

## **New Rule for Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

In 2008, the Washington Legislature adopted House Bill 2815. This legislation required the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to write rules for mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established its own reporting program before Ecology finalized its proposed rule.

In 2010, the Legislature and Governor Gregoire approved legislation to align Washington's greenhouse gas reporting requirements with EPA rules. Ecology restarted its rule-making process to align the state and federal programs.

### **Who must report emissions**

Reporting is required for suppliers that already report fuel sales to the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL), and stationary facilities with large GHG emissions sources. Mobile sources such as cars, trucks, ships, trains, and planes are not required to report because those emissions are covered by the fuel suppliers' reports.

Persons operating the following sources must report their emissions of certain GHGs:

- a single facility, source or site that emits at least 10,000 metric tons of GHGs annually in Washington; and
- a supplier of liquid motor vehicle fuel, special fuel or aircraft fuel that supplies products equal to at least 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually in Washington.

This method reduces the impact on small businesses, and is consistent with EPA's reporting system. It also allows Washington's reporting program to capture a larger portion of transportation emissions, which are the largest emissions source in the state.

### **SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS**

- Reporting is required for facilities and transportation fuel suppliers that emit 10,000 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalents (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) or more GHGs in Washington per year.
- Reporting starts with 2012 emissions reported in 2013.
- Facility reporting is based on EPA's methods and reporting tool.
- Fuel supplier reporting is based on Department of Licensing reporting methods.
- Mobile source fleets are not required to report.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

Emissions reporting is an important tool in understanding the sources of greenhouse gases in Washington. Greenhouse gases contribute to climate change.

### **Contact information:**

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### **Special accommodations:**

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The reporting threshold of 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year per facility or supplier means that small emissions sources won't have to report.

### When reporting starts

Full mandatory reporting will start in 2013 for 2012 emissions. Ecology will work with EPA to get partial emission reports for 2010 and 2011. The full reports will give the state detailed information needed to make informed policy decisions. The partial reports will give the state basic information on the largest emitters, while giving smaller companies time to prepare for reporting.

### How to report

Facilities will use EPA's measurement and calculation methods to report to Ecology. Washington is working with EPA to use the same online reporting tool for both programs. That will save money for reporters and allow Washington to accurately compare emissions with other states' emissions.

### What's next

Ecology is finalizing the new draft reporting rule (Chapter 173-441 WAC). The public can comment on the draft rule between Sept. 15 and Oct. 14, 2010.

Ecology will hold two public hearings to take comments:

Wednesday, October 6, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
Ecology Eastern Regional Office  
4601 N. Monroe Street, Spokane

Thursday, October 7, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
Ecology Headquarters Office  
300 Desmond Drive, Lacey

Ecology expects to adopt a final rule in December 2010.

### More information

- Contact Neil Caudill at 360-407-6811 or [neil.caudill@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:neil.caudill@ecy.wa.gov).
- See the draft rule:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/globalwarm\\_RegHaze/GreenHouseGasreporting\\_rule.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/globalwarm_RegHaze/GreenHouseGasreporting_rule.html)