



Washington State Department of Ecology Air Quality Prevent Nonattainment Grant

2025-2027 Grant Guidelines

By: Kari Johnson

For the

Air Quality Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

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Contact Information

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ADA Accessibility

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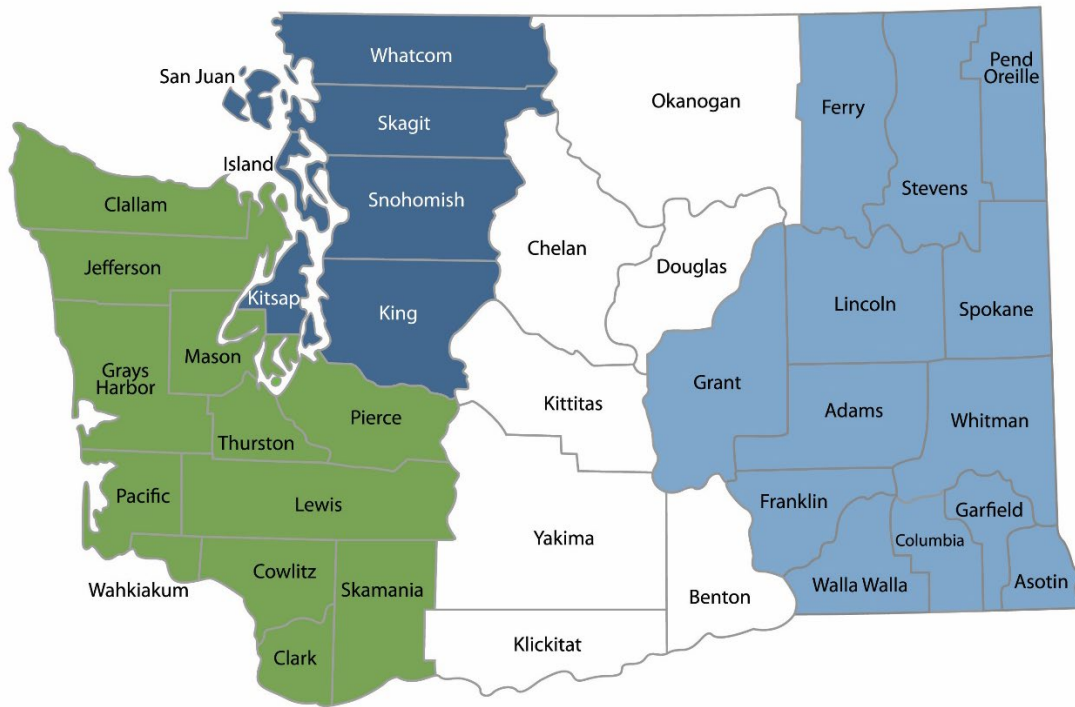
To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6800 or email at melanie.forster@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website² for more information.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Our-website/Accessibility>

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

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

Washington State Department of Ecology

Air Quality Prevent Nonattainment Grant

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Important Information

Apply to: Washington State Department of Ecology Air Quality Program

Title: Air Quality Prevent Nonattainment Grant

Action: Request for Grant Funding

Application Period: July 15, 2025 – August 19, 2025 5:00 pm PT. Applications must be submitted via [Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans](#)³, August 19, 2025.

Funding Available:

- \$2M available for eligible projects addressing criteria air pollution in Areas of Concern for Nonattainment in Washington.
- Applicants may be awarded up to \$600,000 per application. See Eligible Costs below for more information.
- Ecology may award up to \$600,000 per project, though Ecology may offer a lower grant award. If funding is remaining, we may increase the award amount depending on the interest in the grant program.

Eligible applicants: Public entities and eligible nonprofit organizations located in Washington state (See more about Eligible Applicants below).

Eligible projects: Must demonstrate reductions in one or more criteria pollutant(s) in areas of concern of nonattainment in Washington, listed below. (See more about Eligible Projects below). Applicants may apply for multiple projects as separate applications.

Notice of Awards: Ecology intends to offer awards by Fall 2025. Applicants that do not receive an award will be notified once all awards are accepted.

