

# Focus on: New Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grants



Figure 1. Kittitas County

## Overview

Ecology is launching a \$10-million [grant program](#) to support air quality and environmental justice work under the Climate Commitment Act.

This new grant program is funded by the [Climate Commitment Act](#) and will support locally led projects to improve air quality and protect public health in overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution.

The grant application period will be open **Aug. 29, 2024**, through **Oct. 24, 2024**.

Grants will be awarded by the end of 2024. The current grant project period runs through June 30, 2025. We expect to extend the project period for up to two years, although this is dependent upon Ecology receiving approval to extend the time to spend the funds.

The maximum grant award for this opportunity is \$700,000.

## Eligible project types

Two types of projects are eligible to apply for grant funds:

- **Planning and community engagement** to develop projects that will reduce [criteria air pollution](#).
- **Implementation** for projects that have already completed a community engagement process.

Projects that are **not** eligible include:

- Wildfire mitigation
- Air quality monitoring
- Projects addressing ultrafine particles

See the [grant guidelines](#) for a complete list of ineligible projects.

## Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants include but are not limited to:

- Community-based organizations
- Local municipalities

- Tribes<sup>1</sup> and entities that serve them

Ecology encourages collaborative applications for projects. However, only one organization will apply on behalf of the partnership and this organization will be responsible for meeting all grant deliverables and requirements.

## How to apply for the grant

Applicants must apply online through Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) platform. This requires registering for a Secure Access Washington account and an EAGL account. Instructions are available on our [grant and loan webpage](#).

## Application assistance

We're committed to helping applicants throughout the application process. We have several ways to get assistance.

Zoom information sessions to learn more:

- [September 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- [September 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.](#)
- [October 3, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

Office hours on Microsoft Teams twice weekly beginning on September 9, 2024.

- [Mondays from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.](#)
- [Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.](#)

You can also email your questions to [AQcommunitygrants@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:AQcommunitygrants@ecy.wa.gov), and we will respond as quickly as possible.

While Ecology staff cannot help applicants write their applications, we can direct you to two free technical assistance centers:

- [The Center for Environmental Health Equity](#)
- [The Northwest Environmental Justice Center](#)

## Learn more

If it sounds like this grant is a good fit for your organization and community, you can learn more by:

- Reading our [Grant Program Guidelines](#), which provide more detail about the requirements of the grants
- [Subscribing to our email list](#) to receive important updates.

## Kaitlyn Kelly

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## ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 564-233-9765 or email at [AQcommunitygrants@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:AQcommunitygrants@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

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<sup>1</sup>Tribes that choose to participate in Ecology's initiative to improve air quality in overburdened communities are eligible for this grant opportunity along with entities that serve them. To begin the process of participation, Tribes should contact Abby Ruskey, Air Quality Environmental Justice Planner, at [Abigail.ruskey@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Abigail.ruskey@ecy.wa.gov) or (564) 233-8104.