
2024 Front and Centered Legislative Briefing



January 4, 2024

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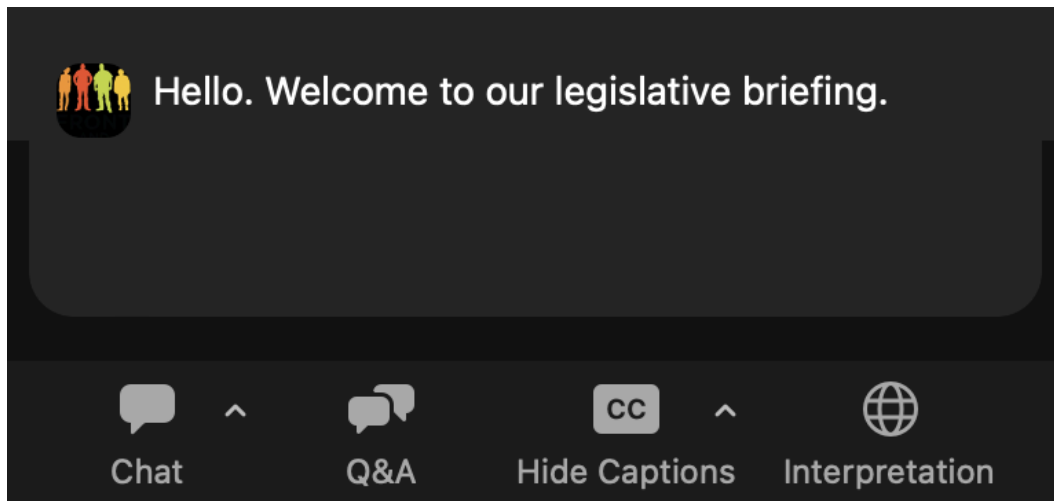
Interpretation



Spanish-language audio



FRONT
—AND—
CENTERED



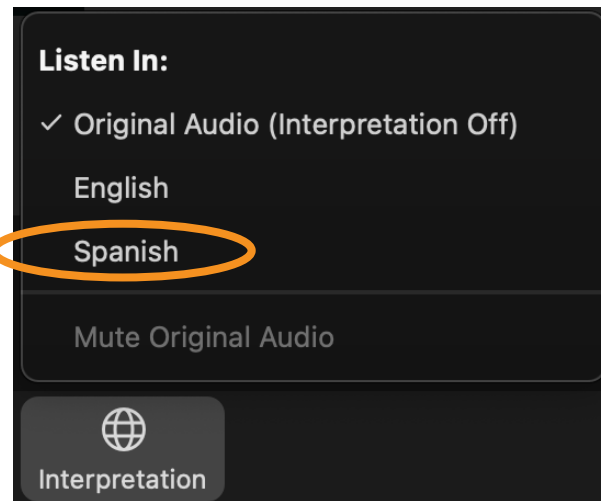
Hello. Welcome to our legislative briefing.

Chat Q&A Hide Captions Interpretation

This screenshot shows a video player with a dark background. At the top, there is a small icon of four people and the text "Hello. Welcome to our legislative briefing." Below this, there is a control bar with four icons: a speech bubble for "Chat", two speech bubbles for "Q&A", a "CC" icon for "Hide Captions", and a globe icon for "Interpretation".



Live transcription



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Spanish-language audio

Agenda

- I. Intro and Welcome
- II. The 2024 Legislative Session
- III. CURB Pollution Act
- IV. Budget Priorities
- V. Energy Justice
- VI. Question and Answer



The Front and Centered Team



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Front and Centered is a diverse and powerful coalition of communities of color-led groups across Washington State, whose missions and work come together at the intersection of equity, environmental and climate justice



Heading into the 2024 Legislative Session

- Environmental justice goes hand in hand with all climate related policy.
- Supplemental budget year, 60 days, with over \$1 billion in unanticipated climate revenue
 - Year of adjustment and accountability
 - Climate Commitment Act repeal up for consideration in the legislature
- Focus for our coalition will continue to be frontline communities environmental health and Just Transition





House Bill 2070 Cumulative Risk Burden (CURB) Pollution Act

(Mena) Integrating environmental justice considerations into certain project decisions.

