



AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS (EIS)

Introduction

The Washington Department of Ecology developed this report to satisfy a requirement in state law, [RCW 43.21C.0311\(2\)](#)¹, as excerpted below. This report outlines the approach and analysis of data used to determine the average time to complete a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

RCW 43.21C.0311

Final environmental impact statements—Expeditious manner—Time limit—Reports.

(2) Beginning December 31, 2018, and every two years thereafter, the department of ecology must submit a report on the environmental impact statements produced by state agencies and local governments to the appropriate committees of the legislature. The report must include data on the average time, and document the range of time, it took to complete environmental impact statements within the previous two years.

Final EIS data for 2022

TABLE 1 SEPA DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE REGISTER IN 2020-2022

SEPA submittals to Department of Ecology	Fiscal year 7/1/2020-6/30/2021	Fiscal year 7/1/2021-6/30/2022
Total number of SEPA records issued	6,712	6,455
Total number of Final EIS issued	9	7

¹ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.21C.0311>

Results

TABLE 2 SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS 2020-2022

Lead Agency	Proposal Title	Date Scoping Notice Issued	Date Draft EIS issued	Date Final EIS issued	Months to Complete
City of Vancouver	The District Heights Plan*	10/1/2018	1/22/2020	7/10/2020	21.3
City of Mercer Island	East Seattle School Demolition	6/3/2019	2/10/2020	8/24/2020	14.7
City of Pasco	City of Pasco 10-year Comprehensive Plan: Update to Comprehensive Plan based on projected growth projections*	10/15/2018	5/15/2020	9/14/2020	22.9
City of Bremerton	Sheridan/Harrison Center (SHC) Subarea Plan and Planned Action (formerly known as the Eastside Employment Center) *	9/26/2019	3/6/2020	9/14/2020	11.6
Kitsap County	Port Gamble Redevelopment Plan*	2/26/2013	9/17/2019	10/8/2020	91.4
City of Bothell	Canyon Park Subarea Planned Action*	4/8/2019	12/6/2019	12/7/2020	20

Lead Agency	Proposal Title	Date Scoping Notice Issued	Date Draft EIS issued	Date Final EIS issued	Months to Complete
WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Commercial Whale Watching Licensing Program- Programmatic EIS*	5/18/2020	9/23/2020	12/11/2020	6.8
City of Arlington	Arlington Cascade Industrial Center Planned Action*	4/7/2020	10/1/2020	1/11/2021	9.2
City of Port Orchard	Downtown Port Orchard Subarea Plan*	8/14/2020	1/19/2021	4/26/2021	8.4
City of Covington	City of Covington Downtown Form Based Code and Infill Exemption Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) *	5/11/2020	3/3/2021	8/2/2021	14.7
City of Snoqualmie	Snoqualmie Mill Planned Commercial/Industrial Plan*	5/2/2017	4/27/2020	12/9/2021	55.3
Okanogan County	Proposed revisions to the 2014 Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan*	11/13/2018	7/18/2019	12/22/2021	37.3
Mason County	Planned Action EIS for Belfair Urban Growth Area*	11/12/2020	4/29/2021	2/3/2022	14.7
King County	Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Site Redevelopment Plan*	7/25/2019	9/16/2020	3/22/2022	31.9
City of Sammamish	Balanced Land Use and Mobility Analysis (BLUMA) EIS*	7/7/2020	08/26/21	3/31/2022	20.8

Lead Agency	Proposal Title	Date Scoping Notice Issued	Date Draft EIS issued	Date Final EIS issued	Months to Complete
Thurston County	Thurston County Habitat Conservation Plan*	10/15/2020	9/24/2021	5/13/2022	18.9

**A non-project EIS in which a local government or a state agency is the lead agency for the adoption of plans, policies, and programs. For example, a local government does SEPA review on the development of a Comprehensive Plan update.*

Conclusion

This is the third report on “Average Time to Complete Final Environmental Impact Statements” produced by Ecology. The results vary depending on the agency action analyzed by the EIS. Non-project* EISs have greater range of time to complete than a project EIS.

For this report, Ecology found the average time for preparing an EIS is 25 months, the median value is 19.5 months, and the range is 7 to 91 months.

While the majority of EISs cited in this report were completed within 24-months consistent with the goal outlined in RCW 43.21C.0311, some complex proposals exceeded the goal. Generally, complicated non-project proposals associated with agency and local government planning may take longer. In addition, SEPA EIS reviews that are combined with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews by a federal agency may also take longer to complete.

Project specific information about the EIS proposals identified above can be found on the [State SEPA Register](#)².

References

- Washington State Department of Ecology SEPA Register: State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Register
- RCW 43.21C.0311: Final environmental impact statements-Expeditious manner-Time Limit-Reports

²<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/separ/Main/SEPA/Search.aspx?SearchFields=All&DocumentType=EIS&IssueStartDate=07/01/2020&IssueEndDate=06/30/2022&PageSize=10&SortColumn=SEPANumberDescending>

Publication information

This report is available on the [Department of Ecology's website](#)³.

Contact information

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Author: Sarah Cassal

P.O. Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Phone: 360-688-6374

Email: sarah.cassal⁴

ADA accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6600 or email at [Ecology ADA Coordinator](#)⁵. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

³ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/2206012.html>

⁴ Sarah.cassal@ecy.wa.gov

⁵ ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov