



November 2017

Welcome to the 8th Annual Washington's Energy Future Conference!

We are in an age of acceleration. Everything is moving faster – technology, globalization, and climate change. With current federal proposals to roll back the Clean Power Plan and withdraw from the Paris agreement, state and local action to combat climate change is more urgent and important than ever.

Planning for our energy future is fundamental to our quality of life and our economy. Safeguarding the incredible natural resources we have here in the Pacific Northwest is an obligation and an enormous opportunity. We are taking big strides here, including:

- Our first-in-the-nation Clean Air Rule
- Our Clean Energy Fund has invested \$76 million in grid modernization, energy efficiency, renewables and research and development Washington state since 2013
- Electric vehicles adoption - from 8,000 in 2013 to 25,000 today with a target of 50,000 by 2020
- EV charging stations are increasing and we're exploring electric ferries
- We're actively reducing emissions from all of our state operations

I'm proud that we play prominent roles in regional, national and global partnerships on climate change and clean technology development. I co-founded the now 15-member US Climate Alliance of governors. Through the Pacific Coast Collaborative with our partner states and British Columbia, we have helped the west coast's clean energy economy grow twice as fast as the rest of the nation. At the next round of global climate talks this month, COP 23 in Bonn, Germany, Washington state has an unprecedented opportunity to showcase our companies and universities, and educate the global community about the importance of subnational leadership.

Now in its 8th year, this Energy Future Conference presented by the Northwest Environmental Business Council and our state Department of Commerce has earned a reputation as one of the most important annual gatherings of leaders from the energy industry, policymakers and economic development professionals.

You are inventing our low-carbon economy, attracting private capital investment from around the globe by envisioning and building the state's clean energy sector, and the world's clean energy future.

Together, we are helping *this* Washington lead the new revolution in grid technology, transportation and clean fuels that will allow people to reduce their climate impact while enriching their quality of life.

Thank you for your leadership and your partnership! I look forward to seeing what exciting advances and achievements come out of this year's conference.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