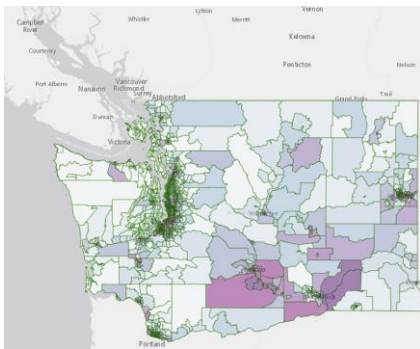


Addressing Cumulative Burden



How do we address pollution at its source, especially for communities who experience an unfair share of environmental harms?

A cumulative burden framework looks at the conditions that arise from the existence of **unequal environmental conditions** in a community (such as air, water, and/or soil pollution), as well as other community characteristics that may worsen the health of the community (like poverty and race).



Current Cumulative Environmental Hazard Analysis Program in WA

WA EHD Map

Required by RCW 19.405.140 (i.e., CETA), further updated by RCW 43.70.815 (i.e., HEAL)

Described as a cumulative impact analysis

Uses Threat x Vulnerability = Risk method

HEAL Act (SB 5141, 2021)

Intended to reduce environmental harm exposure disparities experienced across WA through the preparation of EJ assessments

Directs agencies to incorporate cumulative impact analysis in environmental justice assessments



Disproportionate Burden Regulation

“Risk-based Approach”

- Asks what the chance or likelihood of harm happening and bases actions on what an “acceptable” level of risk is

“Disproportionate burden approach”

- Asks who bears an unfair share of harm, targets what causes the unequal conditions

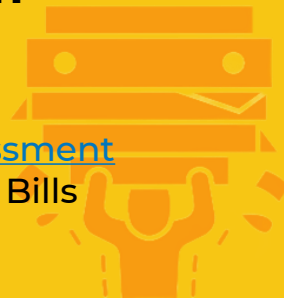


Risk-based Regulation Examples

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- Managing and regulating PFAS
- Setting environmental limits for chemicals
- Superfund site remediation

Disproportionate Burden Examples

- [CalEnviroScreen \(SB 535\)](#)
- [Chicago Health Impact Assessment](#)
- [New Jersey](#) and [New York](#) EJ Bills



Front and Centered's Policy Objectives

1. Prevent the continued pollution of already overburdened communities with the goal of reduction of current levels of pollution
2. Require agencies to act in a precautionary manner when making decisions about environmental permitting in already overburdened communities
3. Develop a replicable, transparent, and translatable process for analyzing cumulative risk burdens already being faced by a community



1) Coverage and Applicability

- A) Pollution overburdened community?
- B) Covered Permit?

2) EJ Impact Statement

Lead agency under SEPA to prepare an Environmental Justice Impact Statement (EJIS).

Community Public Hearing

3) Decision

For new project or expansion:

- 1) Deny if adverse cumulative stress
- 2) Condition, if adverse cumulative stress, but compelling public interest
- 3) Approve, if no adverse cumulative stress

For renewal of existing project:

- 1) Condition approval, as appropriate

How CURB Would Work



Policy Coverage (subject to change)

