

# Focus on: PFAS Statewide Funding Strategy



*PFAS have contaminated the drinking water supplies of millions of Americans. The best way to protect human health and the environment is to stop PFAS at the source.*

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of more than 12,000 synthetic organic chemicals. They don't break down in the environment and are known as "forever chemicals." In addition to being toxic, these chemicals accumulate in human and animal tissues. Exposure to some types of PFAS is harmful to human health.

In the 2023–2025 Capital Budget, the Legislature directed the departments of Ecology and Health to develop a multiyear statewide funding strategy for future capital projects to address the reduction, mitigation, and cleanup of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

## PFAS Statewide Funding Strategy

Building on the 2021 [PFAS Chemical Action Plan](#),<sup>1</sup> the 2024 [PFAS Statewide Funding Strategy](#)<sup>2</sup> proposes initiatives and 24 recommendations for work in the 2025-27 and 2027-29 biennia. Washington needs nearly two billion dollars over the next four years to address and reduce PFAS contamination.

## Strategic initiatives

Four strategic initiatives would support and implement a unified response to PFAS:

- **Create a coordinating body for statewide PFAS work** to centralize and enhance cooperation across agencies.
- **Coordinate statewide funding with a unified fund.** This would allow for coordinated budgeting across all state agencies, including emergency response for drinking water contamination.
- **Coordinate statewide engagement to increase public outreach and involvement.** The strategy emphasizes environmental justice considerations at the strategic level and includes action items to address the needs of overburdened communities affected by PFAS contamination.
- **Coordinate multi-state efforts.** This includes coordinating PFAS response with other states, requesting federal action, and working to increase funding available to states.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2004048.html>

<sup>2</sup> PFAS Statewide Funding Strategy: Four-Year Plan for Prevention, Reduction, and Mitigation in Washington State. <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2404058.html>

## The Statewide Funding Strategy includes

- An overview of Washington’s PFAS-related work.
- An approach to funding future PFAS work.
- Actions taken by other states.
- Possible funding approaches and mechanisms.
- Strategic initiatives supporting a unified statewide PFAS response.
- Priority actions for early implementation.

## Recommendations

This strategy contains 31 recommendations for future work in three areas:

- Ensure drinking water is safe.
- Manage environmental PFAS contamination.
- Understand and manage PFAS in waste.

Read the funding strategy for full recommendations and supporting details.

## Emerging issues

The strategy identifies two actions needed to support PFAS reduction in the state:

- Provide resources for the Washington State Department of Agriculture to respond to the agricultural implications of PFAS use.
- Address PFAS in consumer products, support alternative assessments, and identify viable PFAS alternatives.

## Next steps

The Legislature will review the report and determine the next steps for addressing PFAS contamination in Washington. Taking steps to ensure drinking water is safe, funding clean up of contaminated sites, and avoiding future exposure to PFAS through source reduction will all be elements the Legislature will consider. The ultimate solution is to stop PFAS at the source to limit future contamination.

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