

07 – Energy and the Environment

We must strive to be responsible stewards of the environment, our communities, and our planet. All people, including future generations, have the right to clean air, water, and a healthy natural environment.

We believe:

- Both our economic stability and the health of our environment depend on sound policy decisions incorporating the best scientific evidence;
- Sustainable energy production and strong environmental protections strengthen our economy and our country.
- Public discussion and education should occur at all levels of community and government about how and why to reduce resource and energy consumption;
- Policies must promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed protection, and restoration of wild salmon and endangered species;
- Managing public lands as a public trust benefits us all;
- Washington State should lead international efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change.

We call for:

- Research and program funding to develop and implement safe, clean alternative energy solutions and to encourage resource conservation.
- Creative mechanisms and incentives to consumers and businesses to encourage energy conservation and use of renewable and environmentally responsible energy, including widespread research, development, and use of energy efficient and renewable sources of power including solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and other distributed technologies;
- Permitting expansion of nuclear power only when our environment is protected and when safe, long-term waste management can be guaranteed;
- The Tri-Party Agreement and other efforts of Washington State to ensure that Hanford Site clean-up is finished and the Columbia River's water quality is protected from the Hanford Site's contamination;
- Conserving resources and promoting sustainability through recycling and waste reduction efforts;
- Limiting urban sprawl and preserving farmland, wildlife habitat, and natural resources as essential to our economic and environmental well-being;
- Protecting our critical environmental areas, including wilderness areas, old growth forests, wildlife habitat areas and corridors, wetlands, streams, riparian areas, the Columbia River, Puget Sound, coastlines, and oceans, through vigilant monitoring and planned growth management;

- 42 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting oil and mineral
43 exploration and extraction in such areas;
- 44 • Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by prohibiting waste disposal,
45 storage or treatment in such areas;
- 46 • Restriction of offshore well drilling for petroleum;
- 47 • The immediate revision of the 1872 Mining Act to end exploration and
48 extraction in environmentally sensitive public lands and provide
49 compensation to the public for resources that they own;
- 50 • Promoting development of a solar roof program to supply electricity to the
51 power grid;
- 52 • Utilizing biomass conversion, including the implementation of new
53 renewable energy technologies to convert bio-based materials, farm products
54 and byproducts into biofuel.