

Washington State takes bold steps to address climate change

Sen. Kevin Ranker, D-Orcas Island, applauded the decision by Gov. Jay Inslee to take executive action in reducing carbon pollution and increasing opportunities for clean energy today.

Many of the actions are based on the recommendations developed by the governor, Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon and Ranker during their work last year on the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup (CLEW).

“Today was a defining moment for Washington’s environment and its economy,” Ranker said. “The bold steps taken today by the governor were absolutely necessary and will solidify our state’s place as a leader both nationally and worldwide in the fight against climate change.”

[Inslee’s plan](#) builds on earlier studies and work groups to create an action plan in six key areas, including:

- Creating a task force of Washington thought-leaders to design a new Washington-based cap-and-market program to dramatically reduce cargo emissions
- Working with providers to end the use of electricity generated by coal in Washington State
- Developing clean transportation options and cleaner fuels
- Accelerating development and deployment of clean energy technology
- Improving the energy efficiency of the places we work and live
- Reducing state government’s carbon footprint

Many of the elements of these programs will require either legislative approval or legislative appropriation for funding.

Ranker, who for many years served as Chair of the Senate’s Environment Committee and later as its ranking member, is excited by the prospect of these important next steps.

“The governor is bringing the right people to the table,” he said. “The monumental task ahead of us will require everyone – labor, business, Democrats, Republicans – to all pull in the same direction to achieve a common goal – the long-term sustainability of our economy and our environment.

“Everyone has a stake in a positive outcome.”