



Washington State Landfill Methane Emissions Reduction Grant Program

Grant Announcement and Grant Guidelines

By
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For the
Air Quality Program

Washington State Department of Ecology Olympia, Washington

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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 ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6800 or email at melanie.forster@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



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

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Definitions

For the purposes of this grant, these common terms are defined as below:

Compliance requirements refers to meeting the obligations of [70A.540 RCW](#) and the subsequent rules outlined in [Chapter 173-408 WAC](#).

Component: Any equipment that is part of a gas collection and control system and that contains landfill gas including, but not limited to, wells, pipes, flanges, fittings, valves, flame arrestors, knock-out drums, sampling ports, blowers, compressors, or connectors.

GCCS: gas collection and control system

LFG: Landfill Gas

LMER: Landfill Methane Emission Reduction

MSW: Municipal Solid Waste

Project location: a distinct address which represents the landfill site where the project will occur.

QAPP: A quality assurance project plan, or QAPP, is a written document that provides a blueprint for the entire project and each specific task to ensure that the project produces reliable data that can be used to meet the project's overall objectives and goals.

SEM: Surface Emissions Monitoring

Background

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) with more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. Landfills produce methane when organic material, such as food scraps, cardboard, and yard trimmings, decomposes. If there are no systems in place to capture these methane emissions, the gas escapes into the atmosphere, accelerating the warming that leads to climate change. In Washington, landfills are a significant source of methane emissions. Ecology's most recent GHG inventory from 2019 reported methane emissions from landfills composed approximately 2% of the state's total GHG emissions that year.

In 2022, the State Legislature passed the [Landfills-Methane Emissions law](#)^{2, 3} and as required by the law, the Air Quality Program adopted a new rule, [Chapter 173-408 WAC – Landfill Methane Emissions](#)⁴. This rulemaking establishes new requirements for active and closed municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills to reduce emissions of methane.

To help MSW landfill owners comply with standards outlined in the rule, the State Legislature appropriated \$9.6M from Climate Commitment Act funds. Ecology will distribute these funds through the Landfill Methane Emissions Reduction Grant.

² Codified into law as Chapter 70A.540 RCW: Landfills – Methane Emissions

³ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.540>

⁴ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-408>

Environmental Justice

Ecology is committed to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Ecology uses an intersectional lens to address disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations in overburdened communities, equitably distributing resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.

We are prioritizing investments in communities that experience a disproportionate share of the environmental health risk in Washington. We will use the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map which evaluates environmental health risk factors in communities as a scoring criterion. The model estimates a cumulative environmental health impact score for each census tract reflecting pollutant exposures and factors that affect people’s vulnerability to environmental pollution. To learn more, visit: [Information by Location | Washington Tracking Network \(WTN\)](#)⁵

Additionally, projects in disadvantaged communities that are identified as overburdened and underserved by the federal Climate & Economic Justice Tool will be prioritized. This tool identifies disadvantaged communities by using datasets that are indicators of burdens related to climate change, the environment, health, and economic opportunity. Communities in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the tool’s categories of burden or are on lands within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes will be prioritized. To learn more, visit: [Frequently Asked Questions | Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)⁶

⁵ <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map>

⁶ <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/frequently-asked-questions#3/33.47/-97.5>

Important Information

Apply to: Washington State Department of Ecology Air Quality Program (more detail on page 13)

Title: Landfill Methane Emissions Reduction Grant program

Action: Request for Grant Funding

Application Period: August 6, 2024 – October 1, 2024 (8 weeks).

Summary: This notice announces funding available to help municipal solid waste landfills to comply with methane emission requirements established in [Chapter 70A.540 RCW](#).

Amount of Funding Available: \$9.6M is available for eligible projects (page 10).

Application Deadline: Tuesday, October 1, 2024, by 5pm. The application portal will stop accepting applications at 5pm. Applications must be submitted via Ecology’s Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) system by the dates set on the [Ecology Website](#)⁷. Ecology reserves the right to extend the application period.

Notice of Awards: Ecology anticipates offering awards in November 2024. All applicants will be notified by email whether they received an award or not.

Grant Period: All recipients should complete their projects by June 30, 2025. Requests to extend the grant period may be considered at Ecology’s discretion.

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/LFmethane>

Eligibility and Funding Levels

Eligible applicants

- Municipal solid waste landfill owners and operators subject to applicability of [Chapter 70A.540 RCW](#) and required to meet the compliance obligations outlined in [Chapter 173-408 WAC](#).
 - Applicability of compliance obligations will be determined through initial waste in place reporting as required under [Chapter 173-408-170](#). Applicants who do not complete initial waste in place reporting by the grant application deadline are not eligible.
- Tribal Governments that own and operate a municipal solid waste landfill on Tribal lands.⁸

Eligible projects

Eligible projects must address compliance with methane emission requirements established in [Chapter 70A.540 RCW](#) and Ecology's rules outlined in [Chapter 173-408 WAC](#).

Projects maximizing landfill methane emissions reductions beyond the minimum compliance requirements established in the law, may be considered if all compliance project requests have been awarded and funds have not been exhausted.

Eligible Costs

All costs must be necessary for, and directly connected to meeting or exceeding the compliance obligations outlined in [Chapter 173-408 WAC](#).

Any costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement will be ineligible, including the installation of landfill gas collection and control components purchased and installed before the grant effective date.

Examples of eligible reimbursable costs include:

- Engineering and project design; preparation and site surveys; permits and fees
- Purchase and installation or repairs of landfill gas collection and control system components

⁸ Landfills located on Tribal reservation or trust lands are not subject to this law and rule, but tribes that opt to meet all the requirements of the law and rule may be awarded funds to assist with the purchase of landfill gas collection and control components. In order to be eligible for grant funding, tribes that choose to become subject to the law and rule will need to provide a partial waiver of immunity or enter into a written agreement with Ecology that establishes a dispute resolution process and/or other compliance mechanisms in order to ensure the enforceability of all regulatory requirements.

- Purchase and installation of an enclosed flare
- Purchase of equipment to conduct emissions monitoring
- Consultants contracted to perform monitoring and/or reporting
- Purchase and installation of landfill gas collection and control system components for the purpose of post treatment for either pipeline or energy production.

Examples of ineligible, non-reimbursable costs include:

- Construction or general maintenance of buildings
- Administrative costs
- Operating costs

Project Funding Levels

\$9.6M total available: Eligible applicants may receive funding up to the amounts listed below. Applicants may receive funding for multiple project components. See page 18 for details on award selection process. Ecology may offer awards exceeding the amounts listed below if the amount of funding available exceeds the total amount of requested funds.

- **Compliance and design planning:** Up to \$250,000 for applicants to hire a consultant to evaluate and interpret compliance needs and develop a design plan to meet compliance requirements.
- **Monitoring:** Up to \$500,000 for applicants to purchase and install methane monitoring equipment, to conduct landfill methane monitoring, and report emissions data. Note - monitoring projects funded through Ecology will require an Ecology-approved quality assurance project plan (QAPP) prior to any monitoring conducted using LMER grant funds.
- **Gas Collection and Control System:** Up to \$1,000,000 for applicants to purchase, install, and/or repair landfill gas collection and control system components, including an enclosed flare and any other eligible costs related to meeting compliance.
- **Projects which maximize LFG collection and control:** Up to \$1,000,000 for applicants to implement projects that maximize LFG collection and control and exceed the minimum methane emissions requirements outlined in the law.

Application Process

All applicants must apply through the electronic grant and loan system called EAGL (Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans). To apply through EAGL, applicants must first register for a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account and an EAGL account.

Applicants can find detailed instructions to register at: [Grants & loans - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)⁹.

Applicants must submit separate applications for each project location. A project location is defined as a distinct address which represents the landfill site where the project occurs. Applicants may only submit one application per location, but the single application may include a project request with multiple components within multiple funding levels.

The applicant must upload all required documents and submit a complete application by the due date identified in the announcement.

