A new vision for Washington: Funding real solutions for our environment

OVERVIEW
The Climate Commitment Act (CCA) passed by a Democratic majority in 2021 creates new funding from energy producers to reduce Washington state’s carbon emissions. The new law puts a “price” on carbon emissions. The rules to implement it are expected to be in place by Jan. 1, 2023. The CCA is expected to raise $4 billion for the state over 10 years.

*Democrat plan won’t protect Washington from climate impacts*
Under the Democrats’ plan, the $4 billion energy tax will be directed into special accounts to be used for loosely defined purposes to be named later. Fully 76% of funds under the Democrat plan go to non-highway transportation spending that has not been identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Distribution</th>
<th>Estimated Auction Revenue</th>
<th>Carbon Emissions Reduction Account</th>
<th>Climate Investment Account</th>
<th>Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement Account</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76% of Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>10-Year Total</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$4,426,199,434</td>
<td>$3,364,415,000</td>
<td>$951,785,434</td>
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**Republican ORCA Plan:**
**Invest in Outdoor Recreation and Climate Adaptation**
The focus for state environmental policy should turn from how to reduce carbon emissions—we now have a price on carbon emissions—to the question of climate adaptation policy. How do we make Washington secure against climate impacts that we experience today and can expect to continue due to global carbon emissions, regardless of how well Washington controls its own emissions? Republicans believe now is the time make sure CCA money is wisely spent to protect Washington’s environment and to dramatically improve outdoor recreation opportunities.

The ORCA Plan would use incoming CCA dollars for tangible Outdoor Recreation benefits and smart investments in Climate Adaptation to promote healthier forests, a cleaner Puget Sound, and resilience to drought and flood risks.
OUTDOOR RECREATION

The problem: Our state parks are in terrible shape with no leadership for growth and a huge maintenance backlog, even as demand is growing. Since 1990, we have added just 28 campsites while adding 2.7 million new residents. State Park fees are making camping unaffordable.

The ORCA solution: Invest CCA dollars to eliminate the $425 million maintenance backlog, build new parks and playgrounds, expand recreational trails to connect communities, eliminate the $30 annual Discover Pass, and lower other recreation fees.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The Republican ORCA Plan would meaningfully fund climate adaptation and a healthier environment, using CCA auction proceeds to help the natural environment endure amidst climate impacts. ORCA would address forest health, drought, floods, and Puget Sound recovery.

FOREST HEALTH

The problem: Washington has 2.7 million acres of unhealthy forest and a forest health action plan that has no dedicated funding source.

The ORCA solution: Use CCA auction revenue to fully fund the state forest health action plan and assist small private forest landowners. Invest in communities that support the wood products industry to maintain healthy forests for future generations. This will reduce carbon emissions from wildfire and increase carbon sequestering capacity.

PUGET SOUND RESTORATION

The problem: Puget Sound is unhealthy. Decades of effort and funding have produced little progress toward benchmarks for recovery. Major municipal wastewater treatment plants leak millions of gallons of untreated sewage. Upgrading pollution controls is costly.

The ORCA solution: Use CCA dollars to upgrade public sewage treatment facilities and provide grants for boatyard pollution controls. Clarify roles and responsibilities for Puget Sound recovery among state agencies.

DROUGHT RESILIENCY

The problem: Increased risk of drought from climate change is a direct threat to crops and livestock, and Washington’s agricultural jobs.

The ORCA solution: Set aside CCA dollars for projects that secure a sustainable water supply, and which can be used to leverage federal funding.

FLOOD MITIGATION

The problem: Climate change will result in heavier rainfall events, and earlier, more rapid snowmelt. Floods bring tragic loss of life and disruption to communities.

The ORCA solution: Fund the strategies developed by existing flood authorities to reduce flood damage and improve aquatic habitat in areas most likely to flood.