

# Reducing the Carbon Intensity of Transportation



Washington State Department of Transportation developed the **Washington State Transportation Carbon Reduction Strategy (TCRS)** as part of the federal **Carbon Reduction Program** to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The TCRS describes the policies and strategies that are being invested in across the state and builds upon the State Energy Strategy, which identifies two overarching approaches to reducing transportation GHG emissions:



**Move people and goods more efficiently and equitably**



**Electrify vehicles and switch to low-carbon fuels**



West Coast Electric Highway Grand Opening, Bellingham, WSDOT

## Electrify vehicles and switch to low-carbon fuels

Washington's **Clean Fuels Standard**, along with **zero emission vehicles (ZEV) sales requirements**, supported by implementation funding from the **Climate Commitment Act (CCA)** and guided by equity considerations through the **Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act** will transform the State's vehicle fleet over time.

The state's **Transportation Electrification Strategy** recommends policy and program supports for the transition to electric vehicles. At the same time, the **Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)** will ensure that the electricity supply will become cleaner.

Activities around the state include:

- **Light-duty vehicles** are increasingly available and charging infrastructure installation is ramping up.
- Availability of electric **medium- and heavy-duty vehicles** varies depending on use case. Electric transit and schools buses are available now to serve many routes.
- Depending on the route and distance, **rail** may be electrified or use other fuels and technology.
- **Aviation** electrification is a promising alternative for short-haul trips while long-haul trips will likely be better suited for alternative liquid or gaseous fuels.
- Shore power for **marine vessels** is becoming increasingly common as is electrification for short distance vessels, such as ferries. Long-haul vessels may require different types of fuels and technology.

# Reducing the Carbon Intensity of Transportation

## Electrify vehicles and switch to low-carbon fuels

### What you can do

Everyone plays a role in transitioning Washington to a clean and equitable transportation system. All partners must work together, including state agencies, the state legislature, tribes, MPOs and RTPOs, local jurisdictions and agencies, industry partners, community-based organizations, and highly impacted communities.

**TCRS Chapter 2: Statewide Transportation Decarbonization Policy Framework** identifies relevant state policies and programs support improving transportation efficiency, including:

- Setting clear and ambitious statewide targets
- Accelerating the market for battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles
- Advancing clean fuels

**Chapter 3** provides more detail on each of the strategy categories along with examples from around the state of what can be done to make progress toward state GHG emissions limits. This chapter also provides information on current projects using federal **Carbon Reduction Program** funds.

### Strategy Benefits

Transitioning vehicles to electric and, where needed, hydrogen fuel cells, not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also reduces pollutants that adversely affect health. This will be particularly beneficial in communities near major roadways and ports that have historically been overburdened by transportation infrastructure impacts.

For access to resources and to learn about the TCRS, check out the **full TCRS report**.

### For more information

#### Jonathan Olds

Senior Policy Specialist—Climate Change  
[carbonreductionstrategy@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:carbonreductionstrategy@wsdot.wa.gov)  
[wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/statewide-plans/transportation-carbon-reduction-strategy](https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/statewide-plans/transportation-carbon-reduction-strategy)



Washington Water Power building in Spokane, Washington by Clay Elliot on Unsplash