RCW 90.48 — Water Pollution Control

RCW 70A.15 — Clean Air Act

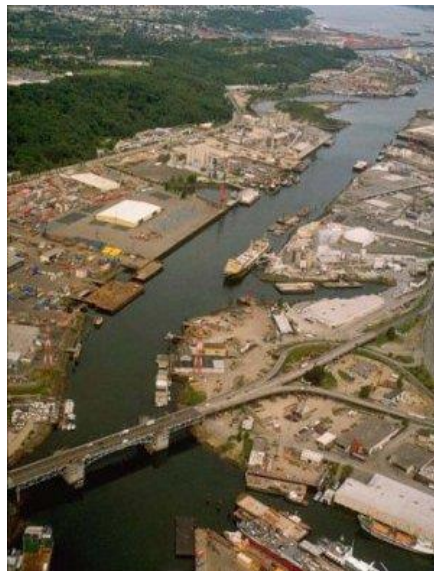
RCW 70A.205 — Solid Waste Management

RCW 70A.226 — Municipal Sewage/Sludge/Biosolids

RCW 70A.216 — Solid Waste Incinerator

EXEMPTED: Clean Energy Projects





Environmental and Public Health Stressors

- **Concentrated Areas of Air Pollution and Mobile Sources of Air Pollution**
 - Criteria Air Pollutants (PM 2.5, PM 10, SO₂, NO_x, Lead, CO, Ozone)
 - Wildfire Smoke
 - Ozone Concentration
 - Diesel Exhaust (PM_{2.5} emissions particulate matter)
 - Cancer risk from air toxics excluding Diesel PM
 - Non-cancer risk from Air Toxics
 - Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)
 - Toxic releases from facilities into air
 - Proximity to heavy traffic roadways
 - **Water Pollution**
 - Drinking water quality
 - Marine water quality
 - Fish and Shellfish Health Advisories
 - Wastewater discharge
 - Surface Water Quality
 - Groundwater Quality
 - Combined Sewer Overflows
-

Stressors, cont.



- **Environmental Hazards in Communities/Contaminated Sites**

- Railways, Airports, or Ports
- Lead Risk from Housing
- Use of Leaded Fuels
- Density of or proximity to Known Contaminated Sites
 - Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal sites
 - Superfund sites
 - Facilities with Risk Management Plan
 - Confirmed and suspected contaminated sites
 - Formerly Used Defense Sites
- Environmental covenants registry

- **Social Determinants of Health**

- Unemployment
 - Educational Attainment
 - People living in poverty
 - Percentage of children eligible for free/reduced lunch
 - Limited English speaking households
-

2024 Environmental Justice and Climate Budget Priorities

Improving Accountability: When allocating Climate Commitment Act investments it must be explicit, transparent, and not left to assumptions, with at least 40% going to Frontline Communities as required by the HEAL Act.

Sustained Investments: Community capacity building and participatory budgeting funding needs to be sustained and expanded.

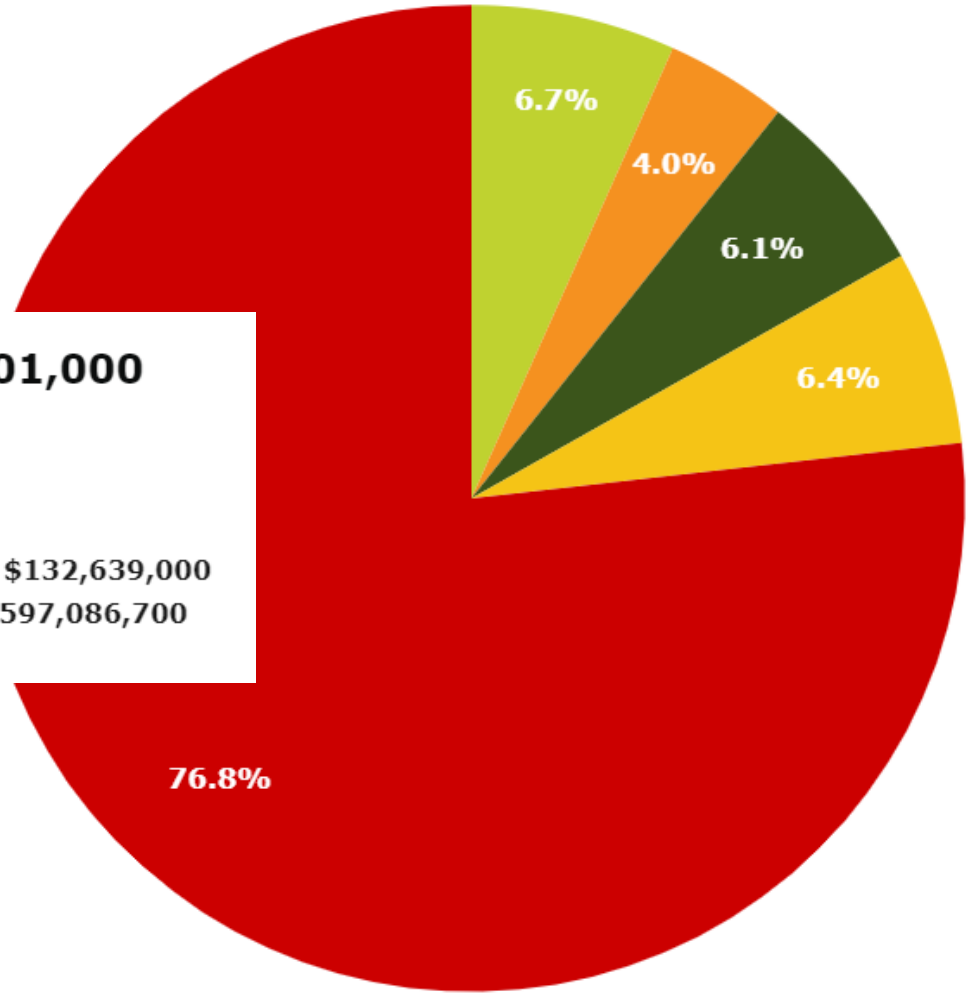
New Significant Investments: Invest in priorities that have been explicitly requested by Frontline Communities.