Grant Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027

Recipients may incur costs for new-biennium PNA work beginning July 1, 2025. However, the grantee incurs those costs at a risk until the grant agreement is signed and fully executed. If a grant is not awarded and fully executed, the applicant is responsible for all costs incurred.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans#Apply>

Background

Washington Department of Ecology's Air Quality Prevent Nonattainment grant offers funding for projects designed to reduce criteria air pollution in [areas at risk of or exceeding national ambient air quality standards](#).⁴ This work is known as "preventing nonattainment" or "PNA."

If the air quality in a geographic area meets (is cleaner than) the national standard, it is called an "attainment area." Areas that the EPA has formally designated do not meet the national standard are called "nonattainment areas." Nonattainment areas must develop implementation plans outlining how they will attain and maintain the standards by reducing emissions from criteria air pollutants. Currently, all of Washington state is in attainment, yet there are areas of concern.

PNA grants fund innovative, locally lead projects and solutions to address current air pollution problems, reduce production of air pollutants, and prevent Washington from reaching the federal designation of nonattainment for air quality. This PNA grant cycle is for the biennium July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

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 \("the Yellow Book"\)](#)⁵ before entering into a grant agreement with Ecology.

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.⁶

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Areas-meeting-and-not-meeting-air-standards>

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/SummaryPages/2301002.html>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/environmental-justice>

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Applicants must be located in and registered to operate legally in the state of Washington.

Eligible applicants include:

- City/Town
- County
- State agency
- Port
- Clean Air Agency
- Local Health Jurisdiction
- Public Utility District
- Conservation District
- Not-for-profit Entity or 501 (c)(3)
- Transit agency
- Federally recognized Tribe

Eligible projects

To be eligible to receive a grant under this funding opportunity, projects must:

- Be located in an area of concern of nonattainment in Washington (see the map “Counties Near NAAQS Thresholds” in the Appendix.)
- Address the pollutant of concern in the area impacted by the proposed project.

Pollutants of concern may include:

- Particle pollution (PM 2.5 and PM10)
- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Lead (Pb)
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO2)
- Ozone (O3)
- Sulfur dioxide (SO2)

Examples of eligible projects

Projects must reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and provide measurable metrics that estimate number of emissions reduced or estimate metrics related to the project (e.g. tons of yard waste diverted, etc.) . Examples of projects include:

- **Alternatives to outdoor burning.** Example: Create a community composting program, chipping, or curbside collection of yard waste.

- **Limited equipment purchases.** Example: Purchase equipment such as chippers, grinders, flail mowers, clean burning devices, and small off-road engines. We recommend considering a zero-emissions alternative when purchasing new equipment.
- **Alternatives to agricultural burning.** Example: Chipping or flailing 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 (CTR) 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.

Conditionally eligible projects

The following work may be included as an element of the proposed project but may not be the primary scope. Costs associated with tasks for the following work may not exceed 25% of the total budget awarded.

Conditionally eligible projects:

- Community outreach and engagement
- Education

Ineligible projects

The following projects are not eligible for funding related to this grant program:

- Projects related to wildfire smoke: wildfire is managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Air quality impacts from wildfire smoke can be excluded from nonattainment designation under EPA's [Exceptional Events rule](#)⁷.
- Air quality monitoring: the intent of this grant funding is to reduce emissions of criteria air pollution. Air quality monitoring in Washington is conducted by Ecology, clean air agencies, Tribes, and federal partners.

The following projects are funded by other Ecology grant programs and are not eligible for this grant fund. See [Ecology's Grants and Loans page](#)⁸ for more information:

- Wood stove changeouts

⁷ <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-analysis/treatment-air-quality-monitoring-data-influenced-exceptional-events>

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans>

- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Purchase or replacement of vehicles

Eligible & Ineligible Project Costs

Eligible costs

All costs must be directly related to and necessary for the tasks funded through this grant program. Please see Ecology's "Yellow Book"⁹ for examples of eligible costs, including:

- Administrative costs related to and necessary for the successful completion of the project. Recipients may use up to 25% of the total grant award for administration of the grant.
- Recipients may charge an indirect/overhead rate of up to 25% of salaries and benefits. Examples of overhead are utilities, building costs, materials, printer ink, etc.
- Ecology will honor the approved federal indirect rate for grants awarded to a state agency or Tribe.
- Equipment purchases directly related to and necessary for the successful implementation of the proposed project. Purchases of \$5,000 or more must be reported in the Equipment Purchase Report.

