

PUBLIC DISCUSSION BEGINS

Our plans to improve air quality in overburdened communities



Ways to engage in fall 2022

We understand accessibility to technology varies by person and community across Washington. In response, we are providing multiple options for submitting your comments on this initiative: online, by mail, voice mail, or in a virtual public comment session.

➤ **Comment online at:**



➤ **Mail comments to:**

Erin Torrone
Department of Ecology
Air Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

➤ **Leave a voice mail at:**
564-200-4426

➤ **Attend an online public comment session**

Interpreters and translated materials available in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Introduction

A key part of Ecology's charge under the Climate Commitment Act is to ensure that Washington communities highly impacted by poor air quality are not left behind as we work to eliminate carbon pollution. To deliver on this promise, the Washington Department of Ecology must identify which Washington communities are vulnerable to "criteria" air pollution, expand air quality monitoring in these areas, and later develop plans to reduce these air pollutants. The law directs Ecology to focus on improving "criteria" air pollution due to ties between these pollutants and public health.

This public engagement period will focus on the method for identifying overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution. Ecology is seeking input from organizations, environmental justice advocates, Tribal Governments, and the general public until **Nov. 10, 2022.**

Why it matters

Environmental justice lies at the heart of the Climate Commitment Act. We're excited about the opportunity this new initiative presents to listen to the communities that have been most impacted by air pollution – sometimes for generations – and start to address these inequities more aggressively.

We need your input

Your input is important to help make sure the process we use to identify overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution reflects the air quality concerns of your community and all communities across Washington.

Ecology would like your feedback on:

- ✓ Draft indicators to identify overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution
- ✓ Draft factors for creating community boundaries
- ✓ Data sources

DATE	TIME	CHANNEL
Tue., Sept. 27, 2022	1:00 p.m.	REGISTER NOW
Thurs., Sept. 29, 2022	6:00 p.m.	REGISTER NOW
Wed., Oct. 12, 2022	6:00 p.m.	REGISTER NOW
Tue., Oct. 18, 2022	1:00 p.m.	REGISTER NOW
Thurs., Oct. 20, 2022	6:00 p.m.	REGISTER NOW
Wed., Oct. 26, 2022	1:00 p.m.	REGISTER NOW
Tue., Nov. 1, 2022	6:00 p.m.	REGISTER NOW

Scan QR Code and **register** for a public comment session.



[Ecology.wa.gov/Overburdened](https://ecology.wa.gov/Overburdened)

Future Work

Input from the community members across Washington State is essential to the "Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Initiative". Based on the expanded air quality monitoring network, we will work with local governments, local clean air agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to:

- Review and evaluate air quality in these areas in periodic intervals.
- Develop new emission control strategies to address [criteria air pollution](#) in the identified communities.
- Developing the emission control strategies will be developed through separate future processes, with additional opportunities for public input.



Erin Torrone
 Erin.Torrone@ecy.wa.gov
 360-628-4666



To request ADA Accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6800 or email at Melanie.Forster@ecy.wa.gov. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.