2023–2025 Budget

CCA Legislative Allocations: \$2,079,601,000

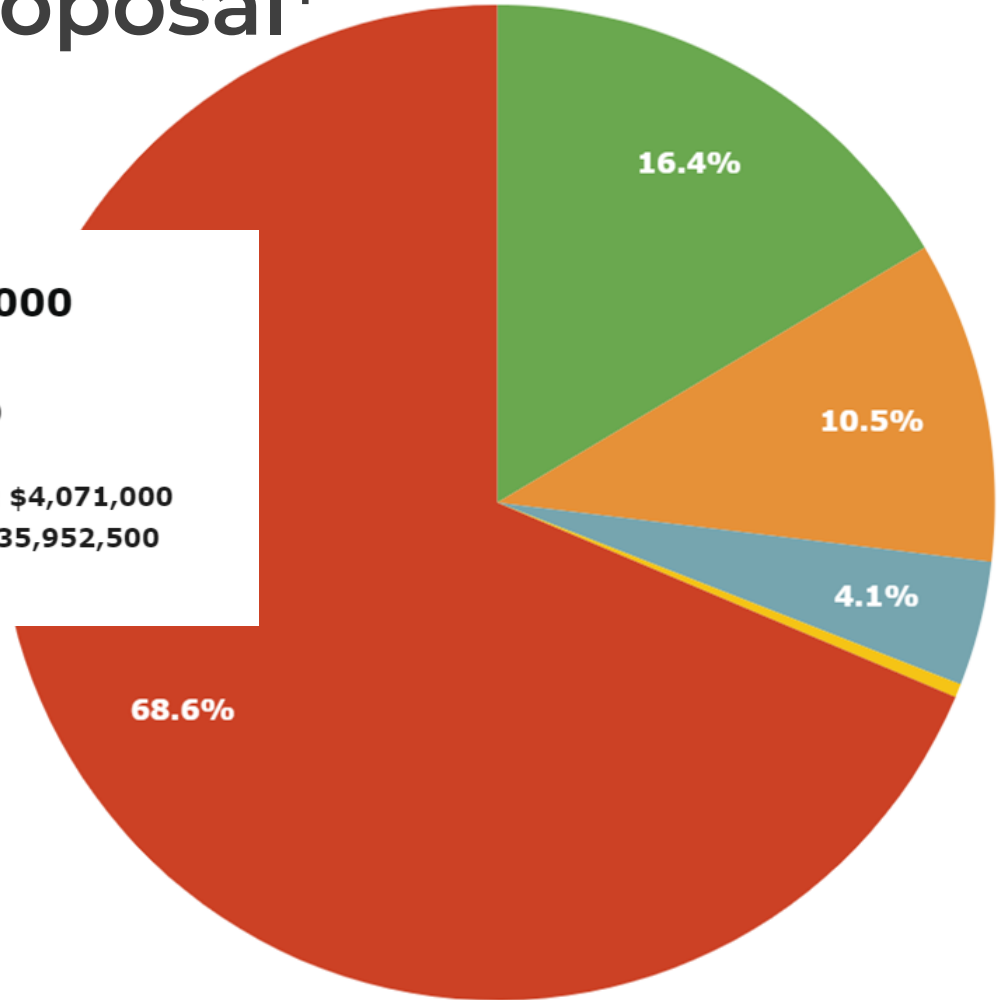
- Explicitly to OBC: \$139,310,500
- Prioritized Funds Expected to Go to OBC: \$82,861,800
- Tribal Funding: \$127,703,000
- Program Development for OBC (Honorable Mentions): \$132,639,000
- CCA Funds Not Clearly Dedicated to OBC or Tribes: \$1,597,086,700



