



# **Air Quality Prevent Nonattainment Grants**

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## **2023-2025 Funding Guidelines**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington

July 2023, Publication No. 23-02-083

## Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2302083.html>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ecology.wa.gov/contact](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/contact)

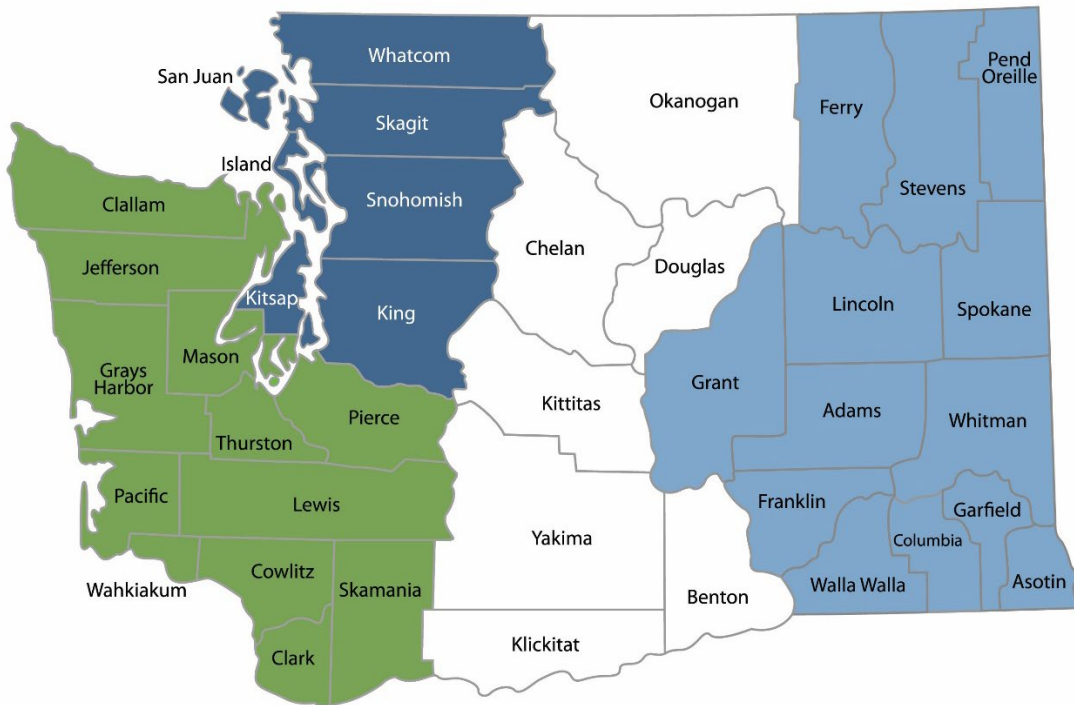
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# Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

## Map of Counties Served



<b>Southwest Region</b> 360-407-6300	<b>Northwest Region</b> 206-594-0000	<b>Central Region</b> 509-575-2490	<b>Eastern Region</b> 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
<b>Southwest</b>	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
<b>Northwest</b>	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
<b>Central</b>	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
<b>Eastern</b>	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
<b>Headquarters</b>	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

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## Introduction

If the air quality in a geographic area meets or is cleaner than the national standard, it is called an “attainment area.” Areas that do not meet the national standard are called “nonattainment areas.” Currently, all of Washington state is in attainment, yet there are areas of concern.

In May 2023, the Washington State Legislature approved a biennium budget of **\$2 million** to continue Ecology’s Prevent Nonattainment (PNA) grant program. PNA grants fund innovative, locally lead projects and solutions to resolve current air pollution problems, reduce production of air pollutants, and prevent Washington from reaching the federal designation of nonattainment for air quality.

In early 2023, EPA announced its intention to lower the annual standard for the air pollutant, PM2.5. Currently, state air monitors in Omak indicate the highest values of PM2.5, making Okanogan County the greatest risk of receiving a nonattainment designation by 2025. Yakima County is also a high-risk area for nonattainment.

## Purpose

The information in this document provides guidance for PNA grant applicants, including eligibility requirements, project categories, application process, and the criteria we use to evaluate and award grants. All grant applicants should review and understand these guidelines along with the [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans \(“the Yellow Book”\)](#)<sup>2</sup> before entering into a grant agreement with Ecology.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Grant-loan-guidance>



## Eligibility Requirements

For the PNA grant cycle of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025, grant funds are eligible to applicants meeting the following criteria:

- Project location: [Areas of Concern in Washington](#)<sup>3</sup>
  
- Targeted pollutants: [Air quality standards - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)<sup>4</sup>
  - Particle pollution (PM 2.5 and PM10)
  - Carbon monoxide (CO)
  - Lead (Pb)
  - Nitrogen dioxide (NO2)
  - Ozone (O3)
  - Sulfur dioxide (SO2)
  
- Eligible applicants:
  - City/Town
  - County
  - State agency
  - Port
  - Clean Air Agency
  - Local Health Jurisdiction
  - Public Utility District
  - Conservation District
  - Not-for-profit Entity
  
- Eligible projects: See Project Categories and Examples, next page
  
- Ineligible projects:
  - Wildfire smoke topics (Wildfire is managed by Department of Natural Resources and is also excluded from nonattainment determination as Exceptional Events)
  - Woodstove changeouts (funded by a different grant program)
  - Monitoring
  - Large diesel/fleet conversions (funded by a different grant program)
  - Vehicle charging stations