Travel costs: Transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related travel cost items incurred by the recipient's employees while in travel status on official business necessary for and directly related to the project. Washington's per diem travel rates must be used. (Refer to Yellow Book.)

Procurement Process: The recipient must use procurement practices that are consistent with state laws and rules and applicable federal laws. This ensures fair, legal, and open competition. Ecology may ask the recipient to provide documentation that they followed all applicable laws and requirements.

Maximum Award: Applicants may be awarded up to \$600,000 per project, though Ecology may offer a lower grant award or increase the award amount depending on the interest in the grant program.

Budget: All expected project costs must be included in a Budget Proposal document and submitted with the grant application. The Budget Proposal document must match the amount of funding being requested.

Project Period: Recipients may incur costs for new-biennium PNA work beginning July 1, 2025. However, the grantee incurs those costs at a risk until the grant agreement is signed and fully

⁹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1701004.pdf>

executed. If a grant is not awarded and fully executed, the applicant is responsible for all costs incurred.

Additional funding allowed: Applicants may use other grants, rebates, or other incentives as match funds. The total of all grants, rebates, and incentives may not exceed the total cost of the project. If the grantee receives funding in addition to this grant, Ecology will work with the grantee to ensure funds are appropriately reimbursed. Applicants may not profit from this grant opportunity. Applicants may not request reimbursement for the same work under different grant programs.

Ineligible costs

Some examples of ineligible, non-reimbursable costs are detailed below. For a more extensive list of ineligible, non-reimbursable costs, please see the [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans \(Yellow Book\)](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1701004.pdf).¹⁰

- Construction or general maintenance of buildings and parking facilities.
- Entertainment.
- Fines and penalties.
- Legal expenses related to claims against Ecology and legal services furnished by the chief legal officer of the state, local, or Native American tribal government (or their staff) solely for the purpose of discharging their general responsibilities as legal officer.
- New paving and landscaping beyond the project's scope of work.
- Existing operating costs outside of the project's scope of work.
- Purchase or rental of real estate.
- Research and development.
- Costs related to ineligible projects.
- All costs incurred before July 1, 2025, or after June 30, 2027.

¹⁰ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1701004.pdf>

Application Process

All applicants must apply through Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) online application portal. To apply, applicants must register for a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account and an EAGL account. Detailed instructions for new and current EAGL users: [Grants & loans - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)¹¹.

- Applicants must submit separate applications for each eligible project they are proposing. Applicants may submit up to two applications. Applicants may support more than two projects but may only be the lead applicant on two applications.
- Ecology may award up to \$600,000 per project, though Ecology may offer a lower grant award. If funding is remaining, we may increase the award amount depending on the interest in the grant program.
- The application period opens at 8:00 a.m. PT on July 15, 2025, and closes at 5:00 p.m. PT on August 19, 2025.
- For all project proposals, include the following information:
 - General Project Information and Description (EAGL online forms).
- Application Questions (Required downloadable questionnaire via EAGL).
 - Budget Proposal (Required downloadable template via EAGL).

The EAGL system will only allow applicants to create one application per organization. If applicants apply for awards for an additional project location, applicants must contact Kari Johnson (Kari.Johnson@ecy.wa.gov) to request additional application(s). This can take 3-5 business days.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the application process, please contact Kari Johnson (Kari.Johnson@ecy.wa.gov). Ecology may not help applicants write their applications, but we can assist with navigating the application process.

Application Evaluation

Screening criteria

Once received, applications will be screened for compliance with the screening criteria below. 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:

- Is the applicant included under the Eligible Applicants section of the Funding Guidelines?

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans#Apply>

- Does the project seek to reduce criteria air pollutant(s) in an area of concern of nonattainment? (See the map “Counties Near NAAQS Thresholds” in the Appendix.)
- Is the project an eligible project, as noted in the Funding Guidelines?
- Did the applicant submit the required Budget Proposal document?
- Did the applicant submit the required Project Criteria Questionnaire Form?

