



Response to Comments

Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan

Independent Metals Plant 2 Cleanup Site Seattle, WA

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office

Shoreline, Washington

March 2023



Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/12300>

Cover photo credit

- Aerial map of the Independent Metals Plant 2 site (Ecology)

Related Information

- Clean-up site ID: 12300
- Facility site ID: 16139

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¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region 360-407-6300	Northwest Region 206-594-0000	Central Region 509-575-2490	Eastern Region 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Public Outreach Summary

The Independent Metals Plant 2 site is located in Seattle's South Park neighborhood. The approximately 3.06 acre site is adjacent to the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW). The Independent Metals Plant 2 site is beginning Washington State's [formal cleanup process](#)² as directed under the Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#)³).

The Washington State Department of Ecology has negotiated a legal agreement called an Agreed Order with Silver Bay Logging, Inc. and RJ and BA LLC, the Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs), for the 816 S. Kenyon St Cleanup Site (Site). The Agreed Order requires the PLPs to address contamination at the site.

Ecology invited input on the following documents:

- **Agreed Order:** legal document that requires the PLPs to investigate environmental conditions, complete a Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS), and a draft Cleanup Action Plan (dCAP).
- **Public Participation Plan:** describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and ways to become involved.

Ecology's public involvement activities related to this 30-day comment period (October 24 – November 22, 2022) included:

- **Fact Sheet:**
 - US mail distribution of a fact sheet providing information about the documents, the public comment period, online public meeting to approximately 3,370 addresses including neighboring businesses and other interested parties.
 - Email distribution of the fact sheet to 50 people, including interested individuals, local/county/state/federal agencies, neighborhood associations, and interested community groups.
 - The fact sheet was also available digitally through Ecology's [cleanup site webpage](#)⁴.
- **Legal Notice:**
 - Publication of one paid display ad in *The Seattle Times*, dated Friday, October 21, 2022.
- **Site Register:**
 - Publication of 4 notices in Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Site Register:
 - Comment Period Notice:
 - October 20, 2022
 - November 3, 2022
 - November 17, 2022

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/12300>

- Response Summary Notice:
 - April 6, 2023
 - Visit [Ecology's Site Register website](#)⁵ to download PDFs.
 - **Media Notification:**
 - Ecology sent a media notice on Monday, October 24, 2022, to Seattle area media outlets.
 - **GovDelivery Email System Notifications:**
 - Monday, October 17, 2022: Ecology included outreach information and links for the comment period and public meeting as well as a blog story about two LDW site comment periods in Ecology's October Duwamish River Update which has over 730 email subscribers.
 - Thursday, October 21, 2022: Ecology sent a notice to a list of approximately 30 community groups and organizations with outreach information and links for the comment period and public meeting as well as a blog story about two LDW site comment periods.
 - **Social Media:**
 - **Blog:** On Monday, October 17, 2022, Ecology's Northwest Regional Office posted a story about two LDW site comment periods on [Ecology's blog](#)⁶, which has approximately 1,200 email subscribers.
 - **Twitter:** Ecology – Northwest Region @ecyseattle posted a [tweet](#)⁷ on Monday, October 24, 2022 connecting readers to the comment period including the cleanup site webpage.
 - **Online Public Meeting**
 - Ecology hosted an [online public meeting](#)⁸ Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. through the Zoom meeting application. Interpretation was available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Khmer. Ecology and City of Seattle staff presented details on the Independent Metals Plant 2 site, the review documents, future land use and then answered questions.
 - **Websites:**
 - Ecology announced the public comment period, Ecology's public meeting, posted the fact sheet (including translations in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Khmer), and made the review documents available on Ecology's [Independent Metals Plant 2 webpage](#)⁹ and Ecology's [Public Inputs & Events webpage](#)¹⁰.

⁵<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/PublicationList.aspx?IndexTypeName=Program&NameValue=Toxics+Cleanup&DocumentTypeName=Newsletter>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Blog/Posts/October-2022/Cleaning-up-Two-Lower-Duwamish-sites-move-forward>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/ecyseattle/status/1584578069838594048>

⁸ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/117664>

⁹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/12300>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

- **Document Repositories:**
 - Copies of the review documents and fact sheets (including translations) were available for review at Seattle Public Library’s South Park Branch.
 - Outreach materials also directed the public to contact Ian Fawley, Outreach Planner, for document review assistance.

Comment Summary

From October 24 – November 22, 2022, Ecology invited public comments on a legal agreement (agreed order) and public participation plan for the Independent Metals Plant 2 site.

Ecology received comments from two commenters during the 30-day comment period.

Table 1: List of Commenters

	First Name	Last Name	Agency/Organization/Business	Submitted By
1	Christopher	Stapleton	Gypsum to Gypsum	Business
2	Jamie	Hearn	Duwamish River Community Coalition	Organization

Next Steps

Ecology has reviewed and considered the public comments received on the documents and will finalize both documents.

Based on Ecology’s evaluation of the comments, updates were made to the Agreed Order “Finding of Facts” section.

Ecology has also reviewed and considered the comments on the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and adjusted our outreach plan for the first 2023 Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) cleanup site to:

- Include more details on the review documents in our public meeting presentations
- Add an additional public meeting (offering both online and in-person meetings)
- Expand the number of translated outreach materials by two (Somali and Amharic)
- Add two additional interpreters for both meetings (Somali and Amharic)
- Add an additional 15 days of review (and will consider 60 days for other LDW sites with complex, technical review documents)
- Paid for an outreach contractor to help deliver this additional outreach

Ecology will finalize the PPP. We will continue to evaluate the community’s use of this adjusted LDW site outreach plan for the next comment period and will amend the PPP, as needed, based on community engagement.

The Independent Metals Plant 2 is continuing the cleanup process. Ecology will make the future Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Cleanup Action Plan available for public review and comment.

See graphic below and visit Ecology’s [cleanup process webpage](#)¹¹ to learn more about Washington’s formal cleanup process.

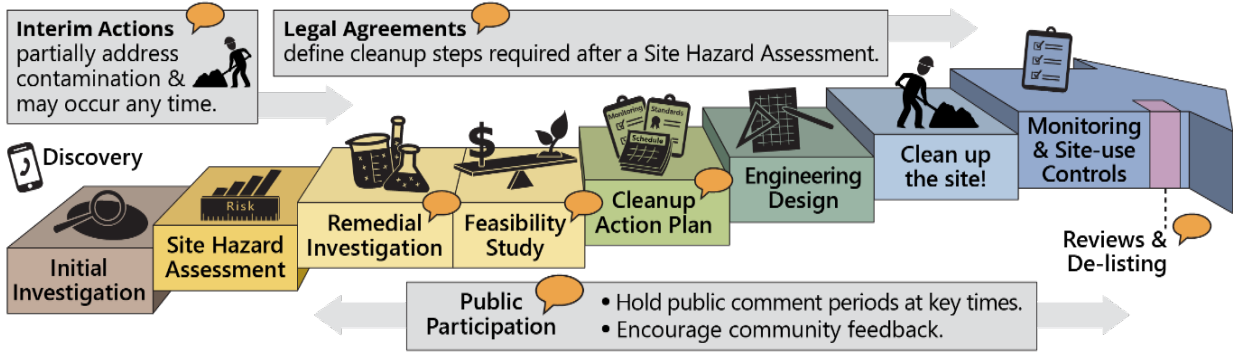


Figure 1: Washington's formal cleanup process ([download a text explanation](#)¹²)

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

¹² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

Comments and Responses

The public comments are presented below, along with Ecology's responses. Appendix A, page 23, contains the comments in their original format.

Comment from: Christopher Stapleton (Gypsum to Gypsum)

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christopher W. Stapleton and I represent Gypsum to Gypsum (GTG). We are the business who is currently operating on this site under a lease with Silver Bay Logging inc.

Gypsum to Gypsum is a drywall recycling company who accepts new construction or pre construction drywall scrap material and turns into a valuable product that is resold back into manufacturing or sold as an agricultural soil enhancement that helps commercial farmers all over the state of Washington grow effective, healthy crops each year. Since 2019, GTG has diverted roughly 185,000 tons of drywall material out of the landfills all across the state. That is equivalent to 5 Lumen Field Stadiums filled to the brim worth of drywall.

This comment is to show Ecology, the residents, and interested agencies of South Park that this properties current use is part of the State, county, and city waste diversion, sustainability, and climate change goals. Our material is clean material used to help remediate soils and we can show that since our taking over of the site our Storm Water has continued to test very clean. There is a common misconception that gypsum that comes from drywall is waste or is toxic in some form but in fact it is the exact opposite.

Recycled Gypsum also is sold back into making new drywall each as well. Assisting us by reducing our global impact on mining each year. Currently we are the sole supplier of recycled gypsum in the area to the manufacturing market.

