

Environment and Climate Council
Annual Report 2025

Mission statement: Through research, education, outreach and collaboration, the Environment and Climate Council (ECC) advocates for legislation and policy that protects the environment and supports effective responses to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We work with a diverse community of stakeholders including other WSDCC caucuses and councils.

2026 goals: Our objectives for the coming year include holding at least one general meeting in conjunction with each of the WSDCC three-times-a year meetings, with additional scheduled monthly executive board or general membership meetings as needed. Consistent with membership interest and our capacity, while working collaboratively with sister councils and councils, and other parties of interest, we will continue with preparation, passage, and submission of resolutions to the WSDCC. In addition, we will continue to advocate for our priority bills during the legislative session and conduct candidate and/or initiative endorsements consistent with bylaws, membership interest, and capacity of the council.

In 2026 we will consider legislation [that impacts the environment and will be re-introduced in 2026](#) along with newly introduced bills.

ECC's geographic and other diversity among our board and membership is an ongoing topic of interest and concern. We have made some progress in geographic diversity among our membership and eboard. We need to continue to reach out to achieve more diversity.

This council seeks to take every opportunity to join with community groups and media outlets to increase awareness of environmental issues, including their link to social justice issues that face our world today.

Environment and Climate Council Officers

Name	CD	LD	County	Role
Steve Verhey, Ph.D.	8	13	Kittitas	Chair
Arvia Morris, Ph.D.	7	46	King	WWa Vice Chair
Chelsea Dimas	4	14	Yakima	EWa Vice Chair
Lael White	1	32	Snohomish	Secretary
Jack Lockhart	2	38	Snohomish	Treasurer
Steven McCray	5	6	Spokane	Membership

Brad Clure	2	40	Skagit	Technology
Tara Gallager	7	46	King	Rules & Bylaws
Angie Homola	2	10	Island	Communications
Dan Lewinski	2	10	Snohomish	Resolutions
Jeff Berner	7	46	King	Endorsements
Julie Conklin	7	46	King	At Large 1
Diane Young	4	7	Douglas	At Large 2
Ted Jones	6	23	Kitsap	At Large 3
Amanda Nelson	5	16	Walla Walla	At Large 4

Membership and outreach

See table on next page for more information.

Number of voting members (2025): 106

FaceBook (10/22) [Page](#): 764 Followers [Group](#): 510 Members

MailChimp (newsletter) subscribers: 700; open rate: ~28%

Overview of Activities

In addition to our work on resolutions, our 2025 activities included support for the clean fuels standards update (HB1409) and Amtrak Cascades (ESHB 1837), support for Public Rail Now's petition regarding robust funding for Amtrak in national transportation policy. ECC has passed numerous resolutions in support of intercity passenger rail as an energy efficient and cost effective way to travel compared to short flights and driving. There is much we can do to improve and expand our already existing rail network.

We also supported a petition to update state building codes that protect our health and the environment. ECC has passed a resolution in support of clean buildings.

ECC has produced a number of reports, and this year we adopted rules for reports written as white papers by council members and or outside reports on environmental and climate related information. We believe having a review process for environmental and climate information will leverage the knowledge of our members, support our education efforts and counter disinformation.

Endorsement report for 2025

This was an off-year election, but we received 5 applications for endorsement from legislative candidates, and members voted to endorse four of the candidates. All endorsed candidates won in their elections.

Resolutions Report for 2025:

ECC members approved five resolutions through November, 2025, plus one in December 2024 that was not included in the 2024 report. The late 2024 resolution to oppose the SeaTac Sustainable Airport Master Plan and environmental assessment, and 2025 resolutions to recognize the inherent rights of southern resident orcas; urge the state executive branch to ensure federal funding of environmental mandates; and urge Congress to protect environmental and climate legislation were each subsequently approved by the WSDCC general membership. Two resolutions passed by the ECC in November, 2025, calling for the criminalization of “Rolling Coal” in Washington and to oppose a rail merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern will be considered by the WSDCC general membership at their next general meeting.

Membership and Eboard meetings:

ECC held 6 general membership meetings including our January 16th 2025 reorganization and 5 executive board meetings including December 18th, 2025.

Membership report:

Geographic Distribution of Members

Cong. District	2021 members (mbrs)	2022 mbrs	2023 mbrs	2024 mbrs	2025 mbrs	2021 EBoard	2022 EBoard	2023 EBoard	2024 EBoard	2025 EBoard
1	6	7	6	8	4	3	1	1	1	1
2	10	13	20	21	17	3	2	6	5	5
3	4	3	7	8	4					
4	4	4	10	12	5	1	3	2		2
5	3	5	6	7	7			1	2	2
6	4	3	6	17	13			1	1	1
7	32	40	29	33	29	4	4	3	3	4
8	7	8	9	14	12	1	3	1	1	1

9	6	2		2	2					
10	5	4	4	9	4	1				
Unk					9					
Total	81	89	97	131	106					
Avg mtg attend	25	33	30	30	28					

Financial Report

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
FY start cash on hand	\$2800	\$5005	\$5722	\$6234	\$8063
Expenditures	200	218	250	1102	1616
Deposits	1500	935	1052	2641	2459
FY end cash on hand	4500	5722	6524	8063	8906

Expenditures in 2025 were largely for Zoom and the creation of a new website.

Fundraising Objectives for Next Year: we have no special fundraising goals beyond membership dues collection.

Communications Report

ECC issued electronic newsletters to its members approximately once a month. An overhaul to its website is underway. During the first two WSDCC 2025 quarterly meetings ECC maintained an informational table availing engagement with passers by (noted above), and held meetings in designated meeting rooms per WSDCCs posted meeting agendas wherein an open invitation was extended to persons interested in attending. The Environment and Climate Caucus became the Environment and Climate Council by a vote of WSDCC membership. During the final 2025 quarterly meeting in September ECC was offered outreach via an informational table because meeting rooms are now available only to caucuses and not councils.