



## 2018 Legislative Objectives and Principles

1. **Collaborate with legislators and stakeholders to shape energy policy so that it recognizes the value of the Northwest's clean and predominantly carbon-free electricity resources and avoid shifting the costs of carbon pollution mitigation to cooperatives that do not use carbon emitting resources.**
  - Support carbon mitigation policies which do not adversely impact jobs in Washington State or place our businesses at a competitive disadvantage (WRECA Carbon mitigation principles attached).
2. **Renewable Portfolio Standard (RCW 19.285) - allow incremental power generated as a result of efficiency improvements at federal hydro facilities to count towards a utility's RPS requirements.**
  - Oppose increases in RPS standards, or utility inclusion requirements. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's latest power plan concludes that an RPS is the least effective and most costly way to mitigate carbon pollution.
3. **Coordination of Danger Tree Removal Permissions and Liability with the Department of Natural Resources**
  - Utilities must have the right to proactively manage trees that are outside of standard Rights-of-Way or a waiver from liability if access permissions are not granted.
4. **Maintain Cooperative rights to determine safe placement, permitting and rate making for pole attachments**
  - The diversity of density and topography of utility service areas makes it important to maintain a utility's ability to determine the most appropriate placement, rates and the permitting process for pole attachments.
5. **WRECA is a strong advocate for the propagation of rural broadband and realizes the successful build-out must be safe and economically sustainable.**
  - Support legislation that provides funding to make it economically feasible to provide broadband services in rural areas, regardless of the provider. The buildout of rural broadband should be economically viable and sustainable without any subsidy of other cooperative members.
6. **Maintain Electric Cooperatives right to eminent domain**
  - Electric Cooperatives have used this right judiciously over the years and must retain this right to reliably and cost-effectively serve their member/owners.
7. **Retain the state's net metering statute.**
  - The current statute allows Cooperatives to set proper avoided-cost payments once they have met the developmental threshold for distributed generation. Retail net metering, beyond the threshold, results in a cost shift from net-metered generators to non-generating consumers.

### **WRECA Legislative Principles:**

1. Washington electric co-ops, as consumer-owned utilities, are regulated by local boards and are well governed by those who own them. Cooperatives should remain independent of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's jurisdiction. Cooperatives have the highest customer satisfaction in the state.
2. The Legislature must consider the impacts of policy decisions on the energy costs for Washington's rural families and businesses, and maximize the opportunities to utilize Washington's abundant and inexpensive electric energy.
3. WRECA seeks legislative and regulatory provisions that provide small utilities with exemptions or more cost-effective compliance alternatives. We define small utilities as those with two percent or less of the state's total number of electric consumers as reported by the most recent data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).
4. To avoid duplicative and costly regulations that can harm Washington's competitiveness, WRECA prefers a national effort as the best approach to limiting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In lieu of a national solution, any state policy should adhere to the following carbon principles.

### **WRECA Carbon Principles:**

1. Policies and regulations should be complementary, across all sectors, toward achieving the primary goal of carbon reduction, which in turn will promote new renewable resources, energy efficiency, and new energy technologies.
2. Electric system reliability must be the cornerstone of any carbon mitigation policy.
3. The timing and scale of investments in new resources and technologies should be aligned with each utility's needs for resources.
4. State policies should regulate carbon uniformly at the broadest scale possible and be technology neutral while providing compliance flexibility for utilities that pursue cross-sector carbon reductions.
5. State policies should allocate allowances or distribute revenues associated with carbon regulation in a way that fairly allocates costs and distributes benefits to the areas with the most needs and sustainability; specifically, back to utilities for renewable development, beneficial electrification of transportation sector and to rural communities for broadband expansion.