

Focus on: Clean Energy Coordinated Permit Process



Image of clean energy production technologies

Ecology makes energy project reviews and permits more efficient with a coordinated permit process. It provides a [new additional third pathway](#)¹ for clean energy permitting. We provide consistent information about a project all in one place. We help developers and agencies identify risks and potential impacts so they can be addressed early. Ecology will work with developers, state and local agencies, Tribes, and communities throughout the process.

Clean energy project types²

New projects or modifications to existing facilities able to use this process, include:

- Alternative jet fuel or sustainable aviation fuel
- Battery storage or manufacturing
- Biofuels
- Biomass energy
- Clean energy manufacturing
- Emissions-intensive trade-exposed facility upgrades which reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions and do not degrade local air quality
- Geothermal energy
- Green hydrogen
- Pumped storage
- Renewable natural gas
- Semiconductors
- Solar energy
- Wind energy

Coordination and engagement

Ecology will coordinate with participating agencies and interested parties as well as the developer. The process includes coordination with local and state, and possibly federal, agencies to meet regulatory requirements. We will offer engagement and consultation to potentially affected Tribes and consider impacts to Tribal rights and resources. During the process, we will make sure potentially affected communities are informed and their concerns and issues are considered.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2406001.html>

² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.158.010>



Information needed

Ecology will ensure a developer knows all the information needed to apply for state and local permits. This starts with a [pre-application phase](#)³ to understand the project and to identify issues early. We would like to meet with applicants before they choose a site so we can provide information which could avoid potential impacts. This benefits the developer and the people and environment who may be affected.

Our list of information needed for a project will help developers walk in the door with required data. Once we understand the project, we will complete a 60-day [initial assessment](#)⁴ to determine if the project is eligible to use the

process. The information needed includes the [State Environmental Policy Act \(SEPA\) checklist](#)⁵ and [descriptions](#)⁶ of the project construction, operations, and site. It also needs to include data on the project's greenhouse gas lifecycle emissions.

We will also want to understand how a developer has engaged with potentially affected Tribes and communities. A developer will need to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement with Ecology for the work done by state and local agencies during the review and permitting process.

Steps in the [coordinated process pathway](#)⁷

During [pre-application](#),⁸ we will coordinate and meet with the project proponent and likely permit agencies to review [project information](#).⁹ Once we determine a project is eligible and the information is complete, we will schedule a kick-off meeting within 30 days to develop a work plan to with the proponent and participating agencies. This will be done with the applicant and participating agencies and we will invite potentially affected Tribes to participate. The finalized work plan and schedule will be shared publicly on our [webpage](#).¹⁰ The next step is the environmental review done under the [State Environmental Policy Act \(SEPA\)](#).¹¹ If an environmental impact statement is required, it will be completed within two years. Then the state and local permitting processes would begin. Ecology will help coordinate those processes but each permitting agency will make their own permit decisions.

³ <http://ecyapfaff/Biblio2/SummaryPages/2406006.html>

⁴ <http://ecyapfaff/Biblio2/SummaryPages/2406008.html>

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance>

⁶ <http://ecyapfaff/Biblio2/SummaryPages/2406009.html>

⁷ <http://ecyapfaff/Biblio2/SummaryPages/2406007.html>

⁸ <http://ecyapfaff/Biblio2/SummaryPages/2406006.html>

⁹ <http://ecyapfaff/Biblio2/SummaryPages/2406008.html>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/clean-energy/clean-energy-coordinated-permit-process>

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements>



Related Information

- [Washington's three pathways for clean energy permitting](#)¹²
- Ecology's [Clean energy coordination permit process webpage](#)¹³

Contact us:

For information or to start the pre-application phase contact: Cleanenergy@ecy.wa.gov.



Clean Energy Coordination Section
Cleanenergy@ecy.wa.gov
(360) 407-6600



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.

¹²<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2406001.html>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/clean-energy/clean-energy-coordinated-permit-process>