Evaluation criteria and scoring

All eligible applications will be evaluated based on the criteria below. A committee of Ecology employees will review and evaluate the applications. The point breakdown for each category is below:

Category	Total Points Possible
Pollutants of Concern	25
Environmental Justice	25
Community Benefit	10
Project Readiness	10
Project Endurance	20
Community support	10
Total	100

Pollutants of Concern

1. Please select the county in which your project will occur:
 - a. Add eligible counties
 - b. Other – your project may not be eligible. Please reach out to Kari Johnson if you have questions.

Unscored

2. Describe the area of the proposed project.

Unscored

3. Describe the criteria air pollutants that will be reduced because of this project (see the map “Counties Near NAAQS Thresholds” in the Appendix).

- The project's emissions reductions address the criteria pollutant of concern in its area of concern of nonattainment in the last five years = 25 points
- The project's emissions reductions do not address the criteria pollutant of concern in its area of concern of nonattainment in the last five years = 0 points

4. Please describe the way you will calculate emissions reductions for this project.

Unscored

Environmental Justice

5. Does the proposed project address criteria air pollutant emissions impacting at least one of the communities identified by Ecology as [overburdened and highly impacted by air pollution](#)?¹² Reviewers will confirm the project location based on the map submitted with the EAGL application.

- Yes = 15 points
- No = 0 points

6. Indicate the highest-ranking census tract of the area that the proposed project will serve according to the [Washington Department of Health's Environmental Health Disparities \(EHD\) map](#).¹³ Reviewers will confirm the project location based on the map submitted with the EAGL application.

- EHD score 9 or 10 = 10 points
- EHD score 8 = 5 points
- EHD score 7 or below = 0 points
- Is the project area described or defined by other data indicating an overburdened or vulnerable community? You must cite data from a published air quality source.
 - Yes = 5
 - No = 0
 - Scored points for Questions 5 or 6 = 0

Community Economic Benefit

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/climate-commitment-act/overburdened-communities>

¹³ <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map>

7. Please describe any potential economic benefit that the proposed project will provide to the local community. For example: using local contractors; use of local services, products, or retailers; etc.

- Project provides economic benefit to the local community = 10
- Project does not provide any economic benefit to the local community = 0

Project Readiness

8. Please describe how quickly your organization will begin the implementation of the proposed project. Implementation may include purchase of equipment, events, project management or direct emissions reducing actions. Implementation does not include project planning or hiring staff.

- The proposed project is ready to implement within 1 month of award = 10 points
- The proposed project is ready to implement within 1-3 months of award = 5 points
- The proposed project is ready to implement more than 3 months after award = 0 points

Project Endurance

9. Are the emissions reductions from the proposed project expected to be one-time or ongoing? Please describe.

- Emissions reductions extend beyond the period of the proposed project = 20 points
- Emissions reductions will end when the proposed project is complete = 0 points

Community Support

10. Please describe up to five community partnerships, community engagement activities, and other direct support for this project. Examples may include engagement or partnerships with community-based organizations, Tribes, or other organizations serving the intended community. Community partnerships and engagement activities may not include any business or organization that will financially benefit from this project, including but not limited to any business noted in Question 7.

The applicant receives two points for each partnership, engagement activity, or other direct support related to this project, up to a total of 10 points.

Tie breaker

If applications have the same score, Ecology will break ties using the criteria below in the following order:

1. Ecology will offer an award to the applicant with the highest [EHD map rank](#).¹⁴
2. If a tie remains, Ecology will offer an award to the applicant with the highest Environmental Exposures rank within [the EHD map](#).¹⁵
3. If a tie remains, Ecology will work with the tied applicants to negotiate a modified award such that we could offer an award to each tied application.

Award Selection Process

Ecology will use the process below to offer grant awards.

Step 1: Ecology will rank applications received from the highest scoring application to the lowest.

Step 2: Ecology will offer grant awards to the highest scoring application to the lowest until all funds are awarded, or all applications have been funded.

After final scoring is complete, Ecology will notify successful applicants of award. Upon award acceptance, ecology will provide the grant agreement template. Ecology will notify unsuccessful applicants once all awards have been accepted.

Ecology reserves the right to award partial funding for any application. In this event, Ecology will discuss with the applicant a reduced scope of work commensurate with the level of available funding. Ecology may increase the award amount if funds available exceed the request for funds.