GTG's also currently employe'e's over 25 employe'e's and has plans to hire another 10 employe'e's over the next year. We have continued to stay busy throughout the pandemic and moving into slowing economic times we have secured more work for the next 5 years to keep busy. We encourage any local South Parkians to apply!

GTG would like to request that we must be removed from the the list that I believe GTG was mistakenly put on that says we may have contributed to hazardous issues on this site. That is just not factual and must be a mistake by Ecology.

GTG would also like to recommend the opportunity for Seattle Public Utilities (SUP) and GTG to work collaboratively after the testing and initial remediation work is determined to find a way for our infrastructure and yours to co-exist on the same property. After review, it seems SUP would only need to use roughly one (1) acre of land and GTG's use could be done on the remaining portion of the land / building area. I think the initiative not only to clean up but continue to keep

infrastructure in place in the state of Washington that keeps our landfills free of drywall waste is a win win scenario for Washingtonians.

Response:

Ecology has updated the “Finding of Facts” section part “C” to read “Over the last several decades, businesses operating at the Site may have released hazardous substances at the Site.” A new part “D” in the “Finding of Facts” section has been created which states “Historical, and current, facilities and operations include:” and then includes the same list as in the draft Agreed Order.

Ecology does not determine the current or future land use of the site. The interested party is encouraged to engage with the current and potential future owners with regard to land use.

Comment from: Jamie Hearn (Duwamish River Community Coalition)

[See original formatted comment letter attachment in Appendix A. The comment below has been divided into comment sections to better organize responses.]

Comment Section 1



Elevating the voices of those impacted by the Duwamish River pollution and other environmental injustices to advocate for a clean, healthy, and equitable environment for people and wildlife. Promoting place-keeping and prioritizing community capacity and resilience.

November 16, 2022

Department of Ecology

LDW@ecy.wa.gov

RE: Independent Metals Plant 2 Public Participation Plan and Broader Environmental Justice Considerations

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Independent Metals Plant 2. Community voices are very important in all decisions that impact them directly. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, DRCC has been engaging with the community in creative ways including safe in-person gatherings, socially distanced small events, and multilingual social media and video interactions to bring some of this information to the community and gather their input. We prioritize the voices of those who are directly impacted by these changes to ensure that our impacted low-income and black/indigenous/people of color immigrant, refugee, and fisher communities who already suffer the greatest exposures and health disparities can be meaningfully informed and engaged.

The Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC) has long been a community steward for environmental justice in the Duwamish Valley, which is one of the most polluted areas in the entire Pacific Northwest following 100 years of industrial dumping and release of toxic waste. DRCC has worked tirelessly alongside community groups and neighbors for 20 years to clean up the water, land and air while fighting to eliminate ongoing industrial pollution that makes our communities among the least healthy in the County.

Residents of the Duwamish Valley are disproportionately exposed to contamination relative to other communities in the City of Seattle. People who live in Georgetown and South Park have some of the most severe health inequities in the City of Seattle. Childhood asthma hospitalization rates are the highest in the City, heart disease death rates are 1.5 times higher than the rest of Seattle and King County, and life expectancy is 13 years shorter when compared to wealthier neighborhoods and 8 years shorter when compared to the Seattle and King County average.

Our community has shared their excitement at the prospect of turning this site from a contaminated, inaccessible area into a community asset with space for public use. Our community has also expressed a strong desire to be more involved in these processes, and continues to emphasize the importance of having more community meetings where the public has the opportunity to directly engage with the government. This in-person exchange of information and ideas is an important part of facilitating public participation.

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) exists because of community vision and advocacy, having evolved from community initiative.¹ One of its core principles is that public participation is an integral aspect of the cleanup process.² The value of public participation is so significant that it was codified as a requirement for the Department of Ecology, who must “promote effective and meaningful public participation.”³ While we recognize that Ecology has taken some steps to

create opportunities for meaningful public participation, we have determined some ways that Ecology can make their community engagement more effective and the public comment process more inclusive. We believe that an Enhanced Community Engagement Process needs to be developed for all EJ communities to address the HEAL Act. This letter addresses some issues that concern us about both the Independent Metals public meeting and document, but we believe that it has relevance to all Public Participation Plans and public meetings in environmental justice communities. [...]

Response Section 1

Thank you for your comment.

Comment Section 2

- I. ECOLOGY SHOULD CONDUCT A DEEPER ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES TO COMPLY WITH THE HEAL ACT.

Incorporating environmental justice into a Public Participation Plan is now mandated by the HEAL Act.⁴ Recognizing health disparities is a critical part of considering the unique burdens placed on environmental justice communities. The use of the Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map and the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool are necessary to determine the specific intentional engagement of different overburdened communities, but it is not enough to only identify the percentiles thresholds for Black, Indigenous, immigrants, people of color, low-income individuals, and linguistically isolated populations who live in proximity to the site.⁵ These should serve as preliminary assessment tools that are then used to inform public participation strategies that are tailored to the needs of the community.

We understand that Ecology has created a timeline for HEAL Act implementation that extends into 2025 to ensure that “processes and plans are required to align with guidance from [original comment letter page break]

¹See *Model Toxics Control Act*, Department of Ecology,

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>.

²*Id.*

³RCW 70A.305.030(1)(i)(C).

⁴See SB 5141 sec. 13.

⁵See Independent Metals Plant 2 Public Participation Plan at 12-13.

the Environmental Justice Council.”⁶ But until these processes are in place, there are still ways that the Department can comply with the HEAL Act when performing their obligations to create more equitable public participation and meaningful engagement.

For example, the Agency must “engage with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations as it evaluates new and existing activities and programs. This plan must describe how the agency plans to facilitate equitable participation and support meaningful and direct involvement of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.”⁷ The community engagement and participation language in the HEAL Act clearly sets forth requirements that require significantly more than only identifying overburdened communities. [...]

Response Section 2

Thank you as well for this comment regarding Environmental Justice and the HEAL Act.

Ecology invites additional feedback to improve our processes for better understanding of our communities and to improve our corresponding community outreach. As you mentioned, Ecology uses the Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map, the US EPA’s EJSCREEN Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, as well as US Census data to inform our outreach plan for each public comment period and help us make appropriate considerations given our analyses. For each Environmental Justice screening result above the 80th percentile for Washington State, Ecology addresses each result and makes considerations within our outreach plans that we can fulfill with our current staffing and resources.

For an example of how Ecology makes considerations based on analyses but also welcomes feedback: Ecology’s best practices for an Environmental Justice Screening result of linguistically isolated populations above the 80th percentile for Washington State is to use US Census data to identify needed translation and interpretation. For this site, Ecology translated materials as well as utilized interpreters in four languages (Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Khmer) for the public meeting. Further below in your comment, you provided helpful feedback and a suggestion to add two additional languages (Somali and Amharic) based on your organizational assessment, City of Seattle references, and knowledge of community needs. Ecology is grateful for this feedback and added these two languages to our 2023 Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) public comment period outreach plans and will continue to evaluate the community’s use of translations and interpretation.

Ecology is committed to securing additional staff to help address the unique needs of the Duwamish community which will help enable greater team capacity to engage HEAL Act requirements.

To learn more about Ecology’s progress on implementing the HEAL Act visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Environmental-Justice/HEAL> and read the attached report in **Appendix B** “Implementing Washington’s Environmental Justice Law (Chapter 70A.02 RCW); Summary of Progress and Implementation Goals.”

Comment Section 3

- II. ECOLOGY SHOULD GET INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC ON WHAT COMMENT PERIODS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES SHOULD LOOK LIKE SPECIFIC TO EACH SITE.

Ecology must also consider methods for outreach that “overcome barriers to engagement.”⁸ In environmental justice communities, barriers to engagement are endless. As a result of the disproportionate environmental burdens they face, these communities are constantly asked to participate in governmental processes like public comment when they may not have the necessary resources to do so. Public comment periods in environmental justice communities need to be modified to address engagement barriers, which may differ between communities who are forced to live with the cumulative impacts of decades of pollution and ongoing contamination.

Staying engaged in these processes takes significant time and effort — one must review long and intensely technical documents, get clarifying questions answered by the Agency, take the time to write a comment, and then continue to monitor the site to ensure their comments are being incorporated and considered. It is a huge ask of anyone, let alone someone who lives in an area with multiple ongoing projects. Currently, the Duwamish Valley has comment periods open on multiple sites. Ecology should account for this and coordinate with project managers for other ongoing sites to check-in with impacted communities to determine if it would be helpful to extend the comment period.

