



Focus on

Public Participation Grants

from Ecology's Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

Special application period for Public Participation Grants

During a special September 2007 application period, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) will offer an estimated \$1.4 million in Public Participation Grants. It provides an opportunity for Ecology to increase public involvement for some high-priority environmental issues, such as the cleanup of Puget Sound, without adversely affecting the availability of funding for other ongoing projects.

What do Public Participation Grants do?

Public Participation Grants provide funding to community groups to help involve the public in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. The grants also help develop and carry out programs that promote the state's solid or hazardous waste management priorities.

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 River, 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; take-back programs for computers and electronic products; sustainable practices; and community composting projects.

How much grant money is available?

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, some or all applicants may receive only a partial amount of the original grant request for their projects.

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

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 (including paints, pesticides, and other chemicals) in our homes and environment.
 - Increasing the recovery of commercial and residential organic material (construction debris, food and yard waste) and creating the means to use these resources (composting).
 - Researching and promoting environmentally preferred products and services (includes green building).
 - Developing recycling and product stewardship infrastructures.

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.

Can I get a Public Participation Grant?

Grants are available 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 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 priorities or the costs of holding meetings, workshops, and other events that inform people and motivate them to change their behavior. It can support renting equipment and buying supplies

or printing and distributing reports, brochures, and other materials. 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., Monday, October 1, 2007

Ecology will accept applications for Public Participation Grants during this special, one-month application period. People on the Public Participation Grants mailing list receive notice by mail when the application period opens.

The special application period for the 2007-09 funding cycle runs from Tuesday, **September 4, 2007, through Monday, October 1, 2007**. Applications are due at the Department of Ecology Headquarters building by 5 p.m., Monday, October 1, 2007. The Headquarters building is at 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Call 360-407-6095 for directions to the building. For the mailing address, see below. Postmarks do not qualify.

Where do I apply?

If your group has a project that might be eligible, 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 September 4, 2007. You can also request an application packet at the address below:

Department of Ecology
Solid Waste and Financial Assistance
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

For more information

If you would like additional information or want the guidelines and application packet mailed to you, call: 1-800-RECYCLE or visit our website, <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.