

Governor's Climate Commitment Act investments to benefit overburdened communities and tribes

February 2023

The Climate Commitment Act (CCA) requires that no less than 35% of its yearly investments — with an annual goal of 40% — must provide direct and meaningful benefits to vulnerable populations in overburdened communities. The act also requires that not less than 10% of CCA investments are supported by a tribal resolution.

Gov. Jay Inslee's 2023-25 budget achieves these requirements by directly investing in the identified needs of overburdened communities and tribes. The governor's budget was informed by the [draft set of Environmental Justice Council investment priorities](#). The Council, which is required under the CCA to provide recommendations on the expenditure of CCA funds, adopted its [final recommendations](#) at the end of January. Legislative intent, as specified in the CCA around funding levels for specific programs was also considered in development of the Governor's proposal.

Invest in overburdened communities

Across the operating, capital, and transportation budgets, \$842 million — or over 49% of investments — are directed to overburdened communities. Some of the major investments include:

- \$38.6 million for projects to reduce health disparities in overburdened communities, allocated through a participatory budgeting process.
- \$11.4 million to improve air quality in overburdened communities.
- \$10 million to support workplace health and safety for workers who are affected by the climate crisis, including extreme heat, cold, wildfire smoke, drought, and flooding.
- \$16 million to enhance federal funding for low-income home weatherization.
- \$105 million to implement a high-efficiency, electric home rebate program.
- \$50 million to reduce the energy burden on low-income households.
- \$5.9 million to improve urban tree programs.
- \$140 million for transit support grants.
- \$50.4 million for special needs transit grants.
- \$50 million for bike/pedestrian grant programs and projects.

Invest in tribal communities

Of the \$842 million, the Governor's proposal estimates that a minimum of \$108.9 million (or 6.4%) of total investments directly benefit tribes. Tribal communities are also eligible for additional investments that can increase the amount tribes receive (if the tribes access them).

In addition, the Governor's proposal invests \$154 million of the Natural Climate Solutions Account into salmon recovery programs. This includes \$114 million for riparian protection programs and almost \$32 million for fish passage programs. Although these programs do not necessarily directly support tribal communities, they do invest in important salmon recovery programs, requested by the tribes, that support their treaty rights and culture. If these additional investments are included, then total investments benefiting tribes would amount to \$263 million (or 15%) of CCA funds.

Once the governor signs the budget, we hope tribal resolutions will support the investments directed to tribes or that tribes apply for ([RCW 70A.65.230 \(1\)\(b\)](#)). The Governor's Office and the Office of Financial Management will work with agencies to make sure they achieve the requirement that at least 10% of CCA investments to be tribally supported.

Investments specifically for tribal communities include:

- \$50 million to help tribes mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
- \$25 million to support tribes develop clean energy projects.
- \$16 million in tribal capacity grants for consulting on CCA investments and engaging on clean energy project siting.
- \$10 million for tribal transit mobility grants.
- \$5 million for grants to help tribes develop carbon offset projects on tribal lands.

How investments will advance equity directly and indirectly

The accompanying table identifies each CCA investment and shows which investments contribute to meeting the equity requirements. (You can find a more detailed [table of investments, by fund, online here](#).) Since we can't know all the investments yet, there are likely to be additional equity benefits to overburdened communities that are not yet captured.

For example, \$15 million is provided for unspecified landfill methane capture projects (agencies will select these projects). If projects are in or near an overburdened community, the surrounding community would experience a public health benefit, which would count toward the equity requirement. In addition, the Environmental Justice Council identified priority investments from the Natural Climate Solutions Account, including riparian protection and restoration. Even though these investments won't necessarily directly benefit overburdened communities there will be indirect benefits through improving our state's resilience to climate change.

Maintain investment accountability

The governor's proposed budget ensures that the CCA's overburdened community equity investments will be accomplished through two main mechanisms.

First, programs and appropriations were specifically directed to overburdened communities and tribes. Second, many of the CCA-funded grant programs are provided to include conditions that make sure the spending meets the CCA investment percentages for overburdened communities and tribes. State agencies must follow legislative provisos in the final budget.