Further, the community might find it more useful to combine meetings for multiple sites or feel that for certain sites, it is more appropriate to comment on different stages of the MTCA process that do not currently require public comment. In environmental justice communities, Ecology should ask the public what their needs are for each site and allow for a more personalized comment period experience that is based on the public’s current capacity and community input.

⁶*Healthy Environment for All*, Department of Ecology,

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Environmental-Justice/HEAL>.

⁷See SB 5141 sec. 13.

⁸*Id.*

Response Section 3

Thank you for your feedback regarding the overburdened Duwamish Valley community.

Ecology hears the challenges you expressed. We will plan longer LDW comment periods to allow for more time to review documents so that the community does not need to request additional time but has that time already built into our outreach plans. We will evaluate additional length (i.e. 45 days or 60 days vs. 30 days) based on the complexity of a site's documents. We will also aim to minimize any overlap of LDW comment periods, while still considering construction schedules.

Ecology is committed to securing additional staff to help address the unique needs of the Duwamish community. This additional staffing will help enable greater team capacity to engage the community in outreach opportunities like open houses for updates on multiple sites or other MTCA cleanup process steps that do not require public comment periods.

With additional staff support, we will look to adjust our public outreach to accommodate the Duwamish Valley community like having more regular interactions to support the community's understanding of the cleanup work, answer questions, and collaborate on other public outreach approaches or opportunities to streamline public outreach.

Comment Section 4

- III. ECOLOGYSHOULDIMPLEMENTOTHEROUTREACHMETHODSTOCREATEAMORE ACCESSIBLE COMMENTPROCESS.

As noted in the Public Participation Plan, South Park and Georgetown are in the 82nd percentile for people of color populations and 89th percentile for Linguistically Isolated populations.⁹ Ecology has done a good job of translating print materials and having interpreters at public meetings. However, there are also a significant number of Somali and Amharic speakers in the Duwamish Valley that would benefit from the same accessibility that Ecology has provided for Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Khmer speaking communities.¹⁰ Further, providing translations and interpretation is not enough to facilitate meaningful engagement.

Community members have expressed that a combination of in-person and virtual events would be ideal with food and childcare options available for in-person events. Many people have obligations in the evening including caring for children and getting dinner ready for their families, which prevents them from participating in public meetings. Providing a meal and an option for them to bring their children will make these events more accessible.

It would also be beneficial to record any online public meetings and post them online so that community members can view it later if they were not able to attend or re-watch it later if they need clarification on an issue. Creating accessible meetings is a critical part of facilitating meaningful engagement in environmental justice communities. When there are multiple ways in

which a community can receive information and ask questions, there is more opportunity for consequential participation.

Community members have also stated that it can be difficult to keep up with all of the ongoing meetings and asked that short surveys be offered as an alternative to providing public comment. This would allow community members to share their thoughts with Ecology without the burden of having to review the documents and then put together a written comment.

Surveys should ask environmental justice community short and concise questions about identified areas of concern and use a combination of short answer, multiple choice, or a numbered scale to express varying levels of interest and disconcertment on different topics.

⁹Independent Metals Plant 2 Public Participation Plan at 12-13.

¹⁰City of Seattle Top Tier Languages, City of Seattle,
https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OIRA/Seattle%20Top%20Tier%20Languages_Multisource%20Table_Updated%2011_14_2020.pdf.

Response Section 4

Thank you for your feedback regarding additional languages (Somali and Amharic). As noted above, Ecology added these two languages for our 2023 LDW outreach plans and will continue to evaluate the community's use of translations and interpretation.

Ecology will offer an in-person and online meeting for our first 2023 LDW comment period and will evaluate future meeting opportunities based on community feedback and attendance. Based on Environmental Justice screening and accessibility, as well as community group input on local venues, Ecology selected South Seattle College's Olympic Hall for our first in-person 2023 LDW public meetings. Unfortunately, this room does not allow for food or drink in the presentation space. For future public meetings later in 2023, Ecology will consider hosting an open house before a public meeting where refreshments are allowed or selecting other meeting spaces that also have the same Environmental Justice and accessibility benefits as the selected venue.

Families are welcome to our public meetings, and Ecology will look into childcare options during public meetings.

At this time, Ecology does not have the capability to record meetings with multiple interpreters and then provide an accessible video for all languages after the meeting.

Thank you for the feedback regarding surveys as an alternate to providing public comment. Ecology is responsible for fulfilling the MTCA's requirements of enabling public review and comment which currently involves submitting comments online or directly to the site manager via mail or email. However, we will consider your suggestion of surveys as an *additional* tool to gather community input.

Comment Section 5

IV. ECOLOGY SHOULD IMPROVE OUTREACH TO CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS BY INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND SCOPE OF OUTREACH.

Additionally, Ecology should do community engagement to cultural and community groups in the Duwamish Valley to develop strategies for meaningful participation. The best way to determine how these processes can be made more accessible is to ask those being engaged directly. Many of these groups can provide valuable insight as to ways that Ecology can better perform outreach which can then inform future engagement work with other environmental justice communities. Ecology should also consult with community-based organizations who have existing ties with the community to determine other ways to make public comment more accessible. These organizations likely have methods of soliciting community feedback that could inform Ecology's practices.

We are aware that Ecology has an internal list of organizations that they send information to when new comment periods open. Ecology should make this list public so that community groups and community members can provide input on who else should be added rather than putting the burden on the public to opt into notifications. Sharing this information can also help community members know which organizations to seek out if they need additional resources. One example of a community group that should be on Ecology's notification list is the Duwamish Tribe. The Tribe is a valued part of the Duwamish Valley community and should be updated on sites like Independent Metals 2 as soon as documents are made available. The Tribe also has unique insight that could be extremely helpful to Ecology as these documents are reviewed, and ensuring they are able to participate in public comment is invaluable.

Ultimately, it is not enough to send postcards and emails to the community about an open comment periods. Meaningful engagement requires consultation, community-driven involvement, and shared leadership. This should include more public meetings with Ecology representatives available in person to address questions and concerns, conversations with the community about ways to make public comment more accessible, and feedback from the public on what their engagement needs are for each site.

Ecology should focus on ways to create more bidirectional communication with the public by working with the public to create systems and programs that work for our community. This is an essential part of the relationship building work that the Agency must do to build trust and partnership with the community. Building trust will help the public feel more comfortable engaging in these processes and will allow for more honest feedback which will in turn benefit the

Agency. This will require more intentional outreach that is tailored to the unique needs of an environmental justice community like the Duwamish Valley.

Response Section 5

Please see **Appendix C** “List of Duwamish Valley community organizations in GovDelivery email system.” Ecology has provided the names of organizations but not email addresses to respect individuals’ privacy who have elected to join the email list.

We welcome any additions to our GovDelivery email list. This list was only *started* before an outreach staff’s departure in the Fall of 2022, which occurred before this site’s comment period start in October. A more complete organizational email list will enable Ecology to better reach the Duwamish Valley community going forward.

To include additional emails, permission or self-enrollment will be needed. Ecology cannot add organizations without consent.

To subscribe to the “Duwamish Valley NGO [non-governmental organization] contacts” please visit: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_243

With regards to your scope of outreach aspect, Ecology is committed to securing additional staff to help address the unique needs of the Duwamish community. This additional staffing will help enable greater team capacity to engage the community in additional outreach opportunities for more meaningful engagement and to build community trust as you suggested.

Comment Section 6

- V. ECOLOGY SHOULD PROVIDE MORE SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW OF RELEASED DOCUMENTS AND MAKE PUBLIC MEETINGS CLEARER FOR COMMUNITY.

Finally, public presentations by Ecology should include more background information. Many members of the public come to these meetings without any background information on what these documents are. While we appreciate the overview of the MTCA process that Ecology provides at the beginning of these presentations, we also think there should be more discussion on what each document being reviewed is and why it is important to get community feedback on it.

Ecology should also do more substantive review of the documents in these presentations. The majority of the public does not have the time to review them, and many of them are lengthy and technical. Virtual meetings should not be the only way to engage with community, especially in short comment periods. Combined with the aforementioned burden of having multiple public comment sites ongoing in the Duwamish Valley, Ecology should do a better job of taking more ownership of their role in creating an equitable process by presenting on the content of the documents they are seeking comment on. This would bring more people into the process who previously lacked the time and resources to do their own review and help remedy the power balance that exists between a state agency and an overburdened community.

In summary, we believe that the Independent Metals Public Participation Plan needs to be revised to reflect an Enhanced Community Engagement approach that includes (1) a deeper environmental justice analysis to comply with the HEAL Act, (2) a pathway to extend all comment periods, (3) other engagement methods to create more accessibility, (4) more cultural and community focused outreach that is transparent, and (5) substantive reviews of released documents. We request that the Department of Ecology revise their Public Participation Plan to include the aforementioned Enhanced Community Engagement approach.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



Jamie Hearn
Superfund Program Manager
Duwamish River Community Coalition



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Response Section 6

Thank you for your feedback regarding public review documents and public meetings. Based on your comment, Ecology has adjusted our 2023 public meeting presentations to include more details and background information.

