

Independent Remedial Action Grants

Focus on eligibility and applications

Remedial Action Grant program

Ecology provides grants and loans to local governments under the Model Toxics Control Act [chapter 70A.305 RCW](#)¹. This program helps reduce the impact of cleanup costs on local ratepayers and taxpayers. These grants and loans supplement other funding sources.

Independent Remedial Action Grants

One type of cleanup grant Ecology offers are [Independent Remedial Action Grants](#)² (IRAGs). IRAGs provide funding to local governments that investigate and clean up contaminated sites under Ecology's [Voluntary Cleanup Program](#)³ (VCP). Currently, Ecology provides such grants only after the local government has completed the cleanup and obtained a no further action (NFA) letter.

IRAG eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a local government.
- Have completed a cultural resources review before breaking ground on cleanup work.
- Have incurred cleanup costs within five years of the date Ecology receives the grant application.
- Have completed remedial actions and received an NFA determination through VCP for the site or a property at the site.
- Be potentially liable for contamination at the site, have an ownership interest in property at the site, or be a prospective purchaser of property at the site.
- Not conflict with the [Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda](#)⁴.

Projects are **not** eligible if:

- They received a non-VCP initial investigation NFA
- They received services from the [Pollution Liability Insurance Agency](#)⁵

Funding limit and match requirement

Total eligible costs are limited to a maximum of \$600,000. Ecology may fund up to 50% of the eligible costs, or 75% for economically disadvantaged local governments. Recipients are responsible for the remaining share of eligible project costs (match funding) and all non-eligible project costs.

The Voluntary Cleanup Program

The VCP provides technical assistance for a fee to people who are independently cleaning up sites, without a legal order with Ecology. To apply for an IRAG, local governments must have completed a cleanup under the VCP.

Benefits of a VCP cleanup

- The VCP client controls the cleanup schedule.
- Ecology provides opinions on cleanup progress and sufficiency.
- An NFA opinion helps with property transactions.

Limitations of a VCP cleanup

- VCP does not provide liability settlement or protection from third party claims.
- VCP is not appropriate for large or complex cleanups, which should be supervised by Ecology.

Preparing for a successful application

Cultural resources review is required

If you plan on applying for Independent Remedial Action Grant funding, request a cultural resources consultation from Ecology **as soon as you enroll in VCP**. Projects that receive state funding **must** be reviewed for potential impacts to cultural resources. If you do not complete a cultural resources consultation before field activities begin, your project may not be eligible for the grant.

To request an Ecology-led review, email a completed [Cultural Resources Review Form](#)⁶ to tcpculturalresources@ecy.wa.gov. You will also need to prepare an [Inadvertent Discovery Plan](#)⁷. This plan lays out the procedures to follow if workers discover human remains or historic or prehistoric resources.

Keep and organize invoices

You must include invoices in the grant application. The invoice package should include all time accounting and project cleanup work invoices. We won't reimburse costs that aren't properly documented.

Applying for the grant

The [Independent Remedial Action Grants webpage](#)² has information on how and when to apply. We accept IRAG applications only after Ecology has issued an NFA opinion for the site or property. You do not need to consult us before applying.

The [grants and loans webpage](#)⁸ explains how to create an account in our grant and loan system, EAGL. Once Ecology authorizes the account, you can log in and apply for an IRAG.



Toxics Cleanup Program
tcpgrants@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6000



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology at 360-407-6000 or at tcpgrants@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA>. Call 711 for relay service or 877-833-6341 for TTY.

¹ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.305>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/grants-IRAG>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/VCP>

⁴ <https://www.psp.wa.gov/2022AAupdate.php>

⁵ <https://www.plia.wa.gov/>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/form-cultural-resources>

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/form-IDP>

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/GrantsLoans>