
SENATE BILL 5670

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators McCune, Fortunato, Holy, J. Wilson, Boehnke, Dozier, Christian, Warnick, Wagoner, Goehner, Short, and Braun

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the fuel tax assistance grant
2 program; amending RCW 70A.65.260; and adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.160 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.160
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, the fuel tax assistance grant program is created.
9 The purpose of the grant is to provide relief for rural school
10 districts with large geographic areas for increased transportation
11 program costs associated with rising fuel prices.

12 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
13 administer the grant.

14 (3) To be eligible for the grant, school districts must have a
15 geographic area of 450 square miles or greater.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70A.65.260 and 2023 c 475 s 939 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The climate commitment account is created in the state
19 treasury. The account must receive moneys distributed to the account
20 from the climate investment account created in RCW 70A.65.250. Moneys

1 in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Projects,
2 activities, and programs eligible for funding from the account must
3 be physically located in Washington state and include, but are not
4 limited to, the following:

5 (a) Implementing the working families' tax credit in RCW
6 82.08.0206;

7 (b) Supplementing the growth management planning and
8 environmental review fund established in RCW 36.70A.490 for the
9 purpose of making grants or loans to local governments for the
10 purposes set forth in RCW 43.21C.240, 43.21C.031, 36.70A.500, and
11 36.70A.600, for costs associated with RCW 36.70A.610, and to cover
12 costs associated with the adoption of optional elements of
13 comprehensive plans consistent with RCW 43.21C.420;

14 (c) Programs, activities, or projects that reduce and mitigate
15 impacts from greenhouse gases and copollutants in overburdened
16 communities, including strengthening the air quality monitoring
17 network to measure, track, and better understand air pollution levels
18 and trends and to inform the analysis, monitoring, and pollution
19 reduction measures required in RCW 70A.65.020;

20 (d) Programs, activities, or projects that deploy renewable
21 energy resources, such as solar and wind power, and projects to
22 deploy distributed generation, energy storage, demand-side
23 technologies and strategies, and other grid modernization projects;

24 (e) Programs, activities, or projects that increase the energy
25 efficiency or reduce greenhouse gas emissions of industrial
26 facilities including, but not limited to, proposals to implement
27 combined heat and power, district energy, or on-site renewables, such
28 as solar and wind power, to upgrade the energy efficiency of existing
29 equipment, to reduce process emissions, and to switch to less
30 emissions intensive fuel sources;

31 (f) Programs, activities, or projects that achieve energy
32 efficiency or emissions reductions in the agricultural sector
33 including:

34 (i) Fertilizer management;

35 (ii) Soil management;

36 (iii) Bioenergy;

37 (iv) Biofuels;

38 (v) Grants, rebates, and other financial incentives for
39 agricultural harvesting equipment, heavy duty trucks, agricultural

1 pump engines, tractors, and other equipment used in agricultural
2 operations;

3 (vi) Grants, loans, or any financial incentives to food
4 processors to implement projects that reduce greenhouse gas
5 emissions;

6 (vii) Renewable energy projects;

7 (viii) Farmworker housing weatherization programs;

8 (ix) Dairy digester research and development;

9 (x) Alternative manure management; and

10 (xi) Eligible fund uses under RCW 89.08.615;

11 (g) Programs, activities, or projects that increase energy
12 efficiency in new and existing buildings, or that promote low carbon
13 architecture, including use of newly emerging alternative building
14 materials that result in a lower carbon footprint in the built
15 environment over the life cycle of the building and component
16 building materials;

17 (h) Programs, activities, or projects that promote the
18 electrification and decarbonization of new and existing buildings,
19 including residential, commercial, and industrial buildings;

20 (i) Programs, activities, or projects that improve energy
21 efficiency, including district energy, and investments in market
22 transformation of high efficiency electric appliances and equipment
23 for space and water heating;

24 (j) Clean energy transition and assistance programs, activities,
25 or projects that assist affected workers or people with lower incomes
26 during the transition to a clean energy economy, or grow and expand
27 clean manufacturing capacity in communities across Washington state
28 including, but not limited to:

29 (i) Programs, activities, or projects that directly improve
30 energy affordability and reduce the energy burden of people with
31 lower incomes, as well as the higher transportation fuel burden of
32 rural residents, such as bill assistance, energy efficiency, and
33 weatherization programs;

34 (ii) Community renewable energy projects that allow qualifying
35 participants to own or receive the benefits of those projects at
36 reduced or no cost;

37 (iii) Programs, activities, or other worker-support projects for
38 bargaining unit and nonsupervisory fossil fuel workers who are
39 affected by the transition away from fossil fuels to a clean energy
40 economy. Worker support may include, but is not limited to: (A) Full

1 wage replacement, health benefits, and pension contributions for
2 every worker within five years of retirement; (B) full wage
3 replacement, health benefits, and pension contributions for every
4 worker with at least one year of service for each year of service up
5 to five years of service; (C) wage insurance for up to five years for
6 workers reemployed who have more than five years of service; (D) up
7 to two years of retraining costs, including tuition and related
8 costs, based on in-state community and technical college costs; (E)
9 peer counseling services during transition; (F) employment placement
10 services, prioritizing employment in the clean energy sector; and (G)
11 relocation expenses;

12 (iv) Direct investment in workforce development, via technical
13 education, community college, institutions of higher education,
14 apprenticeships, and other programs including, but not limited to:

15 (A) Initiatives to develop a forest health workforce established
16 under RCW 76.04.521; and

17 (B) Initiatives to develop new education programs, emerging
18 fields, or jobs pertaining to the clean energy economy;

19 (v) Transportation, municipal service delivery, and technology
20 investments that increase a community's capacity for clean
21 manufacturing, with an emphasis on communities in greatest need of
22 job creation and economic development and potential for commute
23 reduction;

24 (k) Programs, activities, or projects that reduce emissions from
25 landfills and waste-to-energy facilities through diversion of organic
26 materials, methane capture or conversion strategies, installation of
27 gas collection devices and gas control systems, monitoring and
28 reporting of methane emissions, or other means, prioritizing funding
29 needed for any activities by local governments to comply with chapter
30 70A.540 RCW;

31 (l) Carbon dioxide removal projects, programs, and activities;
32 ((and))

33 (m) Activities to support efforts to mitigate and adapt to the
34 effects of climate change affecting Indian tribes, including capital
35 investments in support of the relocation of Indian tribes located in
36 areas at heightened risk due to anticipated sea level rise, flooding,
37 or other disturbances caused by climate change. The legislature
38 intends to dedicate at least \$50,000,000 per biennium from the
39 account for purposes of this subsection; and

1 (n) The fuel tax assistance grant program created in section 1 of
2 this act.

3 (2) Moneys in the account may not be used for projects or
4 activities that would violate tribal treaty rights or result in
5 significant long-term damage to critical habitat or ecological
6 functions. Investments from this account must result in long-term
7 environmental benefits and increased resilience to the impacts of
8 climate change.

9 (3) During the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the legislature may
10 appropriate moneys from the climate commitment account for activities
11 related to environmental justice, including implementation of chapter
12 314, Laws of 2021.

--- END ---