



# Ambassador Update

The Washington State Legislature has passed the half-way point for the 2010 60-day session. So far there have been a few bills that are considered “dead” for session as they did not make the cut-off point for passage out of the house of origin. There’s still a lot of work to be done to balance the budget before session adjourns on March 11.

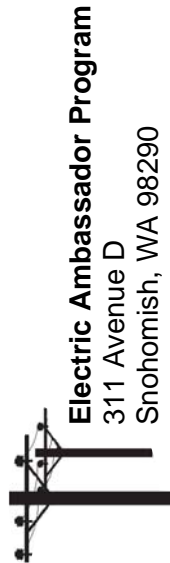


Faced with a \$2.6 billion budget deficit there has been much tension this session as legislators discuss services to cut and options to bring in revenue. One bill, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6130, would make it easier for tax increases to pass with a simple majority of the vote, temporarily suspending a voter initiative that passed in 2007.

Read more inside about the energy-related bills that the Electric Ambassador program and the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association (WRECA) are following closely.

Thank you for your continued support to help keep power reliable and affordable in Washington State! If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@electricambassadors.com](mailto:info@electricambassadors.com).

Presorted Standard  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Snohomish, WA  
Permit No. 667



**Electric Ambassador Program**  
311 Avenue D  
Snohomish, WA 98290

Sign up to receive future  
Electric Ambassador  
mailings via e-mail at  
[www.electricambassadors.com](http://www.electricambassadors.com)

Volume 12  
Issue 3  
February  
2010

**AMBASSADOR  
UPDATE**



**Live  
From  
Olympia**

### *In this issue:*

- GHG Reporting
- Virtual Net Metering?!?
- A Big “Thank You!”
- Boosting Solar
- No Input? No Way.
- R.I.P.
- Please send E-mail!

# What's happening at the state capitol?

February 16 was the first big cutoff day in the 2010 Legislative Session. The next cut-off will be on Friday, March 5, which is the last day to consider bills that have passed into the opposite house.

## GHG Reporting

**Senate Bill (SB) 6373** would revise the state's greenhouse gas reporting requirements to more closely align with the federal standards. It passed the Senate before the first cut-off and is now scheduled for hearing in the House Ecology & Parks Committee.

## Virtual Net Metering?!?

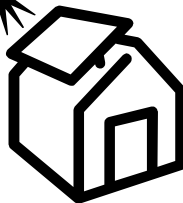
Despite efforts to defeat **House Bill (HB) 2471**, it passed on February 15 and now its fate is in the hands of the Senate Environment, Water and Energy committee. The version of the bill that passed increases the size of net metered generators to 199 kW. A substitution that was added after the hearing in the House includes a "virtual" net metering provision. It's not clear how this would work and it hasn't been through the public hearing process yet. WRECA remains opposed to the bill as the cost for the incentives would be born by the cooperatives' members.



## A Big "Thank You!"

Right before the first cut-off the Electric Ambassador program contacted its Peninsula Light Co. grassroots via e-mail to alert them about **HB 2471** going to a floor vote. Thank you to all the Ambassadors who responded so quickly, reaching out their representatives. Unfortunately the bill moved forward, but your representatives know where you stand and heard you all!! If this bill moves through the Senate, it could happen quickly and we may be contacting you again - stay tuned!

## Boosting Solar



**SB 6658** would modify the eligibility of community solar projects with a maximum instantaneous output of 100 kW of electricity or less for cost recovery incentives. Utility-owned community solar

projects are not subject to the 100 kW limitation. WRECA supports this bill that will increase the incentives available for investment in community solar projects. After passing through the Senate it was referred to the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee.

## No Input? No way.

Both the Senate and the House passed versions of the same bill that would revise the

state's energy strategy. WRECA's concern with these bills is that the Department of Commerce would be granted this authority without having to get input from industry stakeholders, or the Legislature!

**SB 6515** has been referred to the House Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee. **HB 2658** sits in the Senate Economic Development, Trade and Innovation committee.

## R.I.P.

Three bills that WRECA was following this year died in committee at the first cut-off:



**HB 2536** would have established feed-in tariffs for certain renewable energy.

**HB 3034 and SB 6672** would have revised the current Renewable Portfolio Standards statute.

## Please Send E-mail!

Bills move fast in Olympia, so we need to reach you quickly to contact state legislators. Please send your e-mail address, name and electric co-op to [info@electricambassadors.com](mailto:info@electricambassadors.com) to help us be more effective in Olympia, and save money on printing and postage, as well!