

What Do Public Participation Grants Do?

Public Participation Grants (PPG) provide funding to public interest groups to involve and educate the public about environmental issues around Washington State. Projects that benefit a private party, or don't clearly benefit the public, aren't eligible. There are two types of PPG Projects:

- **Contaminated Site Projects** encourage people to involve themselves in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. Examples include community oversight of the Hanford, Duwamish River, and Spokane River cleanups.
- **Waste Management Projects** encourage people to involve themselves in eliminating and reducing waste. Examples include providing information on recycling and sustainability to low-income communities, information for homeowners about the dangers of pesticides and hazardous household products, and educational campaigns to keep toxic materials out of Puget Sound.

How much grant money is available?

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) expects the PPG program will have over \$3 million available for the upcoming two-year cycle. PPG can fund up to \$120,000 for a project. There is no requirement for matching funds.

All work on the project must take place between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2011. The award process is very competitive. If you get an award, it may be all or only part of the amount you requested.

What are Ecology's priorities for 2009-2011?

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

- Protecting Puget Sound.
- Involving the public in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites.

WHY IT MATTERS

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.

Special accommodations:

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

- Reducing toxic threats in the home and environment.
- Carrying out the state's newly revised Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan (known as the Beyond Waste Plan) <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>.

Ecology continues to place a priority on projects that give diverse community groups a chance to learn about and help solve the state's environmental problems. These diverse groups include those who are economically disadvantaged or do not speak English as their first language.

What project costs can be paid with grant money?

The PPG Program can pay for project-related administrative costs, learning tools, educational outreach, and public activities such as meetings and workshops. See the PPG Guidelines for a list of eligible and ineligible costs.

How can I get a Public Participation Grant?

Grants are available to federally registered 501(c) status not-for-profit public interest groups, public-interest organizations, and groups of three or more unrelated individuals. All projects must provide substantial and measurable public benefit and improve public participation through education and outreach. Projects must have well-defined activities that show positive behavior change related to the problem.

If your group has a project, you can download the revised grant guidelines and updated application from our website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>. The revised guidelines and application will be available in August 2008.

When are applications due?

The application period for the 2009-2011 funding cycle runs from Monday, **September 1, 2008**, through Monday, **November 3, 2008**. People on the Public Participation Grants mailing list receive notice by mail when the application period opens. Applications are due at the Department of Ecology Headquarters building by **5 p.m., Monday, November 3, 2008**. The Headquarters building is at 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98503. The mailing address is PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504. Call 360-407-6095 for directions to the building. Postmarks do not qualify.

If you want to discuss your project, request a copy of the PPG Guidelines, get on the PPG mailing list, or have any questions about the program, please call 360-407-6044 or 360-407-6061. You can also visit our website for more information, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>.