Accountability will also be maintained through consistent reporting and data. Under the CCA, the Department of Ecology must prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature and post it on the agency's website (RCW 70A.65.300). The report must identify where the money goes from each CCA account. The first report is due by Sept. 30, 2023.

State agencies that allocate funds or administer grants or programs from these accounts must also annually report to the Environmental Justice Council their progress on meeting environmental justice and environmental health goals (RCW 70A.65.030(3)). In addition, the state must develop a process to evaluate the impacts of the CCA investments, and work across state agencies to develop and track priorities across the different eligible funding categories (RCW 70A.65.230(4)).

Identifying overburdened communities

To meet these equity requirements, the governor's budget relies on agencies to identify the communities that meet the definition of "overburdened communities" (under RCW 70A.65.010). Agencies are currently working through the Environmental Justice Interagency Work Group, the Environmental Justice Council's guidance, and requirements under the HEAL Act (Chapter 70A.02 RCW) to adopt guidance on how to identify overburdened communities.

Climate Commitment Act Funds for Overburdened Communities
Governor's Proposed 2023-25 Omnibus Operating, Capital And Transportation Budget
(Dollars in Thousands)

Agency	Item/Budget	Total	OB/TB Calc	OB/TB Total	Specifically Tribal	Proviso	Note
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs							
<i>Policy Items</i> <i>Operating</i>							
	CCA Grant Manager	254	100%	254	254		Work will directly benefit tribal communities.
	CCA Support Staff	254	100%	254	254		Work will directly benefit tribal communities.
	Total	508		508	508		
Department of Commerce							
<i>Policy Items</i> <i>Operating</i>							
	Buy Clean and Buy Fair	1,879	0%	0			
	Clean Buildings Database Expansion	975	0%	0			
	Clean Energy Burden Reduction	50,000	100%	50,000		Sec 128 (66)	Program targets low income households. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Clean Energy Business Development	3,257	0%	0			
	Clean Energy Fund	20,000	0%	0			
	Clean Energy Permitting/Planning	10,000	0%	0			
	Clean Energy Siting Coordination	1,620	0%	0			
	Clean Energy Siting Navigators	2,154	0%	0			
	Clean Tech Jobs	200	0%	0			
	Climate Resilience Strategy	95	0%	0			
	Comprehensive planning - Climate	30,953	40%	12,381			It is assumed that 40% of communities receiving assistance will be overburdened.
	Dual-Use Solar Pilot	10,664	0%	0			Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Energy Audits - Public Buildings	20,592	0%	0			
	Grid Formula Program Support	708	0%	0			
	HEAL Act Implementation	3,096	0%	0			
	Hydrogen Hub	2,000	0%	0			
	Local Government Salmon Recovery	5,494	0%	0			
	Port Decarbonization Drayage Pilot	6,300	100%	6,300		Sec 128 (71)	Grants shall be used to benefit overburdened communities. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Rural Energy Economic Impacts	1,046	100%	1,046			Funding will conduct a study of clean energy siting impacts on rural communities. It is assumed that that this will benefit overburdened communities.
	Transmission Planning & Advocacy	1,024	0%	0			
	Total	172,057		69,727	0		
Capital							
	DOE Hydrogen Hub -State Match	20,000	0%	0			
	Reducing Emissions in Hard-to-Decarbonize Sectors Program	50,000	40%	20,000		Sec 1092 (6)	A minimum of 40 percent of the appropriation must be spent for projects that benefit vulnerable populations in overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.65.010.
	Tribal Climate Adaptation Pass-through Grants	50,000	100%	50,000	50,000	Sec 1083	Tribes are the only eligible recipient. Proviso encourages applicants to include a tribal resolution supporting the request to meet the requirements of RCW 70A.65.230 (1)(b). Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program	105,000	100%	105,000			Program will focus on low/moderate income households and small businesses.
	2023-25 Clean Energy Fund Program	55,000		25,000	25,000	Sec 1074	\$25 million is provisoed solely for tribal grants for clean energy development. Proviso encourages applicants to include a tribal resolution supporting the request to meet the requirements of RCW 70A.65.230 (1)(b).
	2023-25 Weatherization Plus Health	16,000	100%	16,000			
	Total	296,000		216,000	75,000		
Office of Financial Management							
<i>Policy Items</i> <i>Operating</i>							
	AmeriCorps Climate Corps	5,962	40%	2,385		Sec 130 (7)	Minimum of 60% of corps positions provided to members of vulnerable communities. Note: OFM has requested a change to this language to instead require a minimum of 60% of projects to benefit overburdened communities.

