



THE ENERGY PROJECT

August 28, 2025



Energy Assistance Funding & CETA



The Clean Energy Transformation Act

RCW 19.405.120(1) & (4)(a)(iii)

CETA establishes ambitious state goals for meeting energy assistance need.

“It is the intent of the legislature to demonstrate progress toward making energy assistance funds available to low-income households consistent with the policies identified in this section.”

“funding levels needed to meet:

- (A) Sixty percent of the current energy assistance need, or increasing energy assistance by fifteen percent over the amount provided in 2018, whichever is greater, by 2030; and
- (B) ninety percent of the current energy assistance need by 2050.”

WAC 480-100-605: “Energy assistance need” means the amount of assistance necessary to achieve an energy burden equal to six percent for utility customers.

→ IOUs’ bill discount programs are designed to lower energy burden to 6% of income

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Energy Assistance Funding & MYRP Law




RCW 80.28.425 Multiyear rate plan

The five percent threshold is not a “hard cap” because the last sentence of section 2 allows:

“The commission may approve a larger increase to low-income bill assistance based on an appropriate record.”

The five percent threshold must be exceeded when the doubling mechanism requires.

“*At a minimum*, the amount of such low-income assistance increase must be equal to double the percentage increase, if any, in the residential base rates approved for each year of the rate plan.”



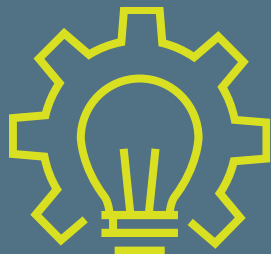
Energy Assistance Authorization & MYRP Law



RCW 80.28.068 Energy Assistance Authorization

The MYRP law made extensive modifications to the Energy Assistance Authorization in RCW 80.28.068, including adding references to CETA's definition of "energy burden" and "low-income."

It did not place a limit on funding in the Energy Assistance Authorization, where such a limit would obviously apply even outside of an MYRP.



Questions?

Shaylee Stokes
Director of The Energy Project
Washington State Community Action
Partnership
Federal Way, WA
shaylee@wapartnership.org

Yochanan “Yochi” Zakai
Attorney for The Energy Project
Shute Mihaly, and Weinberger
Seattle, WA
yzakai@smwlaw.com
(415) 552-7272