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Air-quality/Air-quality-targets/Prevent-nonattainment>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Air-quality/Air-quality-targets/Air-quality-standards>

# Project Categories and Examples

## Direct pollution reduction projects

These projects focus on efforts to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and provide measurable metrics. Some general direct pollution reduction projects could involve the following:

- **Alternatives to outdoor burning.** Example: Create a community composting program, chipping, or curbside collection of yard waste.
- **Certain equipment purchases.** Example: Purchase equipment such as chippers, grinders, clean burning devices, and small off-road engines.
- **Alternatives to agricultural burning.** Example: Chipping of orchard tear-out, contracting a commercial chipping operation, excavation, and hauling.
- **Agricultural dust reduction programs.** Example: Provide cost-share programs, incentives, or technical support to agricultural producers to use direct seed or no-till farming practices.
- **Commute trip reduction programs.** Example: Provide incentives for reducing single-occupant commutes and use alternative means of transportation such as walking, biking, carpooling, public transit, etc. Engage local employers to start or expand CTR programs.

Note: Community outreach and education may be tasks to support pollution reduction projects but should not be the primary scope of work.

# Application and Evaluation Process

## Submitting your application

- **Apply for this grant at [Grants & loans - Washington State Department of Ecology](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans#Apply)<sup>5</sup>**
- **Applications accepted Aug. 2, 2023 through by Sept. 1, 2023 5:00 p.m.**

## Application screening and evaluation

Once received, applications will go through a screening process. Applications that fail the screening questions may be ineligible for funds. Applications that pass the screening process will move to the evaluation and scoring phase.

The following questions will be used in the application screening:

- Does the project seek to reduce pollutants in the areas identified in the Funding Guidelines?
- Is it an eligible project as noted in the Funding Guidelines?

## Evaluation criteria and scoring

All eligible applications will be evaluated against a scoring matrix. The scoring criteria point values are as follows (total maximum score is 150 points):

1. Pollutant reduction – Clear and obvious plan for a pollution reduction outcome:
  - a. Goals with measurable benefits and estimated emissions reduction metrics = 20 points
  - b. No metrics estimated but has a plan to reduce emissions = 10 points
  - c. Project does not result in an emissions reduction (e.g. only educational, highly speculative, etc.) = 0 points
2. Project implementation – Project schedule, structure, and readiness are clear:

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<sup>5</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans#Apply>

- a. Applicant is ready to begin immediately upon award. The applicant provided a project schedule and identified staff and materials already in place to immediately begin the project = 20 points
  - b. Applicant needs minimal preparation to begin. The applicant provided a schedule indicating that staff and materials will be in place for the project to begin in less than 3 months from award = 10 points
  - c. Applicant needs extensive preparation. The applicant provided a schedule indicating that staff and materials will be in place for the project to begin more than 3 months after award = 0 points
3. Budget – Project budget is clear and reasonable, with funds going toward measurable outcomes of pollution reduction:
- a. Budget indicates that 15% or less of the grant award will go toward administrative costs to run the grant (including indirect/overhead costs) = 20 points
  - b. Budget indicates that 16% - 25% of the grant award will go toward administrative costs to run the grant (including indirect/overhead costs) = 10 points
  - c. Administrative costs to run the grant (including indirect/overhead costs) exceed 25% of the budget = 0 points

Note: Applicant must complete budget form in the application.

4. Project endurance – Project has a long-term benefit:
- a. Project provides ongoing emissions reduction = 20 points
  - b. Project provides a one-time emissions reduction = 10 points
5. Project location:
- a. Project is located in Okanogan County, the area at highest risk for nonattainment in 2023-2025 = 30 points

- b. Project location is in another area of concern for nonattainment, noted by pollutant colors on [Ecology's Areas of Concern map](#)<sup>6</sup> = 15 points
  - c. Project location is not in an area of concern for nonattainment = 0 points
6. Target pollutant – Based on [Ecology's Areas of Concern map](#)<sup>7</sup>:
- a. PM2.5
    - i. Red or orange = 20 points
    - ii. Light orange or yellow = 10 points
  - b. PM10
    - i. Red or orange = 20 points
    - ii. Light orange or yellow = 10 points
  - c. Ozone = 20 points
  - d. Other pollutant on the [list of criteria pollutants](#)<sup>8</sup> = 10 points
  - e. Not on the list of criteria pollutants = 0 points
7. Environmental justice – Based on the Environmental Health Disparities layer in the Washington Department of Health's map [Information by Location | Washington Tracking Network \(WTN\)](#)<sup>9</sup>:
- a. In a census tract with a rank of 8, 9, 10 = 20 points
  - b. In a census tract with a rank of 5, 6, 7 = 10 points
  - c. In a census tract with a rank of 4 and below = 0 points

## Selection announcement

After final scoring is complete, Ecology will notify each applicant whether their project was selected or not, and the next steps. Upon award acceptance, Ecology will contact awardees to negotiate their grant agreement, including the option to negotiate partial awards, if necessary.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Areas-meeting-and-not-meeting-air-standards#AOC>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Areas-meeting-and-not-meeting-air-standards#AOC>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Air-quality/Air-quality-targets/Air-quality-standards#criteria>

<sup>9</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/wtnibl/>

Grants may backdate costs for new-biennium PNA work to July 1, 2023 (no earlier). However, there's no guarantee that every grant application will be awarded. Until all applications are reviewed, scored, negotiated, and awarded, your agency incurs those costs at a risk until the grant agreement is approved & signed in September/October.