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	Climate Change GHG Report	137	0%	0			
	Total	6,099		2,385	0		
Department of Enterprise Services							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Electric Vehicle Chargers	17,900	0%	0			
	Total	17,900		0	0		
Utilities and Transportation Comm							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Transmission Planning Advocacy	540	0%	0			
	Total	540		0	0		
Military Department							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Climate Resilience Strategy	113	0%	0			
	Comprehensive Planning - Climate	34	0%	0			
	Zero Emission Staffing	287	0%	0			
	Total	434		0	0		
Dept of Arch and Hist Preservation							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	CCA Support Staff	300	50%	150	150		Training for clean energy developers will help protect cultural resources.
	Cultural Resource Surveys	500	100%	500	500		Cultural resource surveys will help protect tribal cultural sites.
	Total	800		650	650		
Dept of Social & Health Services							
Administration/Supporting Services							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Zero Emission Staffing	815	0%	0	0		
	Total	815		0	0		
Department of Labor and Industries							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Support Services - Apprenticeships	2,500	40%	1,000		Sec 220 (12)	Proviso requires that - at least 40% of CCA portion must benefit overburdened communities. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Zero Emission Staffing	287	0%	0			
	Total	2,787		1,000	0		
Department of Health							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Climate & Health Program Expansion	7,503	60%	4,081			Assumed that 60% of Climate Commitment Account funding will benefit overburdened communities. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Climate Resilience Strategy	72	0%	0			
	Comprehensive Planning Climate	50	0%	0			
	Healthy Environment for All Act	4,389	100%	4,389			Provides data and staff to benefit CCA implementation for overburdened communities as well as HEAL Act implementation. This was a priority investment identified by the EJ Council.
	Workplace Safety for Climate Impact	10,000	100%	10,000		Sec 222 (27)	Shall be spent solely to support vulnerable populations in overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.65.010. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Total	22,014		18,470	0		
Capital							
	Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities	38,600	100%	38,600			100% of program is to benefit overburdened communities. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Total	38,600		38,600	0		
Dept of Children, Youth, & Families							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						

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	Zero Emissions Staffing	544	0%	0			
	Total	544		0	0		
Department of Corrections							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Zero Emission Staffing	815	0%	0			
	Total	815		0	0		
Employment Security Department							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Clean Tech Jobs	326	0%	0			
	Total	326		0	0		
Department of Ecology							
	2023-25 Carryforward Level	32,436	25%	8,252	8,252	Sec 302 (8)	This is the base tribal grant funding from the FY22 Supplemental. Proviso encourages applicants to include a tribal resolution supporting the request to meet the requirements of RCW 70A.65.230 (1)(b).
			16%	5,303	5,303		This is base tribal grant funding from the FY21-23 budget to meet the requirements of RCW 70A.65.180; creating a grant program and assistance for offset projects on tribal land.
Maintenance Items Operating							
	Archives/Records Management	1	0%	0			
	Audit Services	(2)	0%	0			
	CTS Central Services	6	0%	0			
	DES Central Services	1	0%	0			
	General Wage Adjustment	350	0%	0			
	Legal Services	8	0%	0			
	Minimum Wage Increases - Facilities	4	0%	0			
	OFM Central Services	3	0%	0			
	Self-Insurance Liability Premium	7	0%	0			
	Workers' Compensation	5	0%	0			
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>	0		0			
	AQ in Overburdened Communities	2,479	100%	2,479		Sec 302 (11)	Provided solely for addressing air quality in overburdened communities.
	Archives/Records Management	1	0%	0			
	Audit Services	1	0%	0			
	Clean Energy Permitting	6,308	0%	0			
	Climate Resilience Strategy	997	0%	0			
	Coastal Climate Hazards	3,914	40%	1,566			Assumed that 40% of the work will benefit overburdened communities.
	Comprehensive Planning - Climate	1,154	0%	0			
	CTS Central Services	62	0%	0			
	DES Central Services	8	0%	0			
	EAGL Modernization	131	0%	0			
	Enterprise Content Management	82	0%	0			
	GOV Central Services	20	0%	0			
	Implement Climate Commitment Act	3,633	0%	0			
	Legal Services	19	0%	0			
	OFM Central Services	88	0%	0			
	Programmatic EIA - Green Hydrogen	2,000	0%	0			
	Programmatic EIS - Solar Col. Plat.	996	0%	0			
	Reduce Nooksack Basin Flooding	4,002	20%	800			Assume that 20% of the work will benefit overburdened communities.
	Shared Tenant M365 to CSM	(42)	0%	0			
	State Data Center	(8)	0%	0			
	Tribal Participation Grants for CCA	8,220	100%	8,220	8,220	Sec 302 (8)	Proviso encourages applicants to include a tribal resolution supporting the request to meet the requirements of RCW 70A.65.230 (1)(b). This is the newly added portion of the tribal grant program to support tribal consultation on clean energy projects. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Working/Natural Lands Sequestration	1,604	0%	0			
	Total	68,488		26,620	21,775		

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Capital							
	Landfill Methane Capture	15,000	0%	0			
	Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Initiative	11,400	100%	11,400			100% of program is to benefit overburdened communities. Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Total	26,400		11,400	0		
Energy Facility Site Eval Council							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Position Funding for Green Energy	2,352	0%	0			
	Transmission Corridor Studies	200	0%	0			
	Tribal and Green Energy Programs	757	26%	200	200		Provides \$100K a year for tribal grants.
	Total	3,309		200	200		
State Parks and Recreation Comm							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Climate Resilient Parks	1,304	0%	0			
	Electrify Fleet & Equipment	2,000	0%	0			
	Total	3,304		0	0		
Rec/Conserv Funding Board							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Community Engagement Plan	200	0%	0			
	Riparian Coordinator	398	0%	0			
	Total	598		0	0		
Capital							
	2023-25 Family Forest Fish Passage Program	10,870	0%	0			
	2023-25 Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board	20,849	0%	0			
	Total	31,719		0	0		
Environmental & Land Use Hearings							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Staff to Address Caseload Increases	1,198	0%	0			
	Total	1,198		0	0		
State Conservation Commission							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Community Engagement Plan	250	0%	0			
	Total	250		0	0		
Capital							
	Riparian Grant Program	100,000	0%	0			Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	2023-25 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	11,000	0%	0			Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Total	111,000		0	0		
Department of Fish and Wildlife							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Building a Carbon-neutral WDFW	1,752	0%	0			
	Building a Climate-resilient WDFW	4,446	0%	0			
	Clean Energy Permitting	468	0%	0			
	Climate Resilience Strategy	184	0%	0			
	Comprehensive Planning – Climate	114	0%	0			
	Total	6,964		0	0		
Department of Natural Resources							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Climate Resilience Strategy	1,000	0%	0			
	Climate-smart Forest Treatments	3,166	0%	0			
	GHG Net Zero	9,991	0%	0			
	Natural and Working Lands	400	0%	0			
	Reforestation Strategy	2,066	0%	0			
	Scientifically-based Conservation	3,356	0%	0			