Ecology's Public Participation Plans (PPPs) reflect our commitment to fulfill MTCA's legal, public involvement requirements. These PPPs are also a practical commitment to the amount of outreach that Ecology's current resources (staffing and funding) can fulfill. We will strive to do the most effective outreach that we can with the staffing and resource capacities we have.

Ecology may do more outreach than what the PPP conveys. For example, based on your comments for this site and another LDW site, we adjusted the 2023 Duwamish Waterway Park outreach plan to:

- Include more details on the review documents in our public meeting presentations
- Add an additional public meeting (offering both online and in-person meetings)
- Expand the number of translated outreach materials by two (Somali and Amharic)

- Add two additional interpreters for both meetings (Somali and Amharic)
- Add an additional 15 days of review (and will consider 60 days for other LDW sites with complex, technical review documents)
- Paid for an outreach contractor to help deliver this additional outreach

The Independent Metals Plant 2's PPP will be finalized with the public outreach commitment we can make now, and that will not limit Ecology's ability to do more outreach for this site in the future like in the 2023 Duwamish Waterway Park example above.

This site's PPP reflects our *minimal* public outreach MTCA commitment, and this site's PPP can be amended in the future for additional outreach opportunities as directed and supported by our agency. We will also continue to evaluate the community's use of the translated materials and public meeting interpretation and can amend LDW site PPPs to include additional languages like Somali and Amharic, as needed, based on community use.

Ecology's implementation of the HEAL Act is actively ongoing. These provisions will be included in Ecology's outreach plans as directed and supported by our agency.

To learn more about Ecology's progress on implementing the HEAL Act visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Environmental-Justice/HEAL> and read the attached report in **Appendix B** "Implementing Washington's Environmental Justice Law (Chapter 70A.02 RCW); Summary of Progress and Implementation Goals."

Appendices

Appendix A. Public comments in original format

Appendix B. “Implementing Washington’s Environmental Just Law (Chapter 70A.02 RCW)
Summary of Progress and Implementation Goals”

Appendix C. List of Duwamish Valley community organizations in GovDelivery email system

Appendix A. Public comments in original format

Gypsum to Gypsum

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christopher W. Stapleton and I represent Gypsum to Gypsum (GTG). We are the business who is currently operating on this site under a lease with Silver Bay Logging inc.

Gypsum to Gypsum is a drywall recycling company who accepts new construction or pre construction drywall scrap material and turns into a valuable product that is resold back into manufacturing or sold as an agricultural soil enhancement that helps commercial farmers all over the state of Washington grow effective, healthy crops each year. Since 2019, GTG has diverted roughly 185,000 tons of drywall material out of the landfills all across the state. That is equivalent to 5 Lumen Field Stadiums filled to the brim worth of drywall.

This comment is to show Ecology, the residents, and interested agencies of South Park that this properties current use is part of the State, county, and city waste diversion, sustainability, and climate change goals. Our material is clean material used to help remediate soils and we can show that since our taking over of the site our Storm Water has continued to test very clean. There is a common misconception that gypsum that comes from drywall is waste or is toxic in some form but in fact it is the exact opposite.

Recycled Gypsum also is sold back into making new drywall each as well. Assisting us by reducing our global impact on mining each year. Currently we are the sole supplier of recycled gypsum in the area to the manufacturing market.

GTG's also currently employe'e's over 25 employe'e's and has plans to hire another 10 employe'e's over the next year. We have continued to stay busy throughout the pandemic and moving into slowing economic times we have secured more work for the next 5 years to keep busy. We encourage any local South Parkians to apply!

GTG would like to request that we must be removed from the the list that I believe GTG was mistakenly put on that says we may have contributed to hazardous issues on this site. That is just not factual and must be a mistake by Ecology.

GTG would also like to recommend the opportunity for Seattle Public Utilities (SUP) and GTG to work collaboratively after the testing and initial remediation work is determined to find a way for our infrastructure and yours to co-exist on the same property. After review, it seems SUP would only need to use roughly one (1) acre of land and GTG's use could be done on the remaining portion of the land / building area. I think the initiative not only to clean up but continue to keep infrastructure in place in the state of Washington that keeps our landfills free of drywall waste is a win win scenario for Washingtonians.



Elevating the voices of those impacted by the Duwamish River pollution and other environmental injustices to advocate for a clean, healthy, and equitable environment for people and wildlife. Promoting place-keeping and prioritizing community capacity and resilience.

November 16, 2022

Department of Ecology

LDW@ecy.wa.gov

RE: Independent Metals Plant 2 Public Participation Plan and Broader Environmental Justice Considerations

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Independent Metals Plant 2. Community voices are very important in all decisions that impact them directly. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, DRCC has been engaging with the community in creative ways including safe in-person gatherings, socially distanced small events, and multilingual social media and video interactions to bring some of this information to the community and gather their input. We prioritize the voices of those who are directly impacted by these changes to ensure that our impacted low-income and black/indigenous/people of color immigrant, refugee, and fisher communities who already suffer the greatest exposures and health disparities can be meaningfully informed and engaged.

The Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC) has long been a community steward for environmental justice in the Duwamish Valley, which is one of the most polluted areas in the entire Pacific Northwest following 100 years of industrial dumping and release of toxic waste. DRCC has worked tirelessly alongside community groups and neighbors for 20 years to clean up the water, land and air while fighting to eliminate ongoing industrial pollution that makes our communities among the least healthy in the County.

Residents of the Duwamish Valley are disproportionately exposed to contamination relative to other communities in the City of Seattle. People who live in Georgetown and South Park have some of the most severe health inequities in the City of Seattle. Childhood asthma hospitalization rates are the highest in the City, heart disease death rates are 1.5 times higher than the rest of Seattle and King County, and life expectancy is 13 years shorter when compared to wealthier neighborhoods and 8 years shorter when compared to the Seattle and King County average.

Our community has shared their excitement at the prospect of turning this site from a contaminated, inaccessible area into a community asset with space for public use. Our community has also expressed a strong desire to be more involved in these processes, and continues to emphasize the importance of having more community meetings where the public has the opportunity to directly engage with the government. This in-person exchange of information and ideas is an important part of facilitating public participation.

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) exists because of community vision and advocacy, having evolved from community initiative.¹ One of its core principles is that public participation is an integral aspect of the cleanup process.² The value of public participation is so significant that it was codified as a requirement for the Department of Ecology, who must “promote effective and meaningful public participation.”³ While we recognize that Ecology has taken some steps to create opportunities for meaningful public participation, we have determined some ways that Ecology can make their community engagement more effective and the public comment process more inclusive. We believe that an Enhanced Community Engagement Process needs to be developed for all EJ communities to address the HEAL Act. This letter addresses some issues that concern us about both the Independent Metals public meeting and document, but we believe that it has relevance to all Public Participation Plans and public meetings in environmental justice communities.

I. ECOLOGY SHOULD CONDUCT A DEEPER ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES TO COMPLY WITH THE HEAL ACT.

Incorporating environmental justice into a Public Participation Plan is now mandated by the HEAL Act.⁴ Recognizing health disparities is a critical part of considering the unique burdens placed on environmental justice communities. The use of the Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map and the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool are necessary to determine the specific intentional engagement of different overburdened communities, but it is not enough to only identify the percentiles thresholds for Black, Indigenous, immigrants, people of color, low-income individuals, and linguistically isolated populations who live in proximity to the site.⁵ These should serve as preliminary assessment tools that are then used to inform public participation strategies that are tailored to the needs of the community.

We understand that Ecology has created a timeline for HEAL Act implementation that extends into 2025 to ensure that “processes and plans are required to align with guidance from

¹See *Model Toxics Control Act*, Department of Ecology, <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>.

²*Id.*

³RCW 70A.305.030(1)(i)(C).

⁴See SB 5141 sec. 13.

⁵See Independent Metals Plant 2 Public Participation Plan at 12-13.

the Environmental Justice Council.”⁶ But until these processes are in place, there are still ways that the Department can comply with the HEAL Act when performing their obligations to create more equitable public participation and meaningful engagement.

For example, the Agency must “engage with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations as it evaluates new and existing activities and programs. This plan must describe how the agency plans to facilitate equitable participation and support meaningful and direct involvement of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.”⁷ The community engagement and participation language in the HEAL Act clearly sets forth requirements that require significantly more than only identifying overburdened communities.

