

Winter Magazine 2019

Washington Wire by Lea McCullough

The Puget Sound Clear Air Agency, which governs a four-county region including King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties, announced in the fall their intent to create a Clean Fuel Standard for our region. In November of 2018, Washington State voters rejected a statewide clean fuel standard which was strongly backed and spearheaded by Governor Jay Inslee. In response to that rejection, the PSCAA is trying to implement their own as a stepping stone to that end. More of a back door ruse than anything.

According to PSCAA, “A Clean Fuel Standard reduces greenhouse gas pollution from transportation through a system of deficit and credit trading that requires transportation fuels to become cleaner over time.” Seems as if the common-sense bus has officially left the state.

The draft rule proposes a standard that reduces the carbon intensity of the region’s transportation fuels by 25% by 2030. For a brief summary of the draft rule, you can go to pscleanair.org.

PSCAA is offering a 90-day comment period on the draft rule, and a public hearing on December 19, 2019 (conveniently close to the holidays) at the WA State Convention Center. Our fearless friend and WOMA Board Member, Dan Averill of Reisner Distributors, has agreed to be our industry voice and share his concerns, data, and public comments. David Ducharme, WOMA’s Lobbyist, will also be in attendance and has joined forces in a coalition against another carbonless idea for Washington State.

If you would like to be involved, please email Lea McCullough at lea@waoil.org, for inclusion into the strategic planning to fight this effort.

And if you have not already heard, the City of Seattle has passed a new Heating Oil Tax in an effort to “combat climate change by encouraging residents to move quicker to clean heating systems,” according to Mayor Jenny Durkan. The tax of 24 cents per gallon will be collected starting September 1, 2020 and the city expects it to raise to \$1.6M in 2021.

Here is the kicker ... The tax goes into a fund to help you convert your heating oil system to electric heat pump, effectively taking customers from small heating oil dealers, and making them customers of Seattle City Light – a electric utility owned and operated by City of Seattle! WHAT???

The Heating Oil Dealers fought back valiantly during this quick and dirty process of the Seattle City Council, who in less than 3 meetings proposed, heard, and passed the ruling into law. It’s a preposterous process of climate-driven agenda using fact-less data.

Residential customers of heating oil will be forced to decommission their heating oil tank and convert to a new source of energy – and the tax will incentivize them to move to electric heat pump. Converting to an electric heat pump system now typically costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and the tax generated is expected to help 3,000 households with rebates and grants to convert entirely. However, likely any individual grant would not be more than \$1,000, so the resident of Seattle is effectively being MANDATED to change their heating system and do so with funds out of pocket. All for the notion that carbon emission is our entire problem. Maybe the Council should do something about the dreadful homeless population and dirty streets due to an ever-growing drug epidemic.

WOMA Suspends Holiday Party for 2019

The WOMA Board has been taking strong steps towards getting a more balanced and sustainable budget moving forward. Traditionally, the Holiday Party costs WOMA’s bottom line about \$12-\$15,000 annually, and that is money we would rather target on legislative events and concerns. Therefore, we will be cancelling the Holiday Party, with hopes to rekindle the tradition in 2020. Please email Lea if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE:

The WOMA Convention will be held on **JUNE 22-25, 2020** at Suncadia Lodge and Resort. We are pleased to offer the same schedule and format as this year, as it was a major hit and did so well. If you would like to be a sponsor of this amazing event, please get your sponsorship in early and secure exactly what you want – and how you want to be recognized in 2020! It will be a super event!