

Public Participation Plan: Clean Earth/Burlington— Washougal

625 S 32nd Street Washougal, WA 98671

Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program

Washington State Department of Ecology Southwest Region Office Olympia, Washington

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Port of Camus-Washougal Industrial Park.

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Clean Earth/Burlington—Washougal cleanup site.¹

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¹ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2796

² https://ecology.wa.gov/ contact

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Public Participation Plan

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Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Region Office
Olympia, Washington

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Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology, we) developed this Public Participation Plan in collaboration with Clean Earth/Burlington Environmental, LLC, the party responsible for cleanup costs. The goal of this plan is to ensure meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup of Clean Earth/Burlington's Washougal facility (the site).

This plan outlines how Ecology will keep the public informed about contamination investigations and cleanup options at each stage of the process. Please review Appendix A for more information about the cleanup process. The plan also details when and how the community can participate in the cleanup process. We encourage the public to engage with the decision-making opportunities and provide input.

Site contacts

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Informal comments or questions about the site are welcome anytime.

Ecology

Washington State Department of Ecology Southwest Region Office P.O. Box 47775 Olympia , WA 98504-7775

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Clean Earth/Burlington, LLC

Clean Earth – Corrective Actions 1701 E Alexander Ave Tacoma, WA 98421

Courtney Jacobs, Site Manager Email: cjacobs@cleanearthinc.com Telephone: (253) 778- 9732

Greg Fink Permitting Compliance Director

Email: gfink@cleanearthinc.com Telephone: (215) 768-6470

If you are unable to reach these contacts, please visit Ecology's <u>cleanup site page</u>⁴ for up-to-date contact information.

⁴ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2796

Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located. However, the list will at least include addresses within a quarter mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide:

- General information about the site.
- Contact information for submitting comments.
- Times and locations of public meetings or hearings.
- How to request a meeting if one is not yet scheduled.

Comment period notices will be available online and at document repositories (for example, at the library closest to the site). Notices may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, or post offices).

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online, and print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses near the site and relevant local, state, Tribal, and federal government contacts.

People on the mailing list receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Emilie Kadhim at 564-250-2586 or emilie.kadhim@ecy.wa.gov.

Contaminated Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's <u>Contaminated Site Register</u>. ⁵ To receive the <u>Contaminated Site Register</u> by email, please <u>subscribe online</u>, ⁶ or contact Sarah Kellington at <u>sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov</u> or 360-280-3167.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events for this site in ads or notices published in <u>The Columbian</u>⁷ and the <u>Camas-Washougal Post-Record</u>⁸ newspapers and FM News 101 KXL19 radio. We will also publish notice on our <u>Public Input & Events Listing</u>.⁹

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a <u>website for this cleanup site</u>. ¹⁰ The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents from it.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through <u>news releases</u>, <u>our blog</u>, <u>and</u> social media.¹¹

Email lists

Ecology has an email list to update interested people about waste transfer, storage, and disposal facilities in the state, including this site. If you would like to be added to the email list for this site, please <u>subscribe online</u>¹² (click the blue "subscribe to this site" button). Or contact Emilie Kadhim at 564-250-2586 or <u>emilie.kadhim@ecy.wa.gov</u>.

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe to this site from our <u>site webpage</u>. ¹³ You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or open a comment period.

⁵ https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data

⁶ https://ecology.wa.gov/site-register

⁷ https://www.columbian.com/

⁸ https://www.camaspostrecord.com/

⁹ https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing

¹⁰ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2796

¹¹ https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/who-we-are/News

¹² https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2796

¹³ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2796

Places to see print documents

During public comment periods, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Ecology's Southwest Region Office 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, Washington 98503 Fort Vancouver Regional Library
Washougal Branch 1661 "C" Street
Washougal, Washington 98671

You can also review documents on our website:

https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2796.

Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

How you can share information with us

We hold public comment periods and sometimes public events to learn your thoughts, opinions, and concerns about cleanup at a site. We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Emilie Kadhim at 564-250-2586 or emilie.kadhim@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

At a minimum, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) requires 30-day comment periods to allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period. (For more information about MTCA, see page 12.)

When Ecology oversees State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend to 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are concurrently available for review. (For more information about SEPA, see page 12.)

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, the documents will become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings based on community interest. At meetings, workshops, and open houses, attendees can ask questions, learn more about the site, and submit written comments when a comment period is open. At a public hearing, verbal comments are transcribed for the record, and Ecology responds to them after the comment period ends.

If we have not scheduled an event, we will hold one if 10 people request it. This may cause us to extend a public comment period, so the event occurs during it.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public events are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information.
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process.

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Laura Busby at 360-280-5088 or laura.busby@ecy.wa.gov and Wendy Kovach at 564-250-2909 or wendy.kovach@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the Public Participation Grant webpage. 14

¹⁴ https://ecology.wa.gov/PPG

Site Information

History

Washougal, Washington, is located 18 miles east of Vancouver, Washington. It is a small community on the Washington side of the Columbia River, with its lowlands and famous prairie at the west entrance to the scenic Columbia River Gorge. It has a total area of 6.30 square miles and a population of about 18,000 people (per the 2024 U.S. Census¹⁵). It has several recreational areas and public parks. Clean Earth/Burlington is located southeast of downtown Washougal. It sits between Highway 14 and the Columbia River in an industrial area.

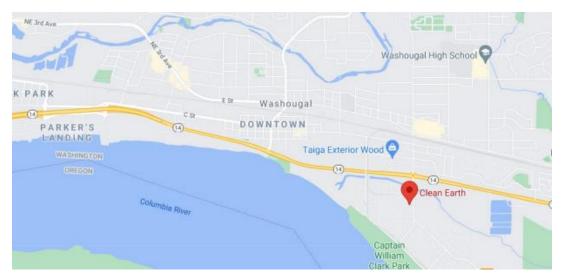


Figure 1. Google Map showing Clean Earth/Burlington site in Washougal, WA

Beginning in 1978, the Burlington property was owned and operated by several different businesses for industrial operations related to the paper industry and dangerous waste handling, including waste oil and solvent recovery, drum storage, and oil storage and blending. Starting in 1985, Burlington owned and operated a dangerous waste management facility on the property and was subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitting requirements.

RCRA and Washington State's dangerous waste regulations require a facility that treats, stores, or disposes of dangerous wastes to have a dangerous waste permit (permit) until completing all activities—including corrective action and final closure. In 2002, before the permit expired, Burlington closed all of the identified dangerous waste management units, but there was remaining contamination.

Currently, the permitted facility's name is Burlington Environmental, LLC. The owner is publicly known as Clean Earth.

¹⁵ https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/washougalcitywashington/POP815223#POP815223

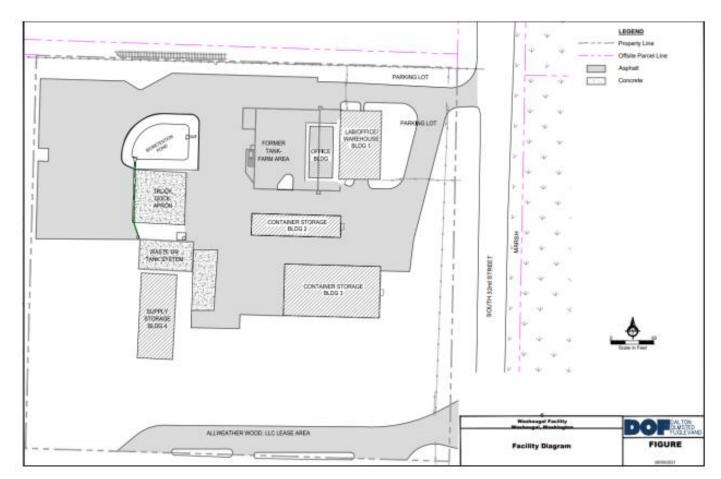


Figure 2. Clean Earth/Burlington—Washougal Facility Site Map. Clean Earth/Burlington was a hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility. Past facility activities resulted in soil and groundwater contamination.

In 1992, we issued a dangerous waste management permit to Clean Earth/Burlington for:

- Waste solvent recycling
- Hazardous waste treatment and storage
- Dangerous waste fuel blending
- Waste oil blending
- On-site wastewater treatment system operation

The wastes were treated in tanks and stored in both tanks and containers.

In 1997, Clean Earth/Burlington closed and removed the tanks, removed the concrete containment from under the tanks, and excavated underlying soil.

In 1998, we approved a permit modification for groundwater monitoring, a remedial investigation and feasibility study, and a draft cleanup action plan.

In 1999, Clean Earth/Burlington closed the hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility. We approved closure in 2000.

In September 2002, Clean Earth/Burlington submitted an application to renew their permit to complete cleanup activities.

Between 2000 and 2013, Clean Earth/Burlington did soil and groundwater sampling to identify the contamination and prepared drafts of the remedial investigation and feasibility study.

In September 2013, Clean Earth/Burlington submitted a revised remedial investigation report for the facility and continued groundwater sampling.

In May 2019, we decided outstanding issues in the remedial investigation could be addressed in the feasibility study. In 2020, Clean Earth/Burlington submitted their draft feasibility study report.

