



# The Life of a Rulemaking

## at the Department of Ecology



### Something triggers rulemaking

- Federal or legislative changes to a law rule
- Feedback from stakeholders
- Court decisions
- New technology and/or science
- Petitions
- Rule review every two years

### Discuss with senior management

- Why is the rule needed?
- Who is interested in the rule?
- Why now?
- What do we want to do?
- Get approval to proceed

### Announce rulemaking

- Describe the scope
- Invite participation
- Start a dialog with interested parties
- Publish in the State Register



### Develop proposed language

- Draft preliminary draft rule language
- Engage stakeholders and tribes
- Seek feedback through meeting, workshops, and online tools
- No time limit on duration

### Issue a rule proposal

- Include proposed rule language and economic analyses
- Open the formal comment period
- Publish in State Register

### Accept Comments

- Accept written comments and oral comments (via online, email, mail, webinars and/or video conference)
- Hold public hearing(s)



### Consider Comments

- Consider and respond to comments
- Are changes needed?
- Should Ecology seek adoption?

### Adopt the rule

- Adopt within 6 months of proposal
- Publish in State Register

### Implementation

- Usually effective in 31 days after filing
- Issue guidance and tools
- Provide technical assistance