II. ECOLOGY SHOULD GET INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC ON WHAT COMMENT PERIODS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES SHOULD LOOK LIKE SPECIFIC TO EACH SITE.

Ecology must also consider methods for outreach that “overcome barriers to engagement.”⁸ In environmental justice communities, barriers to engagement are endless. As a result of the disproportionate environmental burdens they face, these communities are constantly asked to participate in governmental processes like public comment when they may not have the necessary resources to do so. Public comment periods in environmental justice communities need to be modified to address engagement barriers, which may differ between communities who are forced to live with the cumulative impacts of decades of pollution and ongoing contamination.

Staying engaged in these processes takes significant time and effort – one must review long and intensely technical documents, get clarifying questions answered by the Agency, take the time to write a comment, and then continue to monitor the site to ensure their comments are being incorporated and considered. It is a huge ask of anyone, let alone someone who lives in an area with multiple ongoing projects. Currently, the Duwamish Valley has comment periods open on multiple sites. Ecology should account for this and coordinate with project managers for other ongoing sites to check-in with impacted communities to determine if it would be helpful to extend the comment period.

Further, the community might find it more useful to combine meetings for multiple sites or feel that for certain sites, it is more appropriate to comment on different stages of the MTCA process that do not currently require public comment. In environmental justice communities, Ecology should ask the public what their needs are for each site and allow for a more

⁶*Healthy Environment for All*, Department of Ecology, <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Environmental-Justice/HEAL>.

⁷See SB 5141 sec. 13.

⁸*Id.*

personalized comment period experience that is based on the public's current capacity and community input.

III. ECOLOGY SHOULD IMPLEMENT OTHER OUTREACH METHODS TO CREATE A MORE ACCESSIBLE COMMENT PROCESS.

As noted in the Public Participation Plan, South Park and Georgetown are in the 82nd percentile for people of color populations and 89th percentile for Linguistically Isolated populations.⁹ Ecology has done a good job of translating print materials and having interpreters at public meetings. However, there are also a significant number of Somali and Amharic speakers in the Duwamish Valley that would benefit from the same accessibility that Ecology has provided for Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Khmer speaking communities.¹⁰ Further, providing translations and interpretation is not enough to facilitate meaningful engagement.

Community members have expressed that a combination of in-person and virtual events would be ideal with food and childcare options available for in-person events. Many people have obligations in the evening including caring for children and getting dinner ready for their families, which prevents them from participating in public meetings. Providing a meal and an option for them to bring their children will make these events more accessible.

It would also be beneficial to record any online public meetings and post them online so that community members can view it later if they were not able to attend or re-watch it later if they need clarification on an issue. Creating accessible meetings is a critical part of facilitating meaningful engagement in environmental justice communities. When there are multiple ways in which a community can receive information and ask questions, there is more opportunity for consequential participation.

Community members have also stated that it can be difficult to keep up with all of the ongoing meetings and asked that short surveys be offered as an alternative to providing public comment. This would allow community members to share their thoughts with Ecology without the burden of having to review the documents and then put together a written comment. Surveys should ask environmental justice community short and concise questions about identified areas of concern and use a combination of short answer, multiple choice, or a numbered scale to express varying levels of interest and disconcertment on different topics.

⁹Independent Metals Plant 2 Public Participation Plan at 12-13.

¹⁰City of Seattle Top Tier Languages, City of Seattle, https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OIRA/Seattle%20Top%20Tier%20Languages_Multisource%20Table_Updated%2011_14_2020.pdf.

IV. ECOLOGY SHOULD IMPROVE OUTREACH TO CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS BY INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND SCOPE OF OUTREACH.

Additionally, Ecology should do community engagement to cultural and community groups in the Duwamish Valley to develop strategies for meaningful participation. The best way to determine how these processes can be made more accessible is to ask those being engaged directly. Many of these groups can provide valuable insight as to ways that Ecology can better perform outreach which can then inform future engagement work with other environmental justice communities. Ecology should also consult with community-based organizations who have existing ties with the community to determine other ways to make public comment more accessible. These organizations likely have methods of soliciting community feedback that could inform Ecology's practices.

We are aware that Ecology has an internal list of organizations that they send information to when new comment periods open. Ecology should make this list public so that community groups and community members can provide input on who else should be added rather than putting the burden on the public to opt into notifications. Sharing this information can also help community members know which organizations to seek out if they need additional resources. One example of a community group that should be on Ecology's notification list is the Duwamish Tribe. The Tribe is a valued part of the Duwamish Valley community and should be updated on sites like Independent Metals 2 as soon as documents are made available. The Tribe also has unique insight that could be extremely helpful to Ecology as these documents are reviewed, and ensuring they are able to participate in public comment is invaluable.

Ultimately, it is not enough to send postcards and emails to the community about an open comment periods. Meaningful engagement requires consultation, community-driven involvement, and shared leadership. This should include more public meetings with Ecology representatives available in person to address questions and concerns, conversations with the community about ways to make public comment more accessible, and feedback from the public on what their engagement needs are for each site.

Ecology should focus on ways to create more bidirectional communication with the public by working with the public to create systems and programs that work for our community. This is an essential part of the relationship building work that the Agency must do to build trust and partnership with the community. Building trust will help the public feel more comfortable engaging in these processes and will allow for more honest feedback which will in turn benefit the Agency. This will require more intentional outreach that is tailored to the unique needs of an environmental justice community like the Duwamish Valley.

V. ECOLOGY SHOULD PROVIDE MORE SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW OF RELEASED DOCUMENTS AND MAKE PUBLIC MEETINGS CLEARER FOR COMMUNITY.

Finally, public presentations by Ecology should include more background information. Many members of the public come to these meetings without any background information on what these documents are. While we appreciate the overview of the MTCA process that Ecology provides at the beginning of these presentations, we also think there should be more discussion on what each document being reviewed is and why it is important to get community feedback on it.

Ecology should also do more substantive review of the documents in these presentations. The majority of the public does not have the time to review them, and many of them are lengthy and technical. Virtual meetings should not be the only way to engage with community, especially in short comment periods. Combined with the aforementioned burden of having multiple public comment sites ongoing in the Duwamish Valley, Ecology should do a better job of taking more ownership of their role in creating an equitable process by presenting on the content of the documents they are seeking comment on. This would bring more people into the process who previously lacked the time and resources to do their own review and help remedy the power balance that exists between a state agency and an overburdened community.

In summary, we believe that the Independent Metals Public Participation Plan needs to be revised to reflect an Enhanced Community Engagement approach that includes (1) a deeper environmental justice analysis to comply with the HEAL Act, (2) a pathway to extend all comment periods, (3) other engagement methods to create more accessibility, (4) more cultural and community focused outreach that is transparent, and (5) substantive reviews of released documents. We request that the Department of Ecology revise their Public Participation Plan to include the aforementioned Enhanced Community Engagement approach.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



Jamie Hearn
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Appendix B. “Implementing Washington’s Environmental Just Law (Chapter 70A.02 RCW)
Summary of Progress and Implementation Goals”



Implementing Washington's Environmental Justice Law (Chapter 70A.02 RCW):

Summary of Progress and Implementation Goals

Washington State Department of Ecology

Olympia, Washington

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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-480-6270 or email at courtney.cecale@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region 360-407-6300	Northwest Region 206-594-0000	Central Region 509-575-2490	Eastern Region 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

Implementing Washington's Environmental Justice Law (Chapter 70A.02 RCW)

Summary of Progress and Implementation Goals

Office of Equity and Environmental Justice
Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, WA

December 2022, Publication 23-01-001



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Introduction

How to use this document

This document summarizes the progress the Department of Ecology has made on the implementation of Washington’s environmental justice law, [Chapter 70A.02 RCW](#)² (also known as the Healthy Environment for All Act, or the HEAL Act). This report identifies how the agency met key legislative targets and outlines the plan for implementing HEAL from 2023-2025. The included timelines in this summary report are only projected goals. In line with the intent of the act, we anticipate this to be an iterative and collaborative process.

What is the environmental justice law?

Washington’s environmental justice law is the first statewide law to create a coordinated and collaborative approach by specific state agencies to address environmental justice. The purpose of the law is to improve environmental and health outcomes for everyone, and more pointedly, to address environmental and health disparities for communities of color and low-income communities.

Implementing collaboratively

This new law takes a historic step toward making environmental justice a priority for key state agencies that have direct impacts on the distribution of environmental and health disparities.

Currently, fourteen agencies are involved in HEAL implementation in some capacity:

- The seven covered agencies identified in the law include Washington state’s Departments of Ecology, Transportation, Commerce, Health, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and the Puget Sound Partnership. They are required to fully implement the law, with slight differences across agencies depending on scope of work. Representatives from these agencies comprise the Interagency Work Group.
- The single opt-In agency is the Attorney General’s Office. They have chosen to fully implement the law.
- Additional “listen & learn” agencies include Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Board of Health, Pollution Liability Insurance Agency, County Road Administration, and Washington State Transportation Commission. They each have their own relationship to the law, and some have participated in support capacities with the Interagency Work Group.