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	Urban Tree Canopy	5,991	100%	5,991			Identified as a priority investment by the EJ Council.
	Watershed Resilience Implementation	2,864	0%	0			
	Workforce Development	2,365	64%	1,504	800		100% of tribal forestry and fire mgmt training; 100% of incarcerated crew post-release program support; 40% DNR supported Corps projects; 40% of WSU extension forestry experiential training; 40% of benefits from DNR's outdoor education and training program manager.
	Total	31,199		7,495	800		
Capital							
	State-Owned Lands Carbon Sequestration	10,000	0%	0			
	Forestry Riparian Easement Program	10,000	0%	0			
	Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP)	1,660	0%	0			
	Total	21,660		0	0		
Department of Agriculture							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Organic Material	3,038	0%	0			
	WA Soil Health Initiative	581	0%	0			
	Total	3,619		0	0		
University of Washington							
<i>Maintenance Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Increase WOAC Capacity	300	0%	0			
	Updated PEBB Rate	2	0%	0			
	WOAC Fund Shift	1,646	0%	0			
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>	0					
	Clean Energy Strategy	3,000	0%	0			
	Non-Rep General Wage Increase	16	0%	0			
	Response to Ocean Acidification	520	0%	0			
	Total	5,484		0	0		
Washington State University							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Institute For NW Energy Futures	7,721	0%	0			
	Least-Conflict Pumped Storage	600	0%	0			
	Total	8,321		0	0		
Western Washington University							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Expanding Environment/STEM Programs	1,498	0%	0			
	Total	1,498		0	0		
Community/Technical College System							
<i>Maintenance Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Continue Climate Solutions Work	3,964	0%	0			
	Total	3,964		0	0		
Workforce Train & Educ Coord Board							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Clean Technology Advisory Committee	534	0%	0			
	Total	534		0	0		
Washington State Patrol							
<i>Policy Items</i>	<i>Operating</i>						
	Zero Emission Staffing	684	0%	0			
	Total	684		0	0		
Department of Transportation							
	Transportation Budget						
	Comprehensive Planning – Climate	500	0%	0			
	Climate Resilience Strategy	93	0%	0			

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	Capital Projects						
	Ultra High Speed Rail	50,000		0			TBD. WSDOT still working out what percentage would support over burdened communities.
	Vessel & Terminal Electrification	74,027		0			TBD. WSDOT still working out what percentage would support over burdened communities.
	Guemes Ferry Boat Replacement Project (All Electric)	14,000		0			TBD. WSDOT still working out what percentage would support over burdened communities.
	Decarbonization Grants	83,250	40%	33,300			It is assumed that 40% of incentive grants will benefit overburdened communities.
	Innovative Electrification Projects	15,625		0			TBD. WSDOT still working out what percentage would support over burdened communities.
	Youth 18 & Under Ride free	2,250		0			TBD. WSDOT still working out what percentage would support over burdened communities.
	Capital Projects						
	Safe Routes to Schools	38,915	52%	20,041			WSDOT estimate of applicants reviving grants based up use of Equity Analysis and use of Environmental Health disparities map.
	Bike/Ped Grant Program	37,563	94%	35,208			WSDOT estimate of applicants reviving grants based up use of Equity Analysis and use of Environmental Health disparities map.
	Connecting Communities	25,000	100%	25,000			Program is designed to invest in improvements in overburdened communities.
	School Based Bike Safety Education Program	16,800		0			TBD. WSDOT still working out what percentage would support over burdened communities.
	Pedestrian & Bike Project List	39,540	40%	15,816			WSDOT overburdened community benefit calculations are based on the average EHD scores for census tracts the project passes through. Approximately 56% of projects proposed for funding in 2023-25 ranked in Tier 1 on EHD map (average score of 8.5-10) and/or serve tribal lands.
	Transit Support Grants	175,500	80%	140,400			WSDOT estimate of grants for overburdened communities.
	Transit Projects	69,080	80%	55,264			WSDOT estimate of grants for overburdened communities.
	Tribal Transit Mobility Grants	10,040	100%	10,040	10,040		Tribes are the only eligible recipient.
	Transit Coordination Grants	500	100%	500			WSDOT estimate of grants for overburdened communities.
	Special Needs Transit Grants	73,040	69%	50,398			WSDOT estimate of grants for overburdened communities.
	Bus & Bus Facility Grant Program	37,180	80%	29,744			WSDOT estimate of grants for overburdened communities.
	Green Transit Grants	36,580	85%	31,093			WSDOT estimate of grants for overburdened communities.
	Transportation Demand Management	3,100	80%	2,480			WSDOT estimate of grants for overburdened communities.
	Total	802,583		449,284	10,040		

Transportation Improvement Board

Complete Streets Program	19,067	0	
Total	19,067	0	0
Grand Total	1,712,082	842,338	108,973
Total All CCA Accounts	Total	842,338	108,973
	Percentage of total	49.2%	6.4%