

What are Public Participation Grants?

Public Participation Grants (PPG) fund not-for-profit public interest groups to involve and educate Washington residents about environmental issues in our state. PPG funds are used for two types of projects:

Contaminated Site Projects encourage people to become involved in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. Examples include:

- Conducting [public walking tours](#) of the Anacortes Bay Wide cleanup site.
- Developing a [school curriculum](#) regarding cleanup of the Hanford nuclear site and its history.
- Providing [health advisories to ethnic communities](#) regarding Spokane River contamination.

Waste Management Projects encourage citizen involvement in eliminating and reducing waste and toxics. Examples include:

- Providing information on [recycling and sustainability to low-income communities](#).
- Introducing [biochar technology](#) and its applications to rural communities.
- [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 receive approximately \$3.9 million for the upcoming two-year cycle. PPG can fund up to \$120,000 for a two-year project. PPG does not require matching funds.

All work must occur between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017. This is a competitive award. If Ecology selects your organization, Ecology may offer all or of the amount that you requested.

Who can apply for a Public Participation Grant?

Grants are available to federally registered, 501(c)(3) status, not-for-profit public interest groups, public-interest organizations, and groups of three or more unrelated individuals. Not-for-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code are not eligible.

WHY IT MATTERS

Public Participation Grants help Washington residents:

- Identify the causes, sources, and effects of pollution.
- Provide informed feedback during public comment periods on site cleanup plans.
- 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.

Contact information

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Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-6900. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

All projects must provide substantial and measurable public benefit that improves public participation through education and outreach. Projects must have well-defined activities that show positive behavior change related to the problem. Organizations applying as federally recognized not-for-profits must also register with the Washington Secretary of State's Office for Ecology to consider their application.

What ideas does Ecology have for 2015-17 projects?

Some projects Ecology would like to see funded by PPG include:

- Education and outreach to Washington tribal members affected by a state or federally listed contaminated site.
- Spanish-language public service announcements to educate about reducing exposures to mercury, lead, and other persistent, bio-accumulative toxics.
- Programs that promote waste reduction and recycling in multi-family residences.

Ecology continues to place a priority on projects that support diverse community groups such as Native Americans, low-income and under-resourced populations, and communities where English is not the primary language.

How do I apply?

The PPG program will accept applications through Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) online system from November 3, 2014, through January 5, 2015. EAGL is a new system, and Ecology will conduct training for PPG applicants in late October. Ecology will publish a guidance document for PPG applicants in September.

Learn more

- Visit the [Public Participation Grants](#) page on Ecology's website.
- Contact Lynn Gooding at lgo0461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6062 if you would like to be placed on the PPG mailing list.