All covered agencies work together in a collaborative and coordinated manner to strategically share resources, streamline processes and avoid redundancies, facilitate clearer public access, improve engagement practices, as well as solve more complex problems that span across our individual jurisdictions. At Ecology, the Interagency Work Group representative from the Office

² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.02&full=true>

of Equity and Environmental Justice, spearheads the production of plans, process, and guidance to suit our individual agency actions. The representative ensures we continually improve our work by also integrating the expertise and guidance of the Environmental Justice Council (an expert group appointed by the Governor), and communities affected by environmental health disparities.

Requirements for Ecology

The HEAL Act requires covered agencies to implement a host of operational and programmatic changes, by specific deadlines (see also RCW.70A.02.040).

With various check-in points and reporting obligations, covered agencies must accomplish 5 primary requirements:

1. Adopt a Community Engagement Plan.
2. Develop and adopt a Tribal Consultation Plan.
3. Incorporate environmental justice into agency strategic plan.
4. Conduct environmental justice assessments on significant agency actions.
5. Incorporate environmental justice into budgeting and funding decisions.

Below is a timeline of the major HEAL milestones and when Ecology expects to complete them.



REQUIREMENT 1: Adopt a Community Engagement Plan ([RCW 70A.02.050](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.02.050)³)

Requirements

By July 1, 2022, Ecology must create and adopt a Community Engagement Plan that describes how it will engage with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations as it evaluates new and existing activities and programs.

The plan must include:

- A process for identifying overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
- Best practices for outreach and communication specifically to overcome barriers to engagement with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
- Guidance on how to use available screening tools and technologies.
- Processes that facilitate and support the meaningful inclusion of communities affected by agency decision making.
- Methods for outreach and communication with those who face barriers to participation.

Actions Taken

- From September 2021 to June 2022, the Interagency Work Group created a draft community engagement plan that includes the above listed requirements. From that work, Ecology adopted a Provisional Community Engagement Plan on July 1, 2022, **meeting the statutory requirement.**
- Workgroups at Ecology have since been focused on **making the provisional plan actionable** across programs with differing regulatory authorities, goals, and protocols. We are in the process of developing useful instructional guides, self-serve educational content, and trainings to help our team achieve the collaboratively developed goals envisioned by the Interagency Work Group – with flexibility to account for anticipated feedback (expected by the summer of 2023).
- Ecology’s Office of Equity and Environmental Justice (which formed in 2021) has filled **new positions that oversee this work**, and the office is anticipating five more positions including a full-time position dedicated to the community engagement and Tribal consultation components of the Environmental Justice Law (expected by end the end of 2022 or early 2023).
- Ecology is in the process of adopting guidance from the Governor’s Office of Equity on **community compensation**, which will support engagement with impacted peoples by

³ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.02.050>

reducing financial barriers to participation (expected in January 2023). Adopting this law into agency practices will help support Ecology’s community engagement goals, as the agency works towards the implementation of Washington’s environmental justice law. Ecology’s Interagency Work Group representative is working closely with other agencies to share best practices, and potentially leverage collective resources towards this effort.

Looking Forward

- Ecology representatives in the Interagency Work Group are helping to plan statewide community **listening sessions** from March-November 2023, to help improve our new community engagement practices, and co-develop metrics and accountability mechanisms. This information will be shared with relevant parties at our agency.
- The plan for listening sessions will be **shared with the Environmental Justice Council** in early 2023, including a recorded presentation and an informational packet, to facilitate greater ease for feedback.
- When provided, Ecology also looks forward to **incorporating guidance from the Environmental Justice Council**, whose knowledge and expertise will be central to the success of these efforts. These sessions should be completed and analyzed by fall 2023, with adjustments to our community engagement practices to follow.
- The community engagement plan will evolve as our agency builds a relationship with the Environmental Justice Council and communities affected by the work of covered agencies. Ecology plans to **update our community engagement plan every two years**, in collaboration with the other covered agencies who have agreed to do the same.
- Finally, the Interagency Work Group representatives aim to develop more streamlined intra-agency processes, including potentially a comprehensive intra-agency **tracking system** to try to avoid redundant community asks, and to help better streamline our engagement processes across agencies.

Projected Timeline – community engagement plan

Year	Month	Action	Responsible People
2022	July 1 st	Legislative Requirement: Ecology adopted a provisional Community Engagement Plan, developed in collaboration with the Interagency Work Group.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
	July 1 st	Legislative Requirement: The Interagency Work Group shared the plan, on behalf of Ecology and the other covered agencies, with the Environmental Justice Council for guidance. When available, this guidance will be incorporated into agency community engagement plans.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative

	October-December	Interagency Work Group Community Engagement subcommittee, including an Ecology representative, began planning community listening sessions for 2023.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	November (ongoing)	The Ecology HEAL Implementation Team formed an internal working group with volunteers across the agency. This team has begun developing internal documents to inform community engagement work, including self-serve educational and training materials – and works closely with the Interagency Work Group HEAL Education Subcommittee. This work will be ongoing through the following year.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
2023	January	Interagency Work Group will share draft plan for community listening sessions with the Environmental Justice Council.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	January-February	Interagency Work Group Community Engagement Subcommittee will incorporate feedback from the Environmental Justice Council on the plan for listening sessions.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	March-October	Hold Community listening sessions with Interagency Work Group across the state on multiple HEAL Act requirements, including community engagement.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	September 1 st	Legislative Requirement: Share early analysis from listening sessions in annual update to the Environmental Justice Council.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	October	Generate and share report of findings with the Governor's Office of Equity to identify policy and system barriers to meaningful engagement with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
2023	November-December	Assess, analyze, and apply information from community listening sessions, Environmental Justice Council, Office of Equity, and any additional public engagement activities. Use this information to inform revisions to agency Community Engagement Plan.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team

REQUIREMENT 2: Implement Tribal Consultation Plans ([RCW 70A.02.100](#))

Requirements

Covered agencies are required to develop a consultation framework in coordination with Tribal Governments that includes best practices, protocols for communication, and collaboration with federally recognized Tribes on:

- The inclusion or updating of an environmental justice implementation plan.
- The creation, adoption, or updating of community engagement plans.
- Significant agency actions that affect federally recognized Tribe's rights and interests.

Actions Taken

- Ecology's Executive Advisor for Tribal Affairs serves and acts as a key leader on the State Agency Tribal Liaisons HEAL Act Workgroup (an Interagency Subcommittee).
- The workgroup members are **in the process of developing a consultation framework** that includes best practices, protocols for communication, and collaboration pathways with federally recognized Tribes for all covered agencies.
- The group began meeting in the fall of 2022, and is currently **producing and updating initial drafts** for the consultation processes.
- Ecology's Office of Equity and Environmental Justice (which formed in 2021) has filled **new positions to oversee this work**, and the Office anticipates onboarding another staff member to support the implementation of the Tribal consultation plans developed (positions expected by end the end of 2022, or early 2023).

Looking Forward

Ecology's Executive Advisor for Tribal Affairs is also leading an agency **Tribal consultation survey** that will be launched in the spring of 2023. Data will be collected, analyzed, and the consultation process will be developed accordingly with additional support from Ecology's Governmental Relations Office and graduate student researchers from the UW Evans School.

Meeting this HEAL Act requirement, and developing meaningful consultation processes, is expected to take considerable time and require more responsive flexibility in our practices. Each of the 32 federally recognized nations that will be covered by our frameworks may have different capacities and interests in engaging with Ecology, or they might be interested in developing different processes from one another.