For all project proposals, be prepared to submit the following information:

- Project location and brief description of the proposed project.
- Description of landfill gas collection and control system components, including state of condition.
- Description of how the project will help meet or exceed compliance requirements.
- Anticipated emissions reductions because of project
- Description of anticipated ground disturbing activities (for example: trenching to install new wells or installation of concrete pad).

The EAGL system will only allow applicants to create one application per organization. If applicants are applying for awards for more than one project location, applicants must:

- Submit separate applications per project location,
- Contact Janée Zakoren (landfillgrants@ecy.wa.gov) to request additional application(s). This can take 3-5 business days.

Note: Do not place any orders. Any item ordered prior to grant execution will not be eligible. Please make sure your procurement process meets Washington state requirements. See [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants & Loans - Yellow book \(wa.gov\)](#).¹⁰

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans>

¹⁰ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/SummaryPages/2301002.html>.

Application Evaluation

Screening Criteria

Applications will be screened for eligibility with the screening criteria below. Applications that fail any of the screening criteria may be disqualified and eliminated.

- The applicant is an eligible applicant as outlined on page 10.
- The project is an eligible project as outlined on page 10.

Scoring Criteria

An Ecology evaluation committee will use the competitive scoring criteria below to score and rank applications meeting the screening criteria above.

1. Environmental Health Disparities (30% of total score): 50 points

Projects will be awarded the following points based on the location of the landfill using the Washington Tracking Network’s “Environmental Health Disparities” Index ([Information by Location | Washington Tracking Network \(WTN\)¹¹](#)) and the [Climate & Economic Justice Tool¹²](#).

Sub criteria	Point value
Environmental health disparities score of 9 or 10 Or identified as disadvantaged on the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool Or is on Tribal Lands	50
EHD score 8	25
EHD score 7	15
EHD score 1-6	0

2. Landfill status (30% of total score): 50 points

Points will be awarded based on the operational status of the landfill site where the project will occur.

¹¹ <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/information-location>

¹² <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/about#3/33.47/-97.5>

Sub criteria	Point value
Publicly or tribally owned and operated, closed landfill	50
Privately owned and operated, closed landfill	40
Closed landfill with access to existing or supplemental revenue stream to assist with financial obligations.	30
Publicly owned open landfill	20
Privately owned open landfill	10

3. Landfill gas collection and extraction (15% of total score): 25 points

Points will be awarded based on the status of landfill gas collection and extraction system.

Projects meeting the requirements of sub criteria A are not eligible for points in sub criteria B.

Sub criteria A	Point value
Landfill gas collection system lacks all landfill gas extraction components to meet required system performance standards. No wells or collectors in place - landfill gas is not controlled by a traditional gas collection system with horizontal and vertical wells.	25

Projects that do not meet the requirements of sub criteria A (above) will be awarded points from sub criteria B (below), as applicable. Points for sub criteria B are cumulative, with 23 total points possible.

Sub criteria B	Point value
Landfill gas collection in place, but extraction components are not constructed of an approved material or are not of suitable dimensions as outlined in WAC 173-408-080 (3) subsection (d).	5
Wells and horizontal collectors require servicing or retrofitting to allow gas entry and migration to meet the gas flow requirements.	3

Landfill gas collection in place, but location and/or condition of components do not meet the requirements outlined in WAC 173-408-080 (3) subsection (e).	4
Landfill gas collection recovery rate is below 75% and new wells must be installed.	4
Landfill gas collection components in place, but header pipes and connector assembly are non-functioning or missing components required to meet performance standards.	3
Landfill gas collection system requires replacement or installation of flow equipment components to meet required system performance standards.	4
Cumulative points possible for this section	23

4. Landfill gas control (15% of total score): 25 points

Points will be awarded based on the status of landfill gas control system.

Projects meeting the requirements of sub criteria A are not eligible for points in sub criteria B.

Sub criteria A	Point value
No Landfill gas control components installed.	25

Projects that do not meet the requirements of sub criteria A (above) will be awarded points from sub criteria B (below), as applicable. Points for sub criteria B are cumulative, with 23 total points possible.

