

# Our mission

We all deserve a healthy environment — now and in the future. The mission of the Washington Department of Ecology is to care for, improve, and protect our state's air, soil, and water for you, your loved ones, and every Washingtonian.



## What does Ecology do?

### Soil

A healthy soil is vital for our well-being, growing crops, and raising animals. That's why Ecology:

- Responds to and cleans hazardous leaks and spills across the state.
- Develops and enforces policies to reduce toxic chemicals found in the environment, such as PFAS.
- Inspects chemical storage and transport facilities.
- Carries out complex cleaning of contaminated sites that pose a risk to the health of people and the environment.
- Helps local governments with regulations for collection and disposal of household and commercial waste.
- Supports trash collection efforts in our state's roads.
- Provides guidance to businesses and industries on disposal of toxic wastes.



### Water

Water is vital for all living beings. That's why Ecology:

- Makes sure the quality of Washington's waters is safe for agricultural and recreational activities.
- Preserves and protects shorelines in collaboration with other agencies and community groups.
- Protects, restores, and manages wetlands essential for the health of our water basins.
- Provides millions of dollars in funding to local governments, Tribes, and community groups for clean water projects.
- Regulates what industries can discharge into the water through permits.



### Air

We all deserve clean, healthy air. That's why Ecology:

- Monitors air quality and ensures compliance with state and federal air quality regulations.
- Regulates emissions generated by industrial activities and data centers.
- Regulates agricultural, industrial and residential burning.
- Promotes the use of electric vehicles and lowering vehicle emissions.
- Partners with local clean air agencies for targeted solutions to community needs.



## Our response to climate change

Climate change is and will continue to impact us. We work to mitigate those impacts and create a sustainable future by:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050
- Reducing the risk of floods
- Reducing the impacts of droughts and forest fires
- Thoughtful stewardship and use of water
- Reducing the impacts of ocean acidification



## We're at your service!

Explore programs designed to keep you healthy, informed, and empowered:

- **Use Food Well** – Discover practical tips, creative recipes, and clever ideas to reduce food waste and save money.
- **Safer Products for Washington** – Learn how to choose safer cosmetics, household goods, and everyday consumer products.
- **Woodstove Incentive Program** – Take advantage of financial incentives to replace or recycle old, uncertified woodstoves for cleaner air.
- **Burn Permits** – Ensure you clear debris and yard waste safely and responsibly with agricultural and residential burn permits.
- **Air Quality Map** – Check real-time air quality conditions in your area to plan your activities with confidence.
- **Toxic Product Disposal** – Find guidance on safely recycling and disposing of hazardous household products.
- **Dirt Alert Program** – Access soil testing to identify and manage potential contaminants where you live or garden.
- **Water Rights Permits** – Benefit from well-water testing for nitrates as part of the water rights permit process.

## Contact us

### Lacey Headquarters

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## Report an environmental issue:

- Online at [ecy.wa.gov/reportanissue](http://ecy.wa.gov/reportanissue)
- By [email](#) or [phone](#)
- [In-person](#) at one of our offices

To request an ADA accommodation, email [Thea.Angeli@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Thea.Angeli@ecy.wa.gov), call 360-407-6600 or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit [Ecology.wa.gov/ADA](http://Ecology.wa.gov/ADA) for more accessibility information.