology Hub Fact Sheet](#)

[Download the Entire State Database](#)

[Download the State Spending and Savings Table](#)