

Reporting of Emissions of Greenhouse Gases, Chapter 173-441 WAC

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.

What is Chapter 173-441 WAC?

This rule-making adopts a mandatory greenhouse gas reporting rule for persons operating:

1. A single facility, source, or site that emits at least 10,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases annually in the state; or
2. A supplier of liquid motor vehicle fuel, special fuel, or aircraft fuel that supplies products equivalent to at least 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually in the state.

This rule-making will establish a new chapter, Chapter 173-441 WAC – Reporting of Emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

Response to comments

Ecology's response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. Download a copy at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1002038.html>.

Whom does this rule affect?

Reporting is required for suppliers that already report fuel sales to the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL), and

WHY IT MATTERS

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

Important dates:

January 1, 2012: Data collection starts

March 31, 2013: First report due for some sources

October 31, 2013: First report due for all other sources

Effective: January 1, 2011

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Special accommodations:

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Rule Adoption Notice

stationary facilities with large GHG emissions sources. Mobile sources such as cars, trucks, and planes are not required to report because those emissions are covered by the fuel suppliers' reports.

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.

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.

More information

Contact Neil Caudill at 360-407-6811 or neil.caudill@ecy.wa.gov for more information or to sign up for updates about mandatory greenhouse gas reporting in Washington.

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the WAC **Track** e-mail list. Go to: www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For additional information about appealing this adoption please contact Bari Schreiner in the rules unit at (360) 407-6998 or by email bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov.