


PANEL DISCUSSION

When: Tuesday, Oct. 23, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Where: Prospect Congregational United Church of Christ,
1919 E Prospect St. Seattle, WA 98112

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A TAX ON

Groceries

INITIATIVE 1631

would enact a carbon emissions fee on large emitters. The fee would be \$15 per metric ton of carbon beginning on Jan. 1, 2020, and would increase by \$2 per metric ton each year until the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals of 2035 are met and the 2050 goals were on track to be met. Revenue from the fee would go into three funds:

1. A fund for air quality and energy programs and projects
2. A fund for water quality and forest health projects
3. A fund for investments related to communities.

[1][2] Under Washington State law, this measure is a fee and not a tax because the revenue cannot be spent on government expenses or public program, but rather is dedicated to specific accounts related to investing in climate and environmental projects.

INITIATIVE 1634

would prohibit local government entities from imposing any new tax, fee, or other assessment on grocery items. It would not prevent the state from imposing taxes on groceries. Grocery items are defined in this measure as "any raw or processed food or beverage, or any ingredient thereof, intended for human consumption."

Groceries include but are not limited to meat, produce, grains, dairy, seasonings, and condiments. **Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and marijuana products do not qualify as grocery items and would not be protected from new taxes by this measure.**

The measure would prohibit any existing taxes, fees, or assessments from being increased after Jan. 15, 2018.