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:

¹⁴ <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map>

¹⁵ <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map>

- Increase funding for awarded projects.
- Award funds to projects from the remaining eligible unfunded applicants.
- 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 reallocated funding may be given to applicants partially funded by the original round of funding. All applications must be eligible under all requirements for any new funding source.

Agreement Development

The Ecology Project and Financial Managers develop grant agreements and monitor grantee performance after an agreement is signed. The Project Manager and Financial Manager use information from the application to develop the grant agreement. It is important to include a detailed scope of work, measurable objectives, milestone deliverables, and accurate budgets in the grant application to ensure an efficient grant agreement development process. Changes to the scope of work after application submission may result in Ecology withdrawing or modifying a funding offer. Any changes that affect how the project would have been scored will not be allowed.

Grant agreements include standard language, general terms and conditions, and other conditions required by state or federal law.

When the agreement is finalized, Ecology's Financial Manager will send a final copy to the grantee for signature. The grantee's authorized signatory must sign the final agreement and return it to Ecology's Financial Manager for the final signature by the Air Quality Program Manager or the authorized designee. This will be done electronically. Once the agreement is signed by Ecology, a fully executed original will be returned to the recipient. The Applicant becomes the Recipient once the agreement is signed. Contractors assisting with the project may not sign on behalf of the recipient.

Amendments

If modifications to the grant agreement are needed during the grant period, the recipient must submit any proposed amendments or changes in writing to the Ecology Project Manager. The recipient and Ecology's Project and Financial Managers will negotiate changes and document the changes as an amendment to the funding agreement. All proposed changes are subject to final approval by Ecology.

Modifications and changes that require an amendment include:

- Changes to the scope of work, deliverables, dates, or objectives of the project.

- Budget changes or redistribution between tasks.
- Changes to the required performance dates.

Administrative changes such as telephone numbers, addresses, or contact persons for either Ecology or the recipient do not require an amendment.

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 Grant Management Requirements

If awarded a grant, recipients must:

- Accept or decline the award within 45 calendar days of Ecology's offer notification. Requests to extend the deadline may be considered at Ecology's discretion.
- If Ecology determines the project has the potential to disturb cultural resources, the recipient must submit a Cultural Resources Review form (provided by Ecology) once the award has been accepted. Ecology will complete a Cultural Resources Review before any activities that may impact cultural resources may begin. Recipients may not begin work until notified by Ecology that the Cultural Resources Review is complete.
- Acquire all necessary permits to complete the project and submit to Ecology via EAGL. This must be completed before Ecology will approve reimbursement of project expenses. If the permit is required at the start of a project, recipient must provide proof that permit is in place prior to beginning work.
- Be responsible for all costs incurred prior to grant effective date, which will not be reimbursed. Ecology will not increase an award due to unanticipated or underestimated costs.
- Provide all funds needed to complete the project beyond grant funds awarded. Applicants may use other grants, rebates, or other incentives as match funds. The total

of all grants, rebates, and incentives may not exceed the total cost of the project. If the grantee receives funding in addition to this grant, Ecology will work with the grantee to ensure funds are appropriately reimbursed. Applicants may not profit from this grant opportunity. Applicants may not request reimbursement for the same work under different grant programs. Complete all projects by the expiration date of June 30, 2027.

Reporting and close-out requirements

Payment Request / Progress Reports (PRPR)

Recipients must submit progress reports at least quarterly and with every payment request via EAGL. Progress reports should include a description of all progress made in the reporting period to meet the goals of the project, any deliverables due in that reporting period, any successes, problems, and delays that affect the project, and any other uploads of supporting or required documents necessary to the project. Ecology will withhold payments if the recipient has not submitted progress reports.

All PRPRs must:

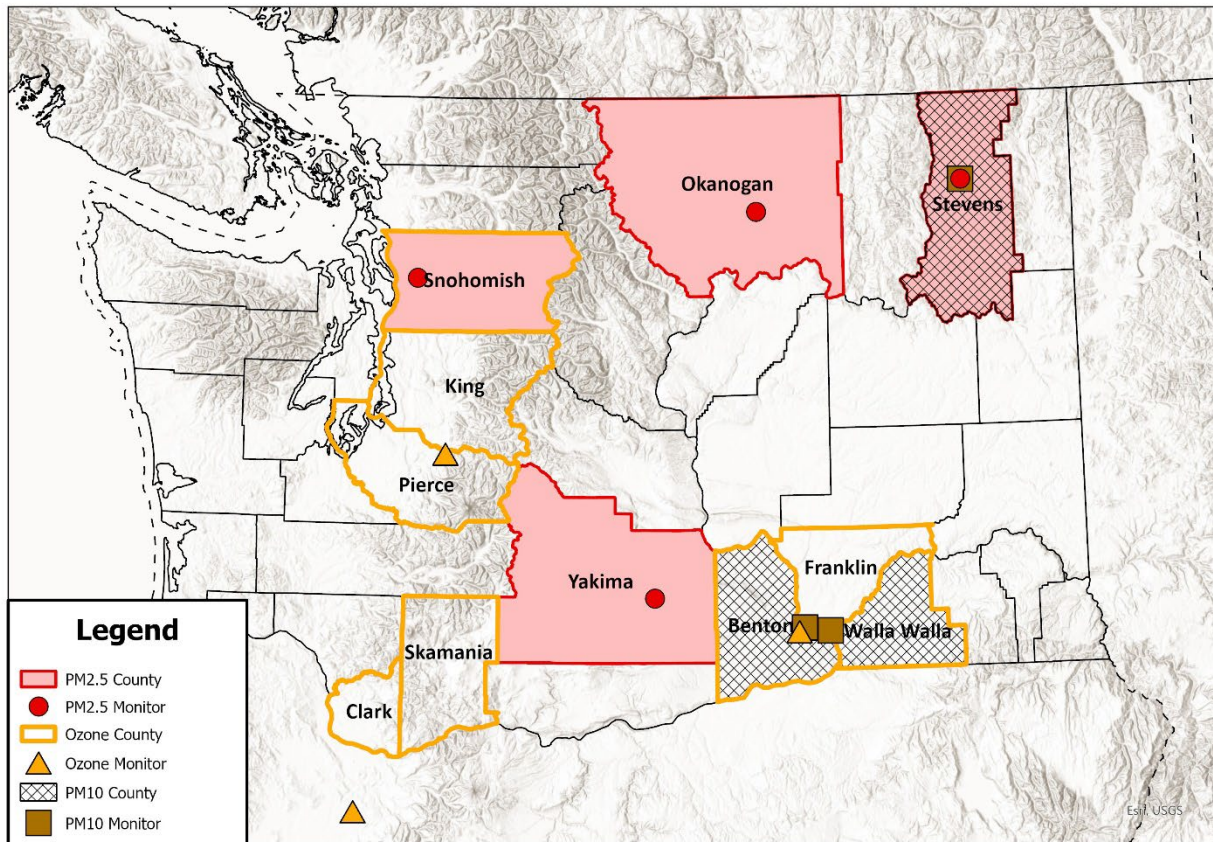
- Comply with the scope of work for the grant agreement.
- Include invoices to support all payment requests that must comply with the grant budget and financial reporting requirements. Invoices must be itemized by task per the grant agreement with a line item for each cost incurred.
- Include backup documentation consistent with the expenditures submitted in EAGL and show how that cost was incurred. For instance, if the cost is a compilation of separate costs, details must be shown on the backup as to how that end cost was determined. If the line-item cost is a breakout from a larger cost, that breakout detail needs to be shown.
- Include an Equipment Purchase Report (form in EAGL) for any single item with a purchase price \$5,000 or more.
- Include consistent line items and backup documentation. Highlighting end costs on the backup helps to speed review of the invoice and ultimately payment to the grant recipient.

Project close-out

Upon project completion, final invoices must be submitted via EAGL within 30 days of the grant agreement expiration date. A final project closeout report must accompany the final invoice. This must be submitted before Ecology approves the final payment request.

Appendix

Counties Near NAAQS Thresholds (2020 - 2024)



The above map of Washington indicates the areas with high pollutant levels during the time period of 2020 through 2024. The thresholds were determined with the following data:

- PM2.5 with a design value of above 85% of the annual or 24-hour NAAQS (flagged wildfire data excluded).
- PM10 with a design value of above 80% of the NAAQS (flagged wildfire data excluded).
- Ozone with a design value of 65ppb, compared to the 70ppb NAAQS threshold.