2024 Governor's Proposal*

Proposed CCA Allocations: \$926,920,000

- Explicitly to OBC: \$152,360,000
- Prioritized Funds Expected to Go to OBC: \$97,000,500
- Tribal Funding: \$37,536,000
- Program Development for OBC (Honorable Mentions): \$4,071,000
- CCA Funds Not Clearly Dedicated to OBC or Tribes: \$635,952,500



Improving Accountability

- **Allocations Explicitly to Non-Tribal Overburdened Communities**

2023 - 2025 Budget: 6.7%

2024 Governor's Proposed Budget: 16.4%

- **Total to Non-Tribal Overburdened Communities and Tribal Communities**

2023 - 2025 Budget: 23.2%

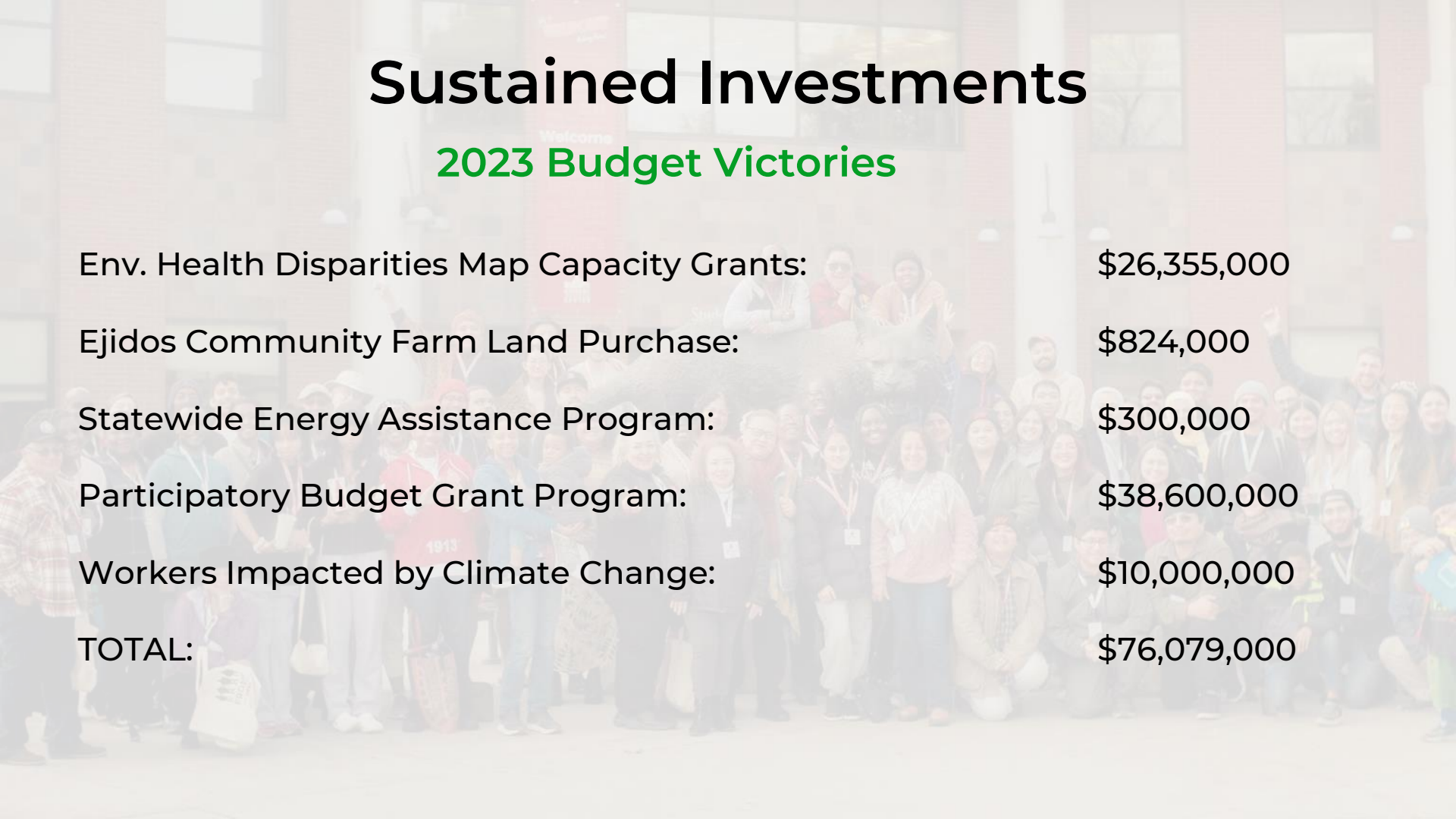
2024 Governor's Proposed Budget: 31.4%

- **Explicit Allocations in the 2023–2025 Budget**

2024 Governor's Proposed Budget does not recommend revisions to the adopted budgets to make Climate Commitment Act allocations explicit to Overburdened Communities where in places it was unclear.

Sustained Investments

2023 Budget Victories



Env. Health Disparities Map Capacity Grants:	\$26,355,000
Ejidos Community Farm Land Purchase:	\$824,000
Statewide Energy Assistance Program:	\$300,000
Participatory Budget Grant Program:	\$38,600,000
Workers Impacted by Climate Change:	\$10,000,000
TOTAL:	\$76,079,000

2024 New Significant Investment Requests

Budget Item	Front and Centered Request	Governor's Budget
Community Co-Governance Framework Pilot (Community Assemblies)	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000
Community Climate Land & Development Fund	\$300,000,000	
Environmental Violations Reporting Tools Study	\$600,000	
Clean Energy Community Decarbonization		\$100,000,000
Washington Clean Energy Ambassadors Program		\$10,000,000

Meeting Energy Need: Clean Energy for All to Survive and Thrive

- Just and Equitable Energy Transition — from GHG-emitting, extractive power to a regenerative system that serves communities
 - Equitable allocation of clean energy resources for frontline communities
 - Clean energy benefits for safe and healthy homes through Community Ambassadors and Navigator
 - Decarbonizing the energy system to support space and water heating from clean sources
 - Reduced energy burden for low income families through increased access to assistance



Call to Action: Supporting CURB — H.B. 2070

Legislators need to hear support for H.B. 2070 directly from community members, partner organizations, and local government leaders.

Help us take action by contacting your local Representative! (FrontAndCentered.Org)

**SPEAK OUT FOR H.B. 2070
THE CURB POLLUTION ACT!**



Urban League of
Metropolitan Seattle



Stay Connected!

Sign up for our newsletter at FrontAndCentered.Org

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Thank you!
