



ASWWU County Agenda

Environmental Stewardship & Green Jobs

ASWWU recognizes the people of Whatcom County and our environment are interconnected; each depends on each other for long-term success. As Whatcom County becomes more populated and our economy grows, we must innovate solutions for an economy that is compatible with our planet's climate and health. We must transition off of fossil fuels and foster a just transition to renewable energy, creating well-paying, safe jobs and revitalization of impacted communities. In addition, our prosperity depends on protecting safe and clean drinking water, farmland, salmon and the people who depend on them, and honoring the highest law of the land, treaties with tribal nations.

ASWWU Urges Policymakers to:

- Continue the moratorium against future fossil fuel export projects indefinitely. With a new federal administration that has made removing environmental protections a priority, we need strong local protections for the people of Whatcom County. The safety of our rails, water, air, and climate can't be compromised. We thank the Council for their work on this issue so far and urge you to keep our community safe using local tools like the comprehensive plan and its subsequent land use regulations.
- Shorten the timeline for meeting the Lake Whatcom Water Quality Project (TMDL) water quality improvement plan to reduce phosphorus and fecal coliform in the Lake. The investments in protecting our drinking water will reduce the cost of water purification and save taxpayer dollars in the long run. Clean drinking water is a must for the residents of Whatcom County.
- Provide economic incentives to grow our local solar companies and other emergent clean technologies in Whatcom County that provide family-wage green jobs.
- Reduce the number of housing units planned in rural areas to prevent overdrawing aquifers connected to the river or needed for other uses like agriculture. Preserving farmland, protecting salmon and treaty rights, and improving water quality are all higher priorities than making money off of sprawling development.
- Support the Nooksack Wild and Scenic designation to promote stewardship of our local rivers.