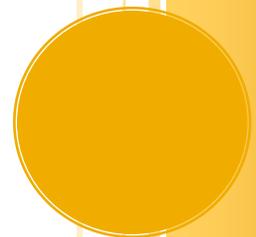


WASHINGTON ENERGY JUSTICE SNAPSHOT



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
Environmental and Climate Justice Program

5/1/2017



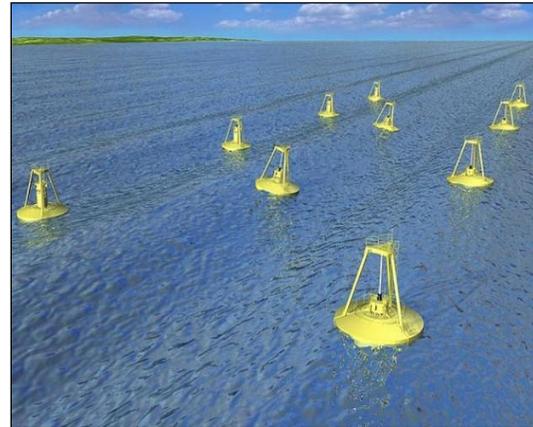
WASHINGTON ENERGY JUSTICE

SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

Access to clean energy is not just an environmental issue, but also a civil right. Communities of color bear a disproportionate share of the burdens of a fossil fuel based energy economy. This is why the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program stands for just energy policies that will help protect our communities from harmful energy production processes and provide equitable access to the clean energy economy.

This Snapshot profiles Washington's energy portfolio, evaluates key state energy policies, documents state utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy. Finally, this snapshot also provides information that will inform NAACP members on potential avenues for engagement and future action steps towards a clean, just energy future.



STATE ENERGY PROFILE

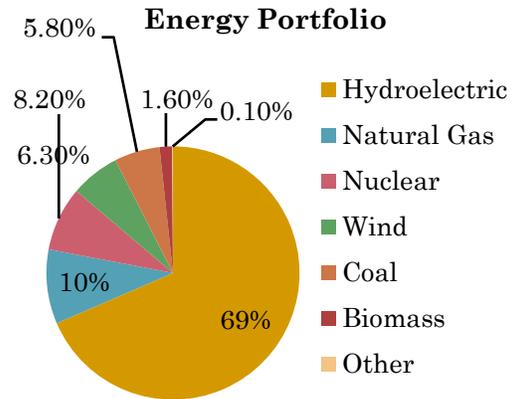
Washington State is a leader in the renewable energy sector. A majority of the state's energy is sourced from renewable energy sources, though the state still has work to do in advancing ambitious state clean energy policies and diversifying the sources of renewable energy. This section provides an overview Washington current energy portfolio, highlights key state energy policies, and indicates potential clean energy infrastructure and policy solutions.

Energy Portfolio

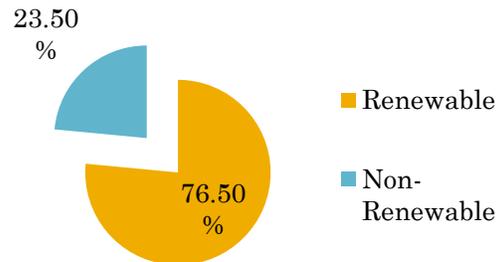
Washington state is a national leader in electricity produced by renewable resources, with more than three-fourths of the state's net electricity generated from renewable sources. However, a large majority of renewable energy is generated from large-scale hydroelectric projects, which is not an NAACP recommended energy source. Therefore, energy justice advocates should push for the diversification of Washington's renewable energy portfolio.

Non-hydroelectric energy accounts for almost one-tenth of the state's total net electricity generation. Washington has both distributed and utility-scale wind energy generation, developed mostly along the Columbia Gorge which is a high wind resource area. If fully developed, geothermal areas in Washington's volcanic Cascades mountain range have a potential to produce about 2.5 billion kW hours of electricity per year. The state also has low-temperature geothermal potential.

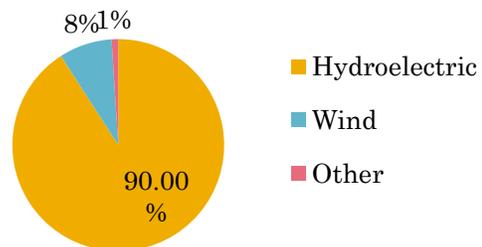
Washington is endowed with few fossil fuel resources. Natural gas is the number one fossil fuel energy source consumed in the state, but it is not produced domestically but rather imported via pipeline from Canada. Washington does not mine coal, but it does refine coal from Montana and Wyoming at a large coal-fired power plant in Centralia, WA. Although not a fossil fuel, nuclear energy is another non-clean energy source that Washington relies on to produce electricity. The state has only one nuclear power plant (the Columbia Generating Station located at the Hanford site) and nuclear provides less than one-tenth of Washington's net electricity.ⁱ



