

## Saltwater Algae Program Grants

### Funding Cycle

In 2009, the Washington State Legislature set aside \$140,000 from the Freshwater Algae Control account for grants to “manage and study excessive saltwater algae with an emphasis on the periodic accumulation of sea lettuce on Puget Sound beaches.”

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will accept grant applications for the new, one-time Saltwater Algae Program from October 1 through November 2, 2009. Ecology must receive all grant applications at its headquarters office in Lacey by 5 p.m., November 2.

Ecology will not hold workshops on these grants. However, please contact Ecology if you have any questions. You can ask questions and obtain a grant application and guidelines from Melanie Tyler at [melanie.tyler@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:melanie.tyler@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-407-7489.

Due to the new Saltwater Algae Program and limited appropriation authority, Ecology will not offer grants for new freshwater algae control projects for fiscal year 2010. Ecology will use funds in the Freshwater Algae Account to meet existing grant commitments; fund algae identification and toxicity testing by the King County Environmental Lab; and pay the administrative costs of the program.

### Saltwater Algae Grant Program

Beaches in Puget Sound are fertile grounds for blooms of sea lettuce (several species of the genus *Ulva*). Sea lettuce, because of its rapid growth rate and thin leafy structure, can accumulate rapidly in thick piles driven by winds and ocean currents. At times, sea lettuce accumulates on beaches and its decay can release unpleasant odors.

Ecology’s grants under the Saltwater Algae Program will target projects involving the management of sea lettuce accumulations, as well as research on the environmental processes that produce the blooms and distribute the algae.

### Application period:

Applications accepted  
October 1 through  
November 2, 2009

### Grant applications and project guidelines are online at:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/SWalgae/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/SWalgae/index.html)

### Contact information:

Melanie Tyler  
360-407-7489  
[melanie.tyler@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:melanie.tyler@ecy.wa.gov)

### Special accommodations:

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6520. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

The grants will also target projects that look at long-term trends of sea lettuce accumulations, and research on impacts of these accumulations on habitat, human health, and quality of life. Because this program is funded for just the 2009-2011 biennium, applicants seeking a grant for management of accumulations are required to plan for the formation of beach management districts to solve long-term funding needs.

### Who can apply?

State agencies, cities, counties, tribes, and special purpose districts are eligible to apply for this funding to pay for projects to manage or study excessive saltwater algae growth. Federal agencies are *not* eligible for funding.

### How will the money be divided among grant recipients?

This is a one-time, competitive program from the state's FY 2010 budget. These funds will be shared approximately equally between successful applicants for projects to study the saltwater algae and applicants for projects to manage excessive algae growth.

Ecology has set limits on the amount of grant funds that are available to each project selected for funding.

- The maximum grant amount for Saltwater Algae Program grants for *management* of algae is \$35,000 (\$46,667 total eligible project cost with required 25 percent match).
- The maximum grant amount per grant recipient is \$70,000. That is, one recipient could apply for and be awarded grants for two project proposals.
- Grant recipients are required to provide matching funds for Saltwater Algae Program grants. Projects will be funded at 75 percent state share and 25 percent local share.

### Evaluation and grant award process

After the application deadline (November 2, 2009), Ecology staff will:

- Contact applicants if there are any questions about their application.
- Distribute the applications to the evaluation team members. Evaluators will review applications based on the criteria described in the *Saltwater Algae Program Grant Guidelines*.
- Conduct an evaluators' meeting to discuss the project proposals and develop an offer and applicant list.
- Publish the offer and applicant list; issue formal offer letters to successful applicants.

The offer and applicant list for the Saltwater Algae Program will be available by January 1, 2010. Applicants must develop a grant agreement with Ecology within six months of the date on the offer letter.