In 2021, we accepted their draft feasibility study report.

In 2022, Clean Earth submitted their draft cleanup action plan and Ecology provided comments.

In 2024, Clean Earth/Burlington began dock repair work at the site, which includes tearing down the old dock and digging about 8 feet below ground. Because the site used to handle hazardous waste, they are required to test the soil before sending it off site.

From 2024 to 2025, we worked with Clean Earth to finalize their draft cleanup action plan, which needs to meet updated cleanup rules from the 2024 changes to MTCA.

Contamination

Released contaminants are mostly solvents and include:

- 1,1-dichloroethene (chemical cleaning liquid)
- Benzene (a liquid in gasoline)
- Toluene (a liquid in gasoline)
- Xylenes (a liquid in gasoline)
- Ethylbenzene (a liquid in gasoline)
- Chloroethane (chemical cleaning liquid)
- Freon 113 (cooling gas used in refrigeration)
- cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (chemical cleaning liquid)
- Tetrachloroethene (chemical cleaning liquid)
- Trichloroethene (chemical cleaning liquid)
- Vinyl chloride (cancer-causing chemical)
- 1,4-dioxane (cancer-causing chemical)

Cleanup plans

The cleanup focuses on soil and groundwater. Under the permit and agreed order that went out for public comment in 2021, Clean Earth completed the formal remedial investigation and feasibility study.

In 2024 and 2025, we worked with Clean Earth to draft a cleanup action plan, agreed order, and permit modification. These draft cleanup documents are now ready for public comments.

From October 6 through December 6, 2025, we're holding a public comment period for review of these draft cleanup documents. After that, we'll issue the cleanup order that includes construction work and update the site's permit to reflect the changes.

You can view these documents online:16

- Remedial Investigation Report
- Feasibility Study
- 2022 Agreed Order
- Exhibit G Groundwater Monitoring Plan
- Dangerous Waste Management Permit
- 2025 draft Agreed Order
- 2025 draft Permit Modification
- 2025 draft Cleanup Action Plan

The remedial investigation and feasibility study were used to select cleanup actions for site contaminants. We oversee site cleanup activities, which must meet all federal and state standards.

A permit modification is required.

There are three classes of permit modifications:

- Class 1—Simple administrative changes.
- Class 2—Updates to wastes managed, treatments used, regulations, or schedules.
- Class 3—Substantial changes to the facility or its operation.

All permit modifications require public involvement. Figure 3 describes Washington's formal public involvement process.

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¹⁶ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2796#site-documents

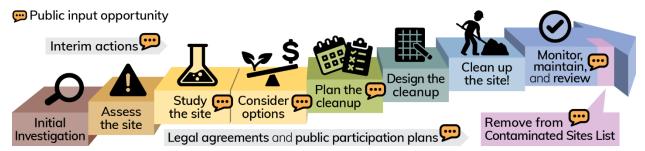


Figure 3. Formal Cleanup Process Infographic (English). Read a plain text version. 17



Figure 4. Formal cleanup process infographic (Spanish). Proceso de limpieza de Washington.¹⁸



Figure 5. Formal cleanup process infographic (Chinese). 华盛顿州的清理流程 (信息图).19

Area community

In 2021 Ecology ran a demographic analysis using EPA's Environmental Justice Screen (EJSCREEN) tool for a one-mile radius around the site. The standard report suggests these indicators for environmental justice considerations:

- Low-income population.
- Linguistically isolated population.
- Population with less than high school education.

¹⁷ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html

¹⁸ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166ES.html

¹⁹ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166ZH.html

- Population under 5 years of age.
- Population over 64 years of age.

Census data from the 2014–2018 American Community Survey indicates the largest racial and ethnic population around the site is Hispanic with 263 residents.

Table 1: Washougal study area: One-mile ring (radius) around the site (population 4,417).

Demographic Indicators	Value	State Average	Percentile in State
Demographic Index	20%	29%	33
Minority Population	15%	31%	23
Low Income Population	25%	27%	54
Linguistically Isolated Population	1%	4%	45
Population with Less Than High School Education	7%	9%	55
Population Under 5 Years of Age	7%	6%	60
Population Over 64 Years of Age	16%	15%	63

In 2025, Ecology ran a demographic analysis using the <u>Washington Tracking Network mapping</u> tool created by the Washington State Department of Health and found that on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) that this area ranked 7 for Environmental Health disparities and 6 for socioeconomic factors (based on population living in poverty, primary language other than English, education level, and unemployment rate).

