

Net Zero Futures.

States and regions leading
the way on net zero:
Washington State



Country:

United States

Net zero target year:

2050

Key legislation:

2021 State Energy Strategy

Approach to net zero:

targeted sector
decarbonization, financed by
a cap-and-trade program





Washington State



Washington State's **2021 Energy Strategy** to reach net zero by 2050 was informed by targets outlined in the 2019 Clean Energy Transformation Act.

Together with a 27-member advisory committee and external consultants, Washington developed deep decarbonization pathway models that explored the emissions reduction potential of: electrification, gas in buildings, transport fuels, constrained resources and behaviour change. The models helped guide the development of recommendations in each sector.

Washington is financing its net zero vision using a cap-and-trade-program. These programs must be used primarily for projects that benefit people in overburdened communities. Electric utilities also play a significant role in financing the transformation, through direct investments in renewable-generating resources, transmission, and grid modernization and through financial incentives to their customers. Washington also uses taxpayer funds to support innovative programs intended to accelerate clean energy projects in the state.

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Challenges to net zero

- Washington faced challenges in changing The Legislature to update state-wide emissions limits in response to current science standards.
- Managing the different stakeholder groups in the development of the deep decarbonization pathway models was a mammoth task. In particular, getting the 27-member advisory committee to understand each of the modelling outcomes was a challenge.

Learn more about states, regions and net zero

Net Zero Futures is an initiative spearheaded by the Scottish Government, in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Climate Group.

The Under2 Coalition is an official partner of the Race to Zero campaign. For more information on how to join, please [click here](#).

