

Beyond Waste: The Next Five Years

What is Beyond Waste?

Beyond Waste is the state plan for managing hazardous and solid waste. This 30-year plan has a clear and simple goal: eliminate wastes and toxics whenever we can and use the remaining wastes as resources.

The Beyond Waste Initiatives

Beyond Waste focuses on the following five initiatives:

- Eliminating industrial waste.
- Reducing hazardous waste from households and small businesses.
- Establishing a closed-loop reuse and recycling system for organic materials.
- Making green building mainstream.
- Tracking overall progress toward the Beyond Waste vision.

The initiatives were chosen as starting points for moving Washington State beyond waste because they represent large portions of our waste stream, they impact human health and the environment, and there is momentum and opportunity in these areas.

The plan also addresses two current issues:

- Hazardous waste system issues.
- Solid waste system issues.

Topics include permitting, regulations, recycling, and disposal.

Each of the five initiatives and two issues has 30-year goals and recommended actions to guide work, and 5-year milestones to gauge progress. Ecology developed indicators to measure progress statewide. You can view the progress report at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>

Time for the Plan Update

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is doing a five-year update of the Beyond Waste Plan, as required by state law (RCW 70.95 and 70.105). Stakeholders worked together with Ecology to create the 2004 Beyond Waste Plan. We are now seeking public input on the 2009 plan update.

Beyond Waste 30-Year Vision

We can transition to a society where wastes are viewed as inefficient and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated. This will contribute to environmental, economic and social vitality.

What's Being Updated?

The Beyond Waste Plan still provides good direction as written. Therefore, we are not proposing significant changes. We are focused on making needed adjustments to Recommended Actions and Milestones. Key goals with this update are to:

- Make changes where new directions are underway or needed.
- Add new direction where needed because we have completed the original milestone or, in some cases, because we have not made progress.
- Bring the plan current with emerging state priorities, such as toxic threats reduction, climate change, and Puget Sound health. All of these priorities have a connection to the Beyond Waste Plan

How You Can Participate

We want your input! Ecology is committed to working with Washington residents and organizations interested in waste- and toxics-related issues. Please provide your feedback on the draft plan in one of two ways.

- **Send comments to Ecology by the Internet.**
 - An electronic comment form is linked from the Review Document at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>
- **Send comments to Ecology staff:**
 - Hazardous Waste Contact: Chris Chapman, ccha461@ecy.wa.gov, 360-407-7160
 - Solid Waste Contact: Janine Bogar, jabo461@ecy.wa.gov, 360-407-6654
 - Mailing Address: PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA, 98504-7600

Ecology will accept comments through March 31, 2009.

You may request a speaker to come to your meeting during the month of March to discuss the Beyond Waste Plan Update in more detail. We cannot guarantee availability, but will make our best effort to attend your event on a first-come, first-served basis.

We hope you will share your thoughts and ideas with us about the Beyond Waste Plan. Ecology will issue the final updated plan in December 2009.

For more information about the Beyond Waste Plan, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste.

Comment on the 2009 Beyond Waste Plan Update

The updated Recommended Actions and Milestones for each initiative and current issue are available online at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/> for review and comment.

**Ecology will accept comments
through
March 31, 2009.**

Special accommodations:

If you require this publication in an alternate format, please contact the Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program at 360-407-6900 or TTY (for the speech or hearing impaired) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.