Projected Timeline –Tribal consultation plan

Year	Month	Action	Responsible People
2022	November-December	State Agency Tribal Liaisons HEAL Act Workgroup (an Interagency Work Group) convened and began drafting initial engagement guides for both Tribal governments and Tribal communities, along with a definitions appendix.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	December	Ecology began development of a survey to inform Tribal consultation processes for the agency.	Ecology (internal): Tribal Relations Government Relations HEAL Implementation Team
2023	January-February	Continued development of survey to inform Tribal consultation process	Ecology (internal): Tribal Relations Government Relations HEAL Implementation Team
	January-February	Host an Interagency Work Group listening session with Tribal leaders and representatives	Ecology (internal): Tribal Relations HEAL Implementation Team
	March-TBD	In partnership with the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs, Ecology will launch the survey. Graduate students, under the supervision of agency experts, will analyze collected information to help inform the development of the Tribal consultation process.	Ecology (internal): Tribal Relations Government Relations HEAL Implementation Team
	TBD	Legislative Requirement: Ecology's Executive Advisor for Tribal Affairs, with the support of relevant HEAL Implementation Team members, will develop formal Tribal Consultation framework for the Agency, on timelines that work best for the federally recognized Tribes. This work will include considerable engagement, including with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.	Ecology (internal): Tribal Relations Government Relations HEAL Implementation Team

REQUIREMENT 3: Incorporating Environmental Justice into Agency Strategic Plans ([RCW 70A.02.040](#))

Requirements

The HEAL Act requires covered agencies to include an environmental justice implementation plan within their strategic plan by January 1, 2023. That plan must describe:

- How the agency will apply principles of environmental justice to the agency's activities.
- Agency specific goals and actions to reduce environmental and health disparities.
- Metrics to track and measure accomplishments.
- Strategies to improve community engagement and better democratize our services.
- Strategies to ensure compliance with existing federal and state laws and policies relating to environmental justice.

Actions Taken

Ecology's 2023-2025 Biennial Plan

Ecology has included environmental justice strategies in the agency's [2023-2025 Biennial Plan](#)⁴, with concrete action steps to address equity in our work both internal to the agency and external.

Key Initiatives from the strategic plan include:

- Implementing clear, standardized, and useful environmental justice protocols in enforcement and compliance activities.
- Collaboratively recalibrating environmental reporting and information on violations in overburdened communities for more accurate analyses and public data sharing.
- Integrating environmental justice and equity criteria in budget and funding decisions to distribute expenditures more equitably, create equitable environmental benefits, or reduce harms for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
- Implementing a community engagement plan, developed in collaboration with the Environmental Justice Council, to guide our work with communities across Washington.
- Establishing and implementing a Tribal consultation plan to ensure consistent protocols and best practices for engagement, communication, and collaboration.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Strategic-plan/2023-25-Strategic-Plan#goalbox1>

- Establishing standards in our compliance and enforcement processes that ensure meaningful and inclusive public engagement from diverse communities across the state.
- Increasing the accessibility and transparency of Ecology’s discrimination complaints process. Gathering and using feedback from our customers and employees to inform our work so we can understand where we are successful, address needs, and more equitably and effectively provide our services.
- Increasing the use of engaging visual and audio content to make our external communications more relevant and accessible.
- Improving audit timeliness for testing laboratories in response to feedback from regulatory partners and customers, so potentially impacted people don’t have to wait as long to learn crucial information.
- Implementing recommendations from our diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect (DEIR) Agency Organizational Assessment.
- Operationalizing new and revised anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, workplace accommodation, DEIR policies and procedures using principles of change management to create a culture of belonging and respect for all and be an antiracist organization.
- Updating required job qualifications to recognize that life experiences, work experience, and education are all ways to gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform our work.
- Supporting successful recruitment and retention of a diverse and well-trained workforce that carries out their responsibilities with cultural humility, service excellence, and professionalism.
- Developing and implementing a DEIR training program for our workforce.

Ecology’s mission, vision, goals, and named initiatives incorporate principles of environmental justice, identify agency specific goals, includes metrics, and incorporate strategies to improve community engagement. The strategic plan was published ahead of the 2021 deadline, so it is already [publicly available](#). Consolidated information on our initiatives and plans is also being shared directly with the Environmental Justice Council for review by the end of 2022.

Plan for Partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency

Ecology also incorporates environmental justice into agency strategic plans by way of agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The [Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement](#) (PPA) establishes and implements a joint work plan between the EPA and the Department of Ecology for administering federal grant dollars that the EPA provides to Ecology for air quality, water quality, and hazardous waste management. For over a decade the PPA has included dedicated agreements on environmental justice priorities, and this work bolsters agency implementation of Washington’s environmental justice law.

Significant relevant environmental justice agreements in the current plan include:

- Establishing a goal of providing all people the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, ensuring equal access to decision making processes, and working towards providing a healthy environment for all to live, learn and work.
- Developing metrics for measuring environmental justice.
- Data sharing for tracking and assessing environmental justice progress across the state.
- Hosting environmental justice learning events.
- Developing training opportunities and fostering shared training related to environmental justice.
- Coordinating and working together to tackle issues at the intersection of environmental justice and ongoing climate change.
- In addition the agency strategic plan and PPA, Ecology programs, (such as the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program) have also integrated EJ goals into their strategic plans.

Ensuring Compliance with Existing Federal and State Laws

Ecology, as an agency that receives federal funding, is required to comply with several federal and state laws and policies that directly relate to environmental justice, and Ecology affirms our goal of compliance in our strategic plans.

These laws and policies prevent discrimination on the basis of identities and experiences such as disability, race, language, geography, sex, and age, and include:

- Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 5 and 7
- Title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 21
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972

Ecology strengthens our compliance with these laws by developing and implementing plans that support digital and document accessibility, language access, and nondiscrimination compliance for subrecipients of federal funding. That implementation work is guided and supported by Ecology's Office of Equity and Environmental Justice, Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Digital Accessibility Coordinator, and various work groups across the agency.

Looking Forward

Ecology will continue to include environmental justice as an agency priority in future strategic plan developments.

Projected Timeline – agency strategic plans

Year	Month	Action	Responsible People
2022	November	Legislative Requirement: Ecology published 2023-2025 Biennial Strategic Plan, which included our plan for applying the principles of environmental justice into the agency's activities. Completed before the January 1 st legislative deadline.	Ecology (internal): Leadership HEAL Implementation Team Communications
	December 31	Legislative Requirement: Ecology will produce and make available agency summary of progress and implementation goals connected to Washington's Environmental Justice Law. This document outlines how Ecology plans to apply the principles of environmental justice to the agency's activities and guides the agency in its implementation of obligations under the environmental justice law. Completed before the January 1 st legislative deadline.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
2023	February	Legislative Requirement: Share plans with the Environmental Justice Council.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	February-December	Work with Ecology offices and programs to find additional goals and metrics for evaluating environmental justice issues and to improve environment and health disparities for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations. This will inform future strategic plans.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
	March-October	Incorporate any feedback that might emerge from Tribal roundtable discussions.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Tribal Relations
	May-June	Incorporate any guidance on incorporating environmental justice into agency strategic plans by the Environmental Justice Council.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
2024- TBD		Work with Ecology offices, divisions, and programs to incorporate environmental justice metrics and goals into their planning. Continue to iteratively and collaboratively develop ambitious environmental justice goals and adopt them into future agency strategic plans.	

REQUIREMENT 4: Conduct Environmental Justice Assessments on Significant Agency Actions

(RCW.70A.02.060)

Requirements

Starting July 1, 2023, all covered agencies will begin conducting environmental justice assessments of all significant agency actions. The purpose is to inform and support the agency's consideration of overburdened communities and vulnerable populations when making decisions and to assist the agency with the equitable distribution of environmental benefits, the reduction of environmental harms, and the identification and reduction of environmental and health disparities.

There are four primary categories of action that will require an environmental justice assessment:

1. The development and adoption of significant legislative rules.
2. The development and adoption of any new grant or loan program.
3. A capital project, grant, or loan award of at least \$12,000,000.
4. The submission of agency request legislation to the office of the governor or the office of financial management.

Beginning in 2025, Ecology and the covered agencies are invited to expand their definitions of significant agency actions, with feedback from Tribes, the Environmental Justice Council, agency leadership, and affected communities.

An environmental justice assessment contains specific process requirements. The assessment process must:

- Use a cumulative environmental health impact analysis to help determine the impacts of the action.
- Identify overburdened communities and vulnerable populations impacted by the action.
- Identify if the proposed action will have impacts to federally recognized Tribes.
- Engage communities about the action, summarize community input, and incorporate feedback into agency actions. Offer process for appeals.
- Describe options for the agency to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate identified probable impacts. Develop and track related metrics over time.

This requirement also includes additional metrics and reporting requirements that will be shared publicly.

Actions Taken

- Ecology is in the process of **identifying current activities** that meet the statutory definition of a significant agency action. This involves meeting with relevant programs and program managers and discussing with agency leadership.
- Leading up to the July 1, 2023, statutory deadline, Ecology will work with the Interagency Work Group to create a provisional or pilot process to conduct environmental justice assessments.
- Ecology’s representatives on the Interagency Work Group will work to help adapt and adopt the collaboratively developed guidance to fit the specificities of our agency and programmatic specialties.

Looking Forward

Similar to our approach with community engagement plans, we will update the environmental justice assessment process every two years to add community feedback on the process and guidance from the Environmental Justice Council.