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages according to federal guidance.²⁰ The non-English language most widely spoken in the area is Spanish. When appropriate, Ecology will provide outreach in Spanish. To request information in another language, call please contact Emilie Kadhim at 564-250-2586 or emilie.kadhim@ecy.wa.gov and wait on the line while we connect an interpreter.

We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

Tribal engagement

Ecology identified the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Yakama Nation, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs as potentially affected by contamination and cleanup activities at the Clean Earth Washougal site. These Tribes rely on natural resources that could be impacted by site contamination and have treaty-reserved rights for fishing, hunting, and gathering in the region. The cleanup process may also uncover cultural resources of significance.

²⁰ https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2004/06/25/04-14464/guidance-to-environmental-protection-agency-financial-assistance-recipients-regarding-title-vi

We will reach out to these Tribes to offer opportunities for government-to-government engagement in the cleanup process that are separate from the public involvement process. This engagement is described in a site-specific Tribal Engagement Plan, as required by WAC 173-340-620.²¹ We also invite Tribal members and other Indigenous peoples to participate in the public involvement process.

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the <u>Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)</u>²² and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities. Passed in 1989, MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State. This law sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects people and the environment. MTCA requires the creation of this public participation plan.

Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began in 1988 as a citizen-led effort to clean up contaminated sites in Washington State. The law holds property owners or operators responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property.

Ecology carries out MTCA, making sure cleanups happen according to state rules and regulations. These rules are found in Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code (WAC).²³ Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and the property is placed on the Contaminated Sites List²⁴ if the pollution is determined to pose a serious risk to human health or the environment. This starts the cleanup process at the site.

The cleanup process under MTCA includes several steps (<u>Appendix A</u>). Public involvement is a key part of MTCA's <u>cleanup process</u>.²⁵ Nearby residents, businesses, community groups, and other interested parties can review and comment on documents related to steps that make crucial decisions or plans about the cleanup.

State Environmental Policy Act

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the <u>State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)</u>.²⁶ Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

²¹ https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620

²² https://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca

²³ https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340

²⁴ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated

²⁵ http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process

²⁶ https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=197-11

Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Emilie Kadhim at 564-250-2586 or emilie.kadhim@ecy.wa.gov.

We intend for this plan to provide the public with information on opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed reflect Ecology's current plans to keep the public informed. It also provides ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms found in this plan are insufficient or would like to modify them in some way, please contact us. We will work to find solutions. We can implement new activities or outreach tools right away, with or without amending this plan.

Appendix A. Steps in the MTCA Cleanup Process

The cleanup process is defined in the Model Toxics Control Act,²⁴ Washington's cleanup law.

For a brief description, see the graphic on the next page.

Translations are available in several languages, including:

- Chinese: 华盛顿州的清理流程 (信息图)²⁵
- Spanish: Proceso de limpieza de Washington²⁶
- Korean: 와싱턴주의 환경정화 절차27
- Russian: Процесс устранения загрязнения в штате Washington (инфографике) 28
- Ukrainian: Процес проведення очисних робіт у штаті Washington (інфографіку)²⁹
- Vietnamese: Quy trình Tẩy nhiễm của Washington

²⁷ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166KO.html

²⁸ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166RU.html

²⁹ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166UK.html

Washington's Cleanup Process

Public participation plans and comment periods are only required for cleanups under a legal agreement with Ecology. Otherwise, all cleanups follow the same steps. The steps are defined by Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.



Initial investigation

Find out if there's contamination needing cleanup.

Assess the site

Evaluate potential threat to humans and the environment.

Study the site (remedial investigation)

- Find out what and where the contamination is.
- Determine how contamination might impact living things.

Consider options (feasibility study)

- Compare ways to keep the contamination from harming people or the environment.
- Weigh benefits versus costs of each cleanup option.

Plan the cleanup (cleanup action plan) 💬

- Describe Ecology's selected cleanup option.
- Set cleanup standards that will protect living things.
- Schedule next steps.
- Set requirements for monitoring and maintenance.

Design the cleanup

Make detailed construction plans for the cleanup action.

Clean up the site!

Complete the cleanup action. For example:

- Constructing a multi-layered capping system.
- Installing a treatment system.
- Removing contamination to a special landfill.

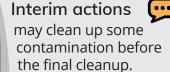
Monitor, maintain, and review 💬

- Operate treatment systems and monitor progress.
- Prevent activities that could disturb the cleanup.
- Review regularly to ensure cleanup still protects living things.

Remove from Contaminated Sites List 💬

Move to No Further Action list if site meets all standards and requirements.





Legal orders or agreements define required tasks and schedules.

Public participation plans explain how Ecology will ask for input from the local community.







Department of Ecology's Region 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 47600 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000