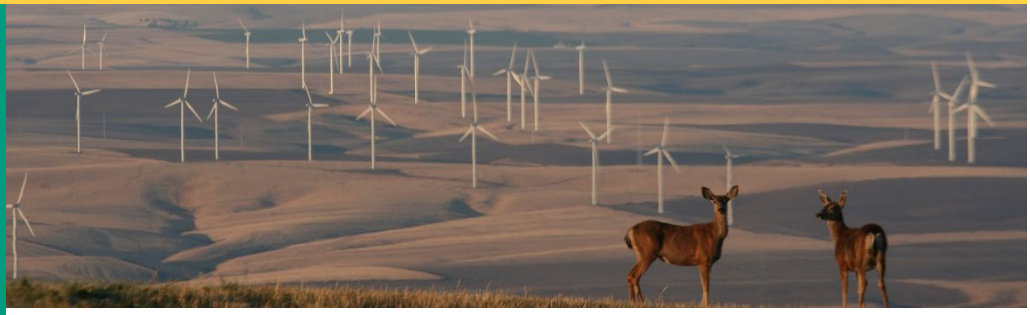
Building a Carbon-Neutral WDFW

Washington Department of FISH & WILDLIFE

2023-25 Funding Request

$1.7 million



A pathway to greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals

WDFW operations produce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from burning fuel in fleet vehicles and equipment; the generation of electricity and burning of natural gas for use in buildings; and burning fuel for employee commuting. The need to reduce GHG emissions is urgent and time sensitive. Continued use of fossil fuels in agency vehicles and facilities will contribute to worsening climate change impacts, additional pollution in marginalized communities, and escalating costs to the state as emissions become more heavily regulated.

Washington has mandated, through legislative action (RCW 70A.45.050), that state agencies reduce GHG emissions 15% by 2020, 45% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 95% by 2050, relative to the recorded 2005 baseline levels.

This package funds the first biennium of WDFW's Sustainability Plan implementation by catalyzing transition of the Department's vehicle fleet to electricity and alternative fuels, advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, creating a Commute Trip Reduction program, and supporting research. This package will reduce the agency's emissions by 29.5% by 2025, putting WDFW on-track to comply with the next required tier of reducing emissions 45% by 2030.

Context	WDFW Budget Requests	Outcomes and Benefits
WDFW Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Decision package is organized into three aspects of WDFW operations	Decision package would reduce emissions from each aspect of WDFW operations
1. **Fleet:** 6,906 metric tons CO_2 in 2022	**1. Low-Emissions Vehicle Fleet | $132,000** ▪ Low-Emissions Fleet Planning ($100k contract)	**1. Fleet: 7% Emissions Reduction by 2025** ▪ 8% of fleet vehicles are converted to electric in 23-25 biennium
2. **Facilities:** 5,932 metric tons CO_2 in 2022	**2. Renewable and Energy-Efficient Facilities | $1,029,000** ▪ Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project Implementation Capacity (1.0 FTE) ▪ Improve Energy Data and Management (0.5 FTE) ▪ Solar Energy Siting Study ($200k contract) ▪ Micro-Hydro Energy Feasibility Study ($200k contract)	**2. Facilities: 1% Emissions Reduction by 2025** ▪ On top of significant reduction due to Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) mandates
3. Other **Operations:** 4,829 metric tons CO_2 in 2019 from employee commuting and hatchery fish digestion	**3. Climate-Friendly Operations | $588,000** ▪ Commute Trip Reduction Program (0.5 FTE + $156k incentive funds) ▪ Hatchery Fish Nitrous Oxide Emissions Research ($50k contract) ▪ Sustainability Plan Implementation and GHG Data Analysis Capacity (0.5 FTE) ▪ Training to Build Staff Climate Capacity ($50k contract)	**3. Commute: 10% Emissions Reduction by 2025** ▪ 7% of employees participate in Commute Trip Reduction Program **Benefits** ▪ 29.5% emissions reduction by 2025 (5.1% from budget request + 24.4% from CETA), putting WDFW on track to meet the next RCW limit of reducing emissions 45% by 2030 ▪ Decreased fossil fuel pollution harming fish, wildlife, and human communities
Principles	▪ **RCW Requirements** | Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 95% by 2050. ▪ **Equity & Justice** | Decrease fossil fuel pollution and climate change impacts that disproportionately harm low-income communities and communities of color.	

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Low emissions vehicle fleet

WDFW's fleet of 1,500 vehicles, 800 boats, and hundreds of pieces of equipment is the agency's largest source of emissions. This package reduces fleet emissions by catalyzing the transition to electricity and alternative fuels for vehicles, boats, and equipment. This package would fund a contract to research and plan for the transition to a low emissions fleet by addressing current and upcoming technologies that could meet operational demands such as electric trucks, renewable diesel, infrastructure needs; costs; maintenance; and policy questions such as impacts on employee workflows. Together, these items are projected to reduce fleet emissions 7% by 2025 by enabling WDFW to convert 45% of vehicles to electric over the next 11 years, including 8% of vehicles during the 2023-25 biennium.

Renewable and energy-efficient facilities

WDFW's 850 facilities, comprising nearly two million square feet, are the agency's second largest source of emissions. This package would fund two contracts to assess the feasibility and optimal siting of solar and micro-hydropower energy systems at WDFW facilities. These items are complemented by a capital budget request to implement energy efficiency improvements at WDFW facilities. Together, these items are projected to reduce facilities emissions 1% by 2025. This is on top of substantial reductions expected due to Clean Energy Transformation Act mandates.

Climate-friendly operations

WDFW's Sustainability Plan also developed emissions estimates and reduction strategies for additional agency activities that are not mandated under Washington law. First, hatchery fish produce nitrous oxide emissions as part of their natural digestive process. These emissions were estimated at approximately 1,900 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2019. This package includes contract funds to research options to measure and reduce nitrous oxide emissions from hatchery fish.

In addition, employee commuting and business travel is a significant source of emissions, estimated at 2,929 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2019. This package supports incentive funds to create and administer a Commute Trip Reduction program that encourages commuting via bike, walking, transit, vanpool, and carpool, in line with similar programs at other state agencies. These items are projected to reduce employee commuting emissions 10% by 2025.