



— WASHINGTON GOVERNOR —

JAY INSLEE

POLICY BRIEF

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NEW STATE LAW WILL PHASE DOWN HFC SUPER-POLLUTANTS

Hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, are greenhouse gases that can be thousands of times more damaging to the climate than carbon dioxide. Phasing down the use of these super-pollutants and replacing them with climate-safe alternatives will contribute significantly to efforts to reach our state's greenhouse gas emission limits. With our new super-pollutants law, Washington will become the second state in the country to implement a comprehensive policy to address these emissions.



Greenhouse gas emissions from HFCs are one of the most rapidly growing sources in our state and the country. Annual emissions of these super-pollutants in Washington — found in some aerosols, refrigeration, heat pumps and air conditioning systems — equal the amount of climate pollution from more than 1 million cars on our roads.



With its new super-pollutants law (HB 1112), Washington will become the second state in the country (after California) to adopt comprehensive legislation to target emissions from HFCs. Under the policy, existing equipment is unaffected. Starting in 2020, with a series of deadlines for different equipment categories (e.g., commercial refrigeration), newly manufactured equipment must be limited to that using climate-safe alternatives. This targeted approach will phase down emissions over time.



The international community and American business leaders have recognized greenhouse gas pollution from HFCs as a serious threat and the transition to climate-safe alternatives as a major economic opportunity. In 2016, world leaders agreed to a global phase-down of HFCs through the landmark Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. In the same year, the federal Environmental Protection Agency adopted rules to curtail use of HFCs across the country.

Action to address HFC emissions will have real and positive effects for U.S. manufacturing. Industry research has found that a national phase-down of HFCs could increase U.S. exports by \$5 billion annually and create more than 30,000 new domestic manufacturing jobs and more than 100,000 nonmanufacturing jobs.

Though a large industry consortium supports the phase-down, a court ruling overturned the relevant EPA rule, and the Trump administration is pursuing neither a ratification of the Kigali Amendment nor regulatory action to confront the problem. In June 2018, Washington joined nine other states and Washington, D.C., in a lawsuit to protect the EPA's rule to curtail HFC emissions.

The U.S. Climate Alliance, a 24-state coalition co-chaired by Gov. Jay Inslee, has launched an effort to address HFC emissions through a consistent, multi-state framework, modeled on the now-inactive federal policy framework under the Significant New Alternatives Program.

The governors of several other states have pledged to address HFC emissions, and other U.S. Climate Alliance states will continue to act.

This package of legislation is the state's biggest step yet toward reaching the greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed to reach **2035** statutory limits

