



«Title» «Last_Name»,

The deadline for the Conservation Works campaign sign on letter is **today at 5pm** so I wanted to bump this email from Danielle to make sure you have the opportunity to sign on or ask us questions if you need more information.

We have a local leader [sign-on letter](#) opportunity for our Conservation Works campaign! See more details below and click [HERE](#) to sign-on.

Best,
Emily

Local Leaders,

This is our third in a series of emails to elevate some core issues we've been working on.

Let's talk about state budgets. Budgets are moral documents that reflect our shared values and priorities.

There is 20 days left in the 2021 legislative session, and the operating and capital budget proposals from the House and Senate were dropped a little over a week ago (check out [HB 1094](#), [HB 1080](#), [SB 5092](#), [SB 5083](#) for all the details).

Every biennium, we advocate for strong environmental investments and protections in the state budgets – everything from salmon recovery to clean energy to toxic clean-ups to forest health. This year was no exception.

Through our [Conservation Works](#) campaign, the environmental community is advocating around a few key themes:

OPERATING BUDGET

CAPITAL BUDGET

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fair and equitable revenue 2. Use dedicated funding sources for their intended purposes 3. Protect natural resource agencies to keep work on track 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean Water & Green Infrastructure 2. Rural Communities 3. Climate & Clean Energy
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So, let's talk about what we're seeing in these proposed budgets.

What in the 2021-23 Operating & Capital Budget Proposals?

With revenue projections on the rise and an influx of federal stimulus funding, these budget proposals are some of the biggest and boldest we've seen. This is great news. Washingtonians could use a boost right now. There are incredible investments in housing, mental health, early learning, the list goes on...

One thing to elevate for you all is funding for local governments around the Growth Management Act in the operating budget proposals. We're actively working on policy and funding related to GMA and are strong advocates for any updates to the GMA to require financial support for local communities:

2021-23 Operating Budget Proposals				
ITEM	AGENCY	SENATE	HOUSE	CONSERVATION WORKS POSITION
GMA & Climate Grants (HB 1099)	Commerce	---	\$3,475,000	Support House
GMA & Salmon Grants (HB 1117)	Commerce	---	\$11,670,000	Support House
City Grants (sect. 763)	OFM	---	\$58,000,000	Support House
County Grants (sec. 764)	OFM	---	\$86,000,000	Support House

Now let's dig into some of the environmental priorities in the proposed capital budgets with a specific nexus to local governments:

2021-23 Capital Budget Proposals				
ITEM	AGENCY	SENATE	HOUSE	CONSERVATION WORKS POSITION
Puget Sound Nutrient / Wastewater Grants	Ecology	\$9M	\$4.5M	Support Senate

Estuary Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)	RCO	\$20M	\$8.094M	Support Senate
Floodplains by Design	Ecology	\$50.908M	\$50.908M	Support Both
Coastal Restoration Initiative	RCO	\$15M	\$10.313M	Support Senate
Community Forest Grants	RCO	\$16.3M	\$9.713M	Support Senate
Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings Grants	Commerce	\$10M	\$12.957M	Support House
Weatherization Plus Health	Commerce	\$5M	\$15M	Support House
Outdoor Recreation Equity Grants	RCO	\$0	\$5M	Support House

Another highlight from the proposed capital budgets is funding for reducing toxic pollution also known as the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):

2021-23 Capital Budget Proposals				
ITEM	AGENCY	SENATE	HOUSE	CONSERVATION WORKS POSITION
Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP)	Ecology	\$75M	\$75M	Support Both
Remedial Action Grants (RAGs)	Ecology	\$71.2M	\$70.9M	Support Senate
Healthy Housing Program	Ecology	\$10.2M	\$10.9M	Support House

Why this matters for your community?

The operating budget is where many environmental safeguards are kept in motion – through technical assistance, staff support, monitoring, and enforcement. People in every community across the state benefit first hand through clean water, clean air, recreation, and habitat for species.

The capital budget is an opportunity for win-win projects that create jobs, support communities, and improve our environment and public health. For example, wastewater investments now will improve climate resilience from heavier rain events, protect fish and shellfish, and prepare our communities for population growth.

These budgets are funding on the ground work across the state, and much of the funding highlighted above is going directly to local governments.

Local Leadership Opportunities

1. *Join Our Sign-on Letter!*

Do you support our [Conservation Works](#) campaign? We've crafted a [local leader sign-on letter](#) elevating those specific environmental capital budget priorities with a clear local government nexus. If you'd like to sign-on, please fill out this 30-second form [HERE](#). We'll make sure the capital budget writers hear from you!

Deadline: Wednesday, April 7th by 5pm

2. *Contact Your Legislators Directly*

Contact your legislators now to remind them that the environment is an important funding priority as they work to negotiate the final budgets by the end of legislative session on April 25th.

3. *Tap into State Funding Resources*

We've created a funding and financing tool to assess potential resources for protecting communities' ecosystems and clean water: <https://wecprotects.org/funding-financing-tool/>

We have also helped to shepherd two programs that are always looking for new applicants: RCO's [Community Forest Program](#) and ECY's [Stormwater Financial Assistance Program](#) (SFAP). Let us know if you have an interest in either of these programs. We'd love to help you through that application process.

Staff Spotlight: Darcy Nonemacher



Darcy is the state budget lead on our staff and for the Environmental Priorities Coalition. She is also the Government Affairs Director for Washington Conservation Voters and Washington Environmental Council.

Darcy provides deep budget analysis, strategy development, and lobbying capacity to support good environmental outcomes in our state budgets each legislative session.

Contact Information: darcy@wcvoters.org // 206.631.2603

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We'll continue to share information and resources on critical issues. Let us know what else we can do to be a resource for environmental progress in your community.

Best,

Danielle & Emily

P.S. If you want to talk transportation budgets, that is a whole other ball game. Check out the environmental community's [Clean & Just Transportation](#) campaign for more information on how we work in that budget space. Or contact Clifford Traisman, our lead lobbyist on transportation issues at clifford@wcvoters.org

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