Renewable vs Non-Renewable



Renewable Energy Portfolio



Figures 1-3: <http://spotforcleanenergy.org/state/washington/>

For more detailed information and data on Washington's energy portfolio visit the U.S. Energy Information Administration's webpage,

<http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=WA>

State Energy Policiesⁱⁱ

Policy Type	NAACP Recommended Policy Standards	Washington Policy Details
Net Metering	<p>Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer.</p> <p>Capacity Limit Recommendation: 2,000 kW (minimally), per system</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	<p>Washington's net metering law applies to systems up to 100 kW in capacity that generate electricity using solar, wind, hydro, biogas from animal waste, fuel cells, or combined heat and power technologies.</p>
Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	<p>A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum amount of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 25% renewable by 2025</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p> <p>Allowable Sources: Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy</p>	<p>Washington's Renewable Portfolio Standard mandates utility companies to meet the following annual targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3% by 2012 • At least 9% by 2016 • At least 15% by 2020 <p>Eligible resources include electricity produced from water, wind, solar, geothermal, wave/ocean/tidal, biomass</p>
Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)	<p>A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency program.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year's retail electricity sales.</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	<p>Washington has mandatory energy efficiency standards that vary by utility provider. Ideally, Washington should clarify the policy by implementing a 2% annual reduction rate over each previous year's electricity sales across the board.</p>
Local Hire Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content • Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state • Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plant located in-state • Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally • Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts 	<p>There is no Local Hire provision for Washington. Establishing a Local Hire Provision that encompasses energy projects would significantly increase the amount of tax dollars reinvested into the local economy and would provide local jobs to enable people to work near where they live.</p>
Minority Business Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training opportunities • Notify MBEs of state business opportunities • Set-aside funds for MBEs 	<p>The state has a dedicated office for processing procurements to ensure that minority and women-owned businesses can access contracting opportunities. The office offers training events, maintains a directory of certified firms, and operates the Linked Deposit Program at up to \$175 million as of 2008, to aid minority and women-owned business enterprises in accessing capital.</p>

Utility Disconnection Policiesⁱⁱⁱ

Notice	Notice must be mailed at least eight days before the scheduled disconnection if mailed from within Washington, Oregon, or Idaho. Notice must be mailed at least eleven days before the scheduled disconnections if mailed from any other state. Second notice must be made by mail, delivery, or telephone at least two business days before the scheduled disconnections.
Date Based Protection	Yes; November 15-March 15. No disconnection for low-income customers who enter a payment plan.
Temp Based Protection	None
Payment Plan	Yes; Deferred payment plans available to prevent disconnection during winter protection period. Equal-payment plans are available to all customers at any time.
Reconnection Fee	Yes
Disconnection Limitations	No disconnection on weekends, legal holidays, or any other day when a utility is not available to reconnect service that day or the following day.
Other Protections	Postponement of disconnection for the lesser of sixty days or length of certification with medical certification. Customer must enter a payment agreement. Utility may not ask for more than 10% of arrearages to begin the payment plan. Medical certification can be used twice within any 120-day period.



Access to electricity is not a luxury; it's a human right. With increasingly dangerous high heat conditions in Arizona, utility services are essential to sustaining life. Folks should not be forced to choose between paying for medications or their energy bill. Public officials have implemented some policies that protect consumers from the life-threatening practice of utility disconnection, however, energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections.

Action steps:

Energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections:

- Implement temperature based protections
- Remove reconnection fees
- Expand protections for vulnerable populations

More details about disconnection policies are available at the State of Washington webpage:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=480-100-128>

DEVELOPING THE BLACK-GREEN PIPELINE

African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector. It is the goal of the NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative that African Americans will have increased representation across all sectors of the clean energy economy. The Black-Green Pipeline Initiative promotes the equitable inclusion of communities of color into the green economy in order to address unemployment in our communities and to increase the voices and influence of our communities in the green economy.

To subscribe to the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative Weekly Digest send a blank email to:
naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The Green Labor Market and Communities of Color

Renewable electricity is driving economic growth and creating jobs in communities across Washington state. According to a recent report published by A Renewable America in 2015, Washington already has an estimated 101,593 jobs in renewable power industries, energy efficiency and other conservation services.



Unemployment

In 2015 the gap between the U.S. unemployment rate and the rate for African Americans was 4.3 percentage points. In Washington State the unemployment rate for African Americans was a comparable national rates.