Sub criteria B	Point value
Landfill gas is routed to flare, but flare is not the correct size to achieve required landfill gas destruction efficiency rate.	7
Flare requires the replacement or installation of operational components to achieve required destruction efficiency.	6

Open flare in place but does not meet requirements outlined in WAC 173-408-080 (4) subsection (b).	7
Flare is not in compliance with source testing requirements as of June 9, 2022.	3
Cumulative points possible for this section	23

5. Monitoring (10% of total score): 15 points

Points will be awarded based on monitoring requirements. Points are cumulative, with 15 total points possible.

Sub criteria	Point value
Prior to the landfills methane emissions law (Chapter 70A.540 RCW), landfill was not required to conduct quarterly surface and component monitoring.	5
Prior to the landfills methane emissions law (Chapter 70A.540 RCW), landfill was not previously required to conduct monthly wellhead monitoring.	5
Current environmental factors prevent landfill from being able to conduct monitoring as required by Chapter 70A.540 RCW . (e.g. addition or replacement of cover materials).	5
Cumulative points possible for this section	15

Award Selection Process

Ecology will use the process below to offer grant awards:

Step 1: Applications are screened for eligibility (page 10). Applications meeting the eligibility criteria will move forward to scoring.

Step 2: Ecology will score and rank eligible applications received during the application period from the highest scoring application to the lowest.

Step 3: Ecology will offer awards from the highest scoring application to the lowest for compliance and design planning (see page 12 for more information) until funds are exhausted or all applications have been offered an award.

Step 4: If funds remain after Step 3, Ecology will offer awards from the highest scoring application to the lowest for monitoring (see page 12 for more information) until funds are exhausted or all applications have been offered an award.

Step 5: If funds remain after Step 4, Ecology will offer awards from the highest scoring application to the lowest for gas collection and control systems and any other eligible costs related to meeting compliance requirements (see page 12 for more information) until funds are exhausted or all applications have been offered an award.

Step 6: If funds remain after Step 5, Ecology will offer awards to the remaining applications beginning with the highest scoring applications to the lowest for projects from both Tribes¹³ seeking to voluntarily meet compliance requirements and those projects which maximize LFG collection and control and exceed the minimum compliance requirements until funds are exhausted or all applications have been offered an award.

Ecology reserves the right to recommend partial funding for any proposal. In this event, Ecology will discuss with the applicant a reduced scope of work commensurate with the level of available funding.

Tie Breaker: In the event of a tie, Ecology will break the tie according to the points awarded for scoring criteria 1 (Environmental Health Disparities Washington Tracking Network Census Tract and the Climate & Economic Justice Tool Score). If applications are still tied, Ecology will

¹³ Landfills located on Tribal reservation or trust lands are not subject to this law and rule, but tribes that opt to meet all the requirements of the law and rule may be awarded funds to assist with the purchase of landfill gas collection and control components. In order to be eligible for grant funding, tribes that choose to become subject to the law and rule will need to provide a partial waiver of immunity or enter into a written agreement with Ecology that establishes a dispute resolution process and/or other compliance mechanisms in order to ensure the enforceability of all regulatory requirements

offer an award to the application that was submitted first.

Awards are conditional on receipt of any additional information requested by Ecology to clarify or verify application information including project scope or costs. Awards and funding distribution will be announced on Ecology's [grant website](#)¹⁴ and via our [email list](#)¹⁵

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/LFmethane>

¹⁵ <https://ecy.wa.gov/landfill-methane-emails>

Unrequested, Unspent or Additional Funds

If

- Applicants that are initially awarded funds withdraw or cancel their application, or
- Grantees have unspent funds near the end of the grant cycle or
- funds remain after all eligible applicants are offered an award, or
- additional funding is allocated for this grant program

Ecology may, at its discretion:

- Increase funding for awarded projects.
- Award funds to projects from the remaining eligible unfunded applicants using the awards selection process.
- Negotiate additional projects with existing applicants.
- Reopen the grant application window and establish a new submission deadline to accept additional applications.
- Revise the grant program and accept a new round of applications

Priority for funding may be given to applicants partially funded by the original round of funding.

