



Washington's state government  
won't update its carbon pollution targets.

## So we did their homework for them.

In 2008, the Washington state legislature enacted a law ([RCW 70.235](#)) making it the state's duty to limit emissions of greenhouse gases to achieve designated targets by 2020, 2035 and 2050. The law's ultimate goal is for Washington state to do its part to reach global climate stabilization levels.

Because climate science improves over time, the legislature directed the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to consult with climate scientists at the University of Washington and provide a summary report to the legislature. In addition, Ecology must make recommendations on whether to update the [greenhouse gas reduction targets](#).

However, Ecology has made no such recommendation in the eight years since the law was passed, despite substantial advances in climate science.

The reports from the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group have made it very clear that urgent action is needed to draw down greenhouse gas emissions.

In April 2014, Gov. Inslee directed Ecology to

recommend updates to the legislature by July 2014 but Ecology again failed to make recommendations.

In June 2014, our youth clients submitted a petition to Ecology asking that they make the recommendation to update the limits based on the best available science, but Ecology refused.

In December 2014, Ecology issued a report to the legislature as required, but deleted the recommendation to update the limits, instead telling the legislature to wait until Paris. We're still waiting.

In April 2016, the court ordered Ecology to make the recommendation and to consult with the youths about the recommendation.

Ecology refuses to discuss the substance or science behind the recommendation with the youth or our experts, so we have decided to take things into our own hands.

The Clean Air Rule that Ecology has proposed **does not meet the existing statutory limits, let alone the limits that are needed to put the state on a path towards climate stability.**

# Here's what our proposed legislation would do:

- Update the framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Washington to be consistent with best available targets to achieve global climate stabilization levels:
  - By 2020, emissions must be at least 10% below 1990 levels
  - By 2035, emissions must be at least 68% below 1990 levels
  - By 2050, emissions must be at least 91% below 1990 levels
- Require the Department of Ecology to use its existing authority to adopt policies, rules, and regulations that will achieve the necessary emission reductions, and to track and annually report emission reduction progress to the governor, legislature, and public.
- By December 1, 2017, require the Department of Ecology to develop and begin implementing a carbon sequestration plan.
- Remove the exception for emissions of carbon dioxide from industrial combustion of biomass in the form of fuel wood, wood waste, wood byproducts, and wood residuals.
- Update state agency emission reduction requirements to align with the best available science.
- Require the state of Washington to inventory consumption-based emissions.

