



Focus on

Public Participation Grants

from Ecology's Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

What do Public Participation Grants do?

Public Participation Grants provide funding to community groups to help the public be involved in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties, and that help develop and implement programs that promote or improve state or local solid or hazardous waste management plans.

Public Participation Grants help Washington residents:

- Identify the causes, sources, and effects of pollution.
- Become aware of how their activities affect the environment.
- Adopt responsible practices in their homes, schools, and businesses to prevent, reduce, or clean up pollution.
- Encourage the practical and responsible reuse of materials currently going to disposal sites as waste.
- Provide informed feedback during public comment periods on site cleanup plans.

Here are some examples of grant projects: community oversight of the Hanford, Duwamish and Spokane River cleanups, renewable energy fairs, information for homeowners about the dangers of pesticides and hazardous household products, translation of environmental information into multiple languages, computer take back programs, recycling events, and community composting projects.

For a complete list of projects funded since the program began, see the public Participation Grant Guidelines, Ecology publication #04-07-013. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0407013.html>

How Much Grant Money is Available?

Since 1989, Ecology has given almost \$6.5 million in Public Participation Grants to support the work of community groups. Based upon current revenue forecasts, an estimated \$1.8 million should be available for the 2007-09 funding cycle. This is a significant increase over historic funding levels for this program. It provides an opportunity for Ecology to increase public involvement efforts for some high profile or high priority environmental issues without adversely impacting the availability of funding for other ongoing projects.

Grant awards can range from \$1,000 to \$60,000 per fiscal year or up to \$120,000 per biennium. There is no requirement for matching funds. However, if grant requests exceed available funding, you may be offered a grant that will only partially fund your project.

What kinds of projects are a priority to Ecology for 2007-2009?

Ecology continues to place a priority on projects that involve opportunities for diverse community groups, including those who are economically disadvantaged or do not speak English as their first language, to learn about and be involved in creating and carrying out solutions to the state's environmental problems.

Some specific high profile or high priority projects Ecology is working on are:

- Puget Sound protection
- Commencement Bay, Duwamish River and Spokane River Cleanups
- Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) cleanup and prevention
 - Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) - and other flame retardants
 - Lead
 - Mercury
- The state's newly revised Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan implementation (known as the Beyond Waste Plan) <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>
 - Raising awareness, knowledge and demand for green building materials and services
 - Reducing exposures to toxins in our homes and environment (including paints, pesticides and other chemicals)
 - Increasing the recovery of commercial and residential organic material (construction debris, food and yard waste) and creating the infrastructure to manage these resources (composting)
 - Researching and promoting environmentally preferred products and services (includes green building)
 - Developing recycling and product stewardship infrastructures (electronics recycling)

Can I get a Public Participation Grant?

Grants are given to not-for-profit public-interest organizations or to groups of three or more unrelated individuals. These include:

- Environmental coalitions
- Community clubs
- Environmental-education groups
- Neighborhood associations
- Business and trade associations
- Labor or worker-health/safety organizations
- Citizens who live in the path of potential contamination from hazardous-waste cleanup sites
- Ethnic or minority societies
- Outdoor enthusiasts
- Professional or fraternal societies and service clubs

What project costs can be paid for with grant money?

A grant may pay for technical experts who help people understand hazardous-waste site cleanup issues. It can cover the costs of helping develop or implement programs consistent with the state's solid or hazardous waste management plans, holding meetings, workshops and other events that inform people and motivate them to change their behavior. It can support printing and distributing reports, brochures and other materials, and renting equipment and buying supplies. The program guidelines explain this in more detail.

A grant will NOT pay for independent sampling, product research and development, legal action, lobbying activities, or capital items such as furniture, machinery, or computers.

When are applications due?

**Applications must be at Ecology by
5 p.m., Tuesday, October 31, 2006**

Ecology accepts applications for public participation grants during a biennial application period. People on the public participation grants mailing list receive notice by mail when the application period opens.

The application period for the 2007-09 funding cycle runs from Friday, **September 1, 2006, through Tuesday, October 31, 2006**. Applications are due at the Department of Ecology's Headquarters building by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 31, 2006. The Headquarters building is at 300 Desmond Drive in Lacey. Call 360-407-6095 for directions to the building. Postmarks do not qualify.

Where do I apply?

If your group has a project that might be eligible, you can download the grant guidelines from our Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0607020.html>. The guidelines contain application forms and additional information on the application process, selection criteria, and funding information. You can also request a packet from:

Department of Ecology
Solid Waste and Financial Assistance
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Telephone: 1-800-RECYCLE

For More Information

If you would like to have additional information or have the guidelines and application package mailed to you, call: 1-800-RECYCLE or visit our web site, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>.

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact the Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program at (360) 407-6900. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.