

Olympia Physicians Climate Task Force

Science evolves and policy must evolve with the science. The administration has made its methane pledge, and Washington needs to do its part. DOE has failed to consider the impacts of climate change in authorizing CAFO discharge into our waterways.

Manure lagoons contribute to global warming. Storing manure in lagoons produces methane, a GHG far more potent than CO₂. Washington State sends over a million metric tons of GHG CO₂ equivalent into the atmosphere every year from manure lagoons. When cows are kept on pasture, this does not happen. We sympathize with farmers who followed the best available advice when they built lagoons years ago. They were told, and they believed, that lagoons would protect the environment. Now, we know that the side effects are huge, and we wish to see farmers assisted in transitioning away from this practice.