

Focus on: Coordinated Permit Process

Criteria for Participation



Image of clean energy production technologies

The Clean Energy Coordinated Permit Process (CPP) was established by the state to help achieve reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Ecology's transparent and inclusive coordinated permit process requires project information sharing among participating agencies, Tribes, and potentially affected communities-streamlining clean energy project review. The CPP provides project proponents one point of contact among permitting agencies and interested parties; and it ensures expert and expedited project review.

Project proponents choosing [Ecology's coordinated process](#)¹ for environmental review and permitting should meet with us as soon as possible. The pre-application meeting in the CPP helps us better position you to use our process. For example, we must offer engagement to potentially affected federally recognized Tribes, as well as identify potentially affected [overburdened communities](#).² We verify that project proponent's engagement with communities and Tribes in the regulatory processes is meaningful and timely, so it is best that we hear from you early to get this started.

Like in other clean energy project pathways, the [State Environmental Policy Act](#) (SEPA)³ lead agency is required to conduct an environmental review of the project. If the lead agency determines significant impacts are likely, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) issues within two years. Note that agencies that participate with us in our coordinated process follow their own regulatory requirements for environmental review and permit processes, including decision-making. All permits must be approved for the project to operate in the state.

Eligibility Criteria

First, a project proponent meets with us in the pre-application phase to prepare for using the CPP. We don't expect that a project proponent will submit all the required information during the pre-application meeting. Once we have the information we need to understand the project, we will complete a 60-day initial

¹ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.158>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/climate-commitment-act/overburdened-communities>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review>

assessment to determine if the project is eligible to use the CPP. Some of the project information that we assess includes whether:

- The project meets the definition of a clean energy project in [chapter 43.158 RCW](#).⁴
- The project is required to use the EFSEC process in [chapter 80.50 RCW](#).⁵
- The [SEPA checklist](#),⁶ used to identify potentially significant adverse impacts, is complete.
- There is sufficient information about the project and site including:
 - design and engineering
 - the physical and legal availability of water
 - construction, operations, maintenance, and decommissioning
- There is a list of planned and completed baseline studies.
- There is a description of how the project will reduce GHGs and includes a GHG lifecycle analysis for the project using:
 - Inputs and outputs (upstream and downstream)
 - Publicly available data sources and models
- The project information includes a description of potentially affected:
 - Federally recognized Tribes and non-recognized Tribes
 - Tribal rights, resources, and interests
 - Overburdened communities
 - Historic and cultural resources
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species
- There is information on engagement or outreach actions already taken, scheduled, and proposed (include a summary of issues discussed and associated contact information) for:
 - Tribes
 - Overburdened communities
 - Local government agencies
 - State government agencies
 - Federal government agencies
- There are descriptions of voluntary mitigation measures and community benefit agreements
- The project proponent commits to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement with Ecology for work done by us and participating agencies. Note that local permitting agencies may use the Ecology cost reimbursement process or they can choose to use local government development agreements with the project proponent ([RCW 43.158.130](#)).⁷



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6600 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

⁴ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.158>

⁵ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=80.50>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance>

⁷ <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.158.130>