2015 National Unemployment Rate:

5.3%

2015 Washington Unemployment Rate: 5.6%

2015 National African American Unemployment Rate: 9.6%

2015 Washington African American Unemployment Rate: 8.9%

iv

According to a “high renewables” scenario, Washington has the potential to supply nearly 98% of overall state electricity use through renewables. Through this ambitious scenario, an estimate 212,000 new local jobs would be created which would produce \$13.6 billion in wages and benefits during construction. After construction, more than 3,400 additional jobs would be created, approximately \$226 million in annual wages and benefits, and about \$1.9 billion in annual tax revenue.^v

For more information about existing programs in Washington State to create jobs for a Green Economy visit:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/greeneconomy.htm>

TAKE ACTION

A state already in the lead in terms of clean energy, Washington NAACP can be a leader in ensuring that state energy policies are just and equitable. Remember: a transition to reliance on clean energy is inevitable, but justice is not! The Washington NAACP must ensure that the communities it represents not only have a seat at the table, but are positioned as leaders in the energy policies and practices that affect our communities. Below are action steps branches can take:

Host a Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Roundtable

- The NAACP ECJ Program is committed to advancing a meaningful dialogue and concerted action on engagement of communities of color in the green economy.
- To start taking action, organize a multi-stakeholder roundtable with socially responsible energy business leaders, historically black colleges and universities, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions, and others to discuss developing and implementing a strategy to ensure that policies/laws/regulation, research initiatives, community level practices, corporate social responsibility measures, etc. are in place to ensure greater engagement of communities of color in the green economy.

Implement a demonstration project such as a community solar garden or rooftop solar project

- Interested in taking a direct role in implementing clean energy practices in your community? Install rooftop solar or community solar.
- There are several rebates and incentives available to Washingtonians interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit energy.gov for a list of renewable energy incentive program available on the state and federal levels.
- You can also check out funding opportunities offered through the Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, which aims to support solar energy adoption by making solar energy accessible to all Americans.

Launch a Just Energy Policies Campaign

- Identify one or more of the focal policies outlined in this snapshot and documented more extensively in the Just Energy Policies to champion.
- Build a coalition with likeminded energy justice advocates and other local and state allies to build power and momentum.
- Host a town-hall to educate the community about the policy and get input from members on their needs, priorities, and perspectives.
- Launch an intentional campaign to advocate that Washington adopts the recommended policy standard.
- Set up lobby trainings and coordinate a lobby-day with elected officials.

Make public the NAACP energy justice platform and engage the public through media

- Develop and place an op-ed by NAACP Unit President or ECJ Chair in a local newspaper
- Participate in a radio interview, TV interview, podcast
- Be quoted in a local newspaper
- Post an article or blog to an online platform

Women of Color Speak Out! A collective of Seattle activists working to educate and inform their communities on the climate crisis, connecting global warming to systemic oppression.

Got Green: Got Green organizes for environmental, racial, and economic justice as a South Seattle-based grassroots organization led by people of color and low income **people**.

Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy: Washington State's coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses dedicated to reducing global warming pollution, strengthening our economy, and making sure all Washington families have a better future.

Front and Centered: A statewide coalition of organizations and groups rooted in communities of color and people with lower incomes working together to build power and capacity for a Just Transition that centers equity and is led by people of color.

Climate Justice Alliance: A coalition of organizations united for a just transition to a clean energy economy.

Puget Sound Sage: An organization led by majority women of color that builds advocates for progressive policy changes at the local and regional level.

***Need additional support,
resources, or other assistance?***

Contact: ecjp@naacpnet.org

CLOSING

Today there is unprecedented urgency for climate action and a just transition to clean renewable energy. Washington State is a national leader in clean energy. In order to achieve energy justice, though, state energy policies and practices must not only be clean, but also equitable. Justice must be centered in our energy transition.



Embracing a transition to clean, renewable energy sources will not only provide significant environmental and health benefits for Washingtonians, but it will also diversify and strengthen the state's renewable energy economy. NAACP just energy leaders should advocate on behalf of a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard, Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and Net Metering standards as well as economic empowerment provisions such as local hire policies and minority business programs.



JULY 2017

Created by the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program

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ⁱ "Washington State Profile and Energy Estimates," *United State Energy Information Administration*, last modified on 17 November 2016, <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=WA>.

ⁱⁱ "Programs," *DSIRE*, accessed 11 July 2017, <http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?fromSir=0&state=WA>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Jacqueline Patterson, Marcus Franklin, Caroline Kurtz, Mike Alksnis, Lorah Steichen, Chiquita Younger, "Lights Out In the Cold: Reforming Shut-Off Policies as if Human Rights Matter," *NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program*, March 2017, http://www.naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Lights-Out-in-the-Cold_NAACP-ECJP-4.pdf.

^{iv} "Unemployment rates for African Americans by state in 2015," *Bureau of Labor Statistics*, last modified 4 March 2016, <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/unemployment-rates-for-african-americans-by-state-in-2015.htm>.

^v "Powering Up Washington: A Report on the Economic Benefits of Renewable Electricity Development," *A Renewable America*, January 2015, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58ecc722197aea316e9b93fc/t/58f13ee544024397c4f50965/1492205293539/Washington-Economic-Development-Report.pdf>.