

# Everett Smelter Cleanup: 2021 Update



Historic Smelter plant early 1900's

## Everett Smelter Hotline:

425-446-1024

## Project Contacts:

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## Site info:

[www.ecology.wa.gov/EverettSmelter](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/EverettSmelter)

Facility Site ID: 2744  
Cleanup Site ID: 4298

Dirt Alert Map: *Learn if your property is in the Everett Smelter Cleanup area*

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/dirtalert/everett>

## Everett Smelter 2020: a year in review

Like many other aspects of our lives, COVID-19 greatly impacted the progress of the Everett Smelter Cleanup Project in 2020. The project team was preparing for cleanup construction when the State of Washington locked down and implemented a contracting freeze. The hiring and contracting freeze, put in place to reduce state spending because of the pandemic, meant the Everett Smelter Cleanup team was unable to hire contractors for any of the soil sampling, engineering work, and soil removal we had planned for 2020.

With all of the challenges faced this past year, our team still accomplished the following:

- Updated fieldwork protocols that allowed us to perform home visits with COVID-19.
- Finalized cleanup plans for the 2019 cleanup group.
- Held a virtual cleanup orientation meeting for the 2020 cleanup group.
- Conducted first home visits with most of the property owners in the 2020 cleanup group.
- Began drafting cleanup plans for the 2020 cleanup group.
- Enrolled previously unresponsive properties in the free soil sampling program.



# Toxics Cleanup Program

## Plans for 2021-2022

In April 2021, the governor lifted the hiring and contracting freeze. With this news, the Everett Smelter Team is planning the following work for 2021:

- Sampling all properties currently enrolled in the soil sampling program.
- Finalizing cleanup plans for the 2020 Cleanup Group.
- Starting the construction design phase of cleanup for the 2019 and 2020 Cleanup Groups by hiring contractors to complete the engineering design.
- Holding a pre-construction meeting for these properties, and performing soil removal. *All properties will receive an invitation to a pre-construction meeting when it is time to begin this process.*



### Cleanup planning

The engineering design plan phase for the 2019 Cleanup Group started in June. The construction documents should be ready by the fall.

***Ecology will contact you when we get a contractor and it is time for construction to begin.***

Ecology began to work with the 2020 Cleanup Group to develop their cleanup plans. We plan to complete those plans and begin the engineering design phase for construction in the fall.

**Ecology will contact you to finalize your cleanup plans.**

### Enrolling in free soil sampling

Ecology is offering **free** soil sampling to properties within the cleanup site in summer 2021.

### Sign access agreement and return it to Ecology

Owners of properties that have not been sampled were sent mailers in late February 2020 with instructions on how to sign-up to participate in the soil sampling program. Signing the access agreement and returning it to Ecology will assure that you are added to the sampling list.



If you live within the Everett Smelter cleanup site or own a property within the site, **another way to sign-up for soil sampling and get information is to call the Everett Smelter hotline at (425) 446-1024** to update your mailing address and receive information by mail.

## Buying or selling a home in the Everett Smelter cleanup area

### Buying a home

- Check if your property is in the cleanup area by using the Dirt Alert Map (link on page 1).
- If your property has been cleaned up, you can download cleanup documentation using the Dirt Alert Map.

### Selling a home

- Remember to comply with state disclosure law. Work with your real estate agent to fill out the seller’s disclosure statement (required by RCW 64.06.020).
- The cleanup documentation for the property should stay with the property and be given to the new property owner

## History of the Everett Smelter

**1990:** Ecology discovered arsenic, lead, cadmium and other metals in soil around North Everett. This contamination came from the Everett Smelter, which operated from 1894 to 1912.



Asarco Smelter in operation around 1900.

**1999-2007:** Ecology managed cleanup of the most highly contaminated areas around the former smelter.

**2009-2019:** Ecology received a bankruptcy settlement from Asarco, the owner of the smelter, to develop a plan to clean up the remaining contaminated areas in both the lowlands and uplands area.

**2019-Present:** Ecology obtained additional state funds to continue cleanup of the Everett Smelter site, including homes, parks, and industrial areas.

## Additional future work

Planning will begin for the cleanup at the American Legion Park Overlook later in the biennium. Ecology will be working with the City of Everett to coordinate activities.

- Planning for the capping in Area B1 (see figure to right).
- Planning for the remaining cleanup in the lowland portion of the site will resume later this year. Design for the remedy in Area B2 is underway (see figure to right). This will prevent contaminated groundwater from entering the system and gaining direct access to the Snohomish River.
- Installing fencing for institutional control to limit access to a steep slope in Areas C2 and C3 (see figure to right).



Map of Everett Smelter Cleanup Project. Planning for cleanup actions in Areas B1, B2, C2 and C3 begins this year.

Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 330316  
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

## Everett Smelter Cleanup: Spring 2021

Take these steps to protect your family from contaminated soil!



Wash your hands well before eating and after working or playing in the soil. Use a scrub brush to clean dirt from under your nails.



Mop, damp dust and vacuum often to remove dirt tracked in from outside.



Wash fruits and vegetables grown at home before eating them to remove soil that may be on the surface. Grow vegetables in raised beds.



Take your shoes off in the house so you don't track dirt in from outside.



Use caution if working with soil. Wear gloves and wash dirty clothes separately.



Keep pets clean. Wipe off excess dirt and mud before your pet comes inside. Brush and bathe your pet often. Give pets their own beds.

### Cleanup website

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites/Everett-Smelter>

### Project Hotline

(425) 446-1024

**Accommodation Requests:** To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 206-594-0000 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.