

## Resolution on Climate Change

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3 **WHEREAS** there is scientific consensus that increased concentrations of greenhouse gases  
4 including carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels are raising the  
5 mean global temperature and increasing the acidity of the oceans;

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7 **WHEREAS** this scientific consensus is documented in the 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of the  
8 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and endorsed by signatory countries to the  
9 United Nations Framework on Climate Change, including the United States of America;

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11 **WHEREAS** the projected impacts of climate change pose real and imminent threats to the  
12 health, welfare, and security of Washington State, the nation, and the world, including  
13 disruptions in world food and water supplies, rapid sea level rise, accelerating melting of  
14 land and sea ice masses, increasing likelihood of extreme weather events, increasing  
15 wildfires, increasing insect and pathogen disease threats, and increasingly likelihood of  
16 extinction for many plant and animal species;

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18 **WHEREAS** such threats must be treated as urgent crises and a top priority by the next U.S.  
19 President and our elected federal and state representatives;

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21 **WHEREAS** over-use of fossil fuels contributes to climate change, pollutes the air, damages  
22 our health, threatens our economic well-being, and reduces our national security;

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24 **WHEREAS** the window of opportunity to forestall climate chaos is rapidly closing;

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26 **WHEREAS** the potential for global climate disruption threatens to undermine our ability to  
27 achieve critical Democratic Party goals including economic prosperity, national security,  
28 social justice, and a healthy environment; and

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30 **WHEREAS** new, existing, and developing technologies and industries can create clean,  
31 renewable sources of energy and achieve energy conservation and efficiency and, in turn,  
32 decrease greenhouse gas emissions while providing new economic opportunities and jobs;

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34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party calls upon our  
35 Governor, our Senators, our Congressmen, and our State Legislature to create, support, and  
36 enact climate change and energy policies on the federal, state, and local levels to combat  
37 climate change that include:

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- 39 • Ratifying the Kyoto Protocol and adopting more stringent goals to reduce greenhouse  
40 gas emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by the years 2020, and by at least 80%  
41 below 1990 levels by year 2050;
  - 42 • Enacting the New Apollo Energy Act of 2007, which will revise this nation's energy  
43 policies and greatly increase investment in energy technology research and  
44 development with a goal of making solar, wind, wave, tidal and other "green" power,  
45 including conservation, viable energy sources;
  - 46 • Instituting carbon pricing with full revenue recycling, both to enhance efficiency and to  
47 offset regressive impacts on lower-income people and small businesses;

- 48 • Creating a federal tax credit for the installation of residential and commercial energy-  
49 efficient systems including drain water heat exchangers, solar hot water heating  
50 systems, and ground source heat pumps;  
51 • Increasing fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles and encouraging alternative fuel  
52 technologies such as plug-in-hybrids;  
53 • Development of alternative transport systems such as bike paths and mass transit  
54 options;  
55 • Investing in New Deal-like work projects that create green collar jobs, including a  
56 Clean Energy Corps to increase energy efficiency in buildings by 20% by 2015;  
57 • Protecting and preserving wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species  
58 including acting vigorously to halt deforestation and other activities that threaten  
59 biodiversity; and  
60 • Providing global leadership by helping developing nations find pathways out of  
61 poverty using clean technologies developed here and around the world.  
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64 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
65 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/21/2008)

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67 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A  
68 PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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70 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14, 2008  
71 meeting in Spokane.

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