Projected Timeline – environmental justice assessments

Year	Month	Action	Responsible People
2023	January	Identify activities at Ecology that meet the statutory definition of a significant agency action.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
	January-February	Create initial process for environmental justice assessments, ideally with Environmental Justice Council representatives	Interagency Work Group: Ecology representative
	February	Legislative Requirement: Engage the Environmental Justice Council formally, seeking guidance on identified significant agency actions and processes for conducting environmental justice assessments.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology representative
	March	Legislative Requirement: Open list of significant agency actions for public comment	Interagency Work Group: Ecology representative Communications
	March-November	Hold community listening sessions across the state to help inform the environmental justice assessment process	Interagency Work Group: Ecology representative
	May	Incorporate early feedback and revise environmental justice assessment process	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
	June	Legislative Requirement: Publish on agency website the types of agency actions that Ecology has determined are significant agency actions that require an environmental justice assessment, as well as provide	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team

		notification of those determinants to the Washington State Register.	
	June	Legislative Requirement: Finalize first-iteration of agency specific guidance, akin to a checklist or step-by-step process, on how to conduct environmental justice assessments on relevant projects (including self-serve educational materials and offering limited trainings).	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
	July 1 st	Legislative Requirement: Begin conducting environmental justice assessments to inform and support the agency's consideration of overburdened communities and vulnerable populations when making decisions and to assist the agency with the equitable distribution of environmental benefits, the reduction of environmental harms, and the identification and reduction of environmental and health disparities.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team Relevant staff
	July-December	Assess, analyze, and improve environmental justice assessment process internally	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
2024	April-August	Legislative Requirement: Identify other programs that meet the statutory definition of significant agency actions.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
	September 1 st	Legislative Requirement: Share findings in the legislatively mandated annual report, soliciting engagement from the council.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
2025	January-May	Legislative Requirement: Repeat engagement processes above to assess the new expanded scope of significant agency actions.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
	May-June	Ensure that programs and projects affected by scope expansion have educational and training materials to prepare them to begin conducting environmental justice assessments.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team
	July 1 st	Legislative Requirement: Launch environmental justice assessment process for expanded scope significant agency actions.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team & Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representatives
	TBD	Legislative Requirement: Assess, analyze, and improve this process at least once every two years, in collaboration with the Interagency Work Group.	Ecology (internal): Heal Implementation Team & Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representatives

REQUIREMENT 5: Incorporate Environmental Justice into Budgeting and Funding ([RCW.70A.02.080](#))

Requirements

All covered agencies must incorporate environmental justice principles into their decision processes for budget development, making expenditures, and granting or withholding environmental benefits. Each agency must find ways to equitably distribute funding and expenditures related to programs that address or may cause environmental harms or provide environmental benefits towards overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.

Beginning July 1, 2023, covered agencies must take the following actions when making expenditure decisions of developing budget requests for the Office of Financial Management and the legislature, specifically for programs that address or may cause environmental harms or provide environmental benefits:

- Focus applicable expenditures on creating benefits for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
- Create opportunities for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations to meaningfully participate in expenditure decisions.
- Clearly articulate environmental justice goals and performance metrics to communicate the basis for agency expenditure.
- Consider a broad scope of grants and contracting opportunities that effectuate environmental justice principles.
- Establish a goal of directing 40 percent of grants and expenditures that create environmental benefits to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

This requirement also includes additional metrics and reporting requirements that will be shared publicly.

Actions Taken

Ecology is on track to meet this deadline, but the process is still in development. Steps taken towards implementing this requirement so far include:

- Early assessment and planning meetings with agency financial leaders at Ecology
- Clarifying the requirements and goals in the law across agencies with the Interagency Work Group
- Developing a budget-specific subcommittee through the Interagency Work Group

- Using a cumulative impacts approach, Ecology met and exceeded expectations of the Volkswagen settlement funding distributing 95% of the funds (71% of the projects) to highly impacted areas.

Looking Forward

The bulk of the work for this requirement will be conducted in 2023.

- The Office of Equity and Environmental Justice will partner with the Government Relations team to launch **an agency survey on our grants processes** in early 2023.
- Ecology will work with Interagency Work Group to **develop shared environmental justice principles** that will guide budget equity work, with the goal of soliciting feedback from the Environmental Justice Council in February 2023, and adopting them in March.
- Ecology will **develop methods to assess, analyze and improve budget and expenditure equity**, and produce guidance on best practices, methods for evaluation, and metrics.
- The agency will **pilot programs and projects** with new guidance, paying special attention to opportunities for improvement from programs and agency leadership.
- In collaboration with the Interagency Work Group, Ecology will also **solicit high-level feedback** on budget and expenditure equity from the Environmental Justice Council, and more broadly, rolled into community listening sessions launching in March of 2023.

Projected Timeline – incorporating environmental justice into budgeting and funding

Year	Month	Action	Responsible People
2022	November	Ecology released the 2023-2025 Biennial Strategic Plan, in which the agency committed to incorporating environmental justice and equity criteria in budget and funding decisions, moving our agency towards the 40% goal. Legislative Requirement: Each covered agency must establish a goal of directing 40% of grants and expenditure to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.	Ecology (internal): Agency leadership
2023	January	Interagency Work Group will identify and align shared environmental justice principles that will be incorporated into budgetary and expenditure processes per legislative requirement	Interagency Work Group: Ecology representative
	January-February	Agency survey on environmental justice in grants processes designed	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Government Relations Office

	February	Share the environmental justice principles accepted by the Interagency Work Group with the Environmental Justice Council for feedback and guidance	Interagency Work Group
	February-March	Agency survey on environmental justice in grants launched, analyzed	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Government Relations Office
	March	Incorporate any guidance from the Environmental Justice Council on proposed environmental justice principles into high-level processes for interagency alignment. Legislative Requirement: Incorporate principles, after iterative consultation, into process design for assessing the equitable distribution of funding and expenditures.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology representative
	March	Develop methods to assess, analyze and improve budget expenditure and equity that reflect agreed upon principles, including all the legislative requirements.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
	March-May	Pilot budget equity programs and projects at Ecology (targeting those with largest financial impacts to ensure we are working towards our 40% goal).	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Relevant financial offices
	May	Develop lessons learned from initial pilots.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Relevant financial offices
	End of May	Develop and share guidance widely with relevant programs.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Relevant financial offices
	June	Write report that summarizes the types of decision processes for budget development, making expenditures, and granting or withholding environmental benefits for which the agency will take to meet the requirement. Solicit feedback from relevant parties at the agency.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Relevant financial offices Communications
	July 1st	Legislative Requirement: Ecology will publish on its website the types of decision processes for budget development, making expenditures, and granting or withholding environmental benefits for which the agency will take to meet the requirement	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Relevant financial offices Communications
	September	Legislative Requirement: In Ecology's annual report, the agency will engage the Environmental Justice Council over the implementation of environmental justice assessments, welcoming guidance for improvements.	Interagency Work Group: Ecology Representative
	October-December	Expand budget equity processes into other relevant agency processes, programs, and actions.	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team Relevant financial teams

2024		Continue improving budget equity processes, ongoing implementation	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team
2025		Continue improving budget equity processes, ongoing implementation	Ecology (internal): HEAL Implementation Team

Learn and Connect with the HEAL Team

The passage of the HEAL Act in 2021 was a significant step towards transforming state agency policy and practice. In its implementation, it will further environmental justice in Washington state. This implementation plan outlines the path we will take to achieve the aims of the HEAL Act and monitor its progress in implementation. We will regularly update and strengthen this plan, and incorporate direction and feedback from Tribal consultation, Environmental Justice Council, community engagement, Legislature, and Governor's Office.

Learn more about implementation of the HEAL Act and environmental justice by visiting [Ecology's Office of Equity & Environmental Justice](#) webpage.

For more information about HEAL implementation at Ecology please contact Courtney Cecale (courtney.cecale@ecy.wa.gov).

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Appendix C. List of Duwamish Valley community organizations in GovDelivery email system

- Concord Elementary School (Seattle Schools)
- Duwamish Alive Coalition
- Duwamish River Accountability Group (Individual members only; general organization email not preferred)
- Duwamish River Community Coalition
- Duwamish Tribe
- Duwamish Valley Affordable Housing Coalition
- Duwamish Valley Safe Streets
- Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association
- Environmental Coalition of South Seattle
- Friends of Georgetown History
- Georgetown Arts and Cultural Center
- Georgetown Community Council
- Georgetown Merchants Association
- Georgetown Open Space Committee
- Georgetown Strong
- Juntos Podemos Cuidar Nuestro Rio Duwamish
- Just Health Action
- South Park Neighborhood Association
- South Park Senior Center
- Villa Comunitaria
- University of Washington

[List also contains Ecology staff for outreach and communications support when emailing community.]