All applications must be eligible under all requirements of any new funding source.

Terms and Conditions

Awards are conditional on receipt of any additional information requested by Ecology to clarify or verify any aspect of submitted information.

Each grant agreement resulting from this solicitation will include standard and general terms and conditions that establish the recipient's rights and responsibilities. By completing the grant agreement, each applicant enters into an agreement with Ecology to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions that correspond to its organization, without negotiation.

Failure to agree to the terms and conditions by taking actions such as failing to complete the grant agreement or indicating that acceptance is based on modification of the terms may result in rejection of the application. Applicants must read the terms and conditions carefully. Ecology reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions prior to executing grant agreements.

Recipient Requirements

All grant applicants should review and understand these guidelines along with the Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans, see [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants & Loans - Yellow book \(wa.gov\)](#).¹⁶ Procurement process must meet Washington state requirements.

All recipients will comply with the following requirements. Ecology may withhold grant reimbursement and/or reject future grant applications from the recipient if they fail to maintain compliance with these requirements through project implementation and operation.

If awarded a grant, recipients must:

- Accept or decline the award within 45 days of Ecology's offer notification. Requests to extend the deadline may be considered at Ecology's discretion.
- Submit a Cultural Resources Review form (provided by Ecology) once award has been accepted.
- Be responsible for all costs incurred prior to grant execution, which will not be reimbursed. Ecology will not increase an award or reimburse expenses due to unanticipated or underestimated costs.
- Be responsible for all costs not covered in the grant agreement. Applicants may use other grants, rebates, or other incentives as match funds to complete an eligible project. If doing so, award recipients will be required to provide all matching funds. The total of all grants, rebates, and incentives may not exceed the total cost of the project. If this occurs, Ecology will work with the grantee to ensure funds are appropriately reimbursed. Applicants may not profit from this grant opportunity.
- Complete projects before June 30, 2025. Requests to extend the grant expiration may be considered at Ecology's discretion.

Ecology recommends that applicants perform their due diligence by contacting vendors for estimates. However, any costs incurred prior to the effective date of a grant agreement will not be reimbursed.

¹⁶<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/SummaryPages/2301002.html>.

Site Requirements

Cultural Resources Review

Recipients must:

- Not begin any activities that have the potential to disturb cultural resources, including any ground disturbing activities, until Ecology has completed a Cultural Resources Review, as required by Governor's [Executive Order 21-02](#). Please allow at least 60 days following complete submission of all required materials for this review to be complete.
- Comply with requirements and deliverables required as a result of the Cultural Resources Review.

Project site visits and post project assessments

- Ecology may conduct site visits related to implementation of grant agreements executed. For example, site visits may include providing technical assistance or to verify progress or payment information for projects.

Reporting and closeout requirements

Recipients must submit:

- Quarterly Payment Request/Progress Reports (PRPR) describing project progress including required deliverables throughout the project period. PRPRs must be submitted quarterly, even if there is no associated payment request.
- PRPRs including invoices in support of all reimbursement requests, including photo documentation of final deliverables. These must be submitted at the time the recipient is requesting payment.
- Equipment Purchase Reports for each item over \$5,000. This must be submitted prior to reimbursement, if applicable.
- Upon request, photos of project progress at key milestones. Ecology will discuss specific key milestones with the grantee and will include photo requirements in the signed grant agreement.
- Recipient Close Out Report. This must be submitted before Ecology approves the final payment request.
- Emissions reductions data. Frequency will be determined in the grant agreement.

Quality Assurance and Project Planning

- Recipients will be required to develop and submit to Ecology, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to guide environmental monitoring funded through this grant. This QAPP must be reviewed, approved, and signed by both Ecology and the recipients prior to beginning any monitoring of methane paid for with funds from this grant program.
- QAPPs developed by grant recipients may be shared with other grant recipients by Ecology.
- Any monitoring conducted before the QAPP receives final approval will not be eligible for reimbursement and data results will not be eligible for submission under a subsequently approved QAPP.
- Ecology may withhold funds until an approved QAPP is place.