



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Rule Implementation Plan Chapter 173-446 WAC, Climate Commitment Act Program Rule

July 2025

Publication 25-14-044

Publication and Contact Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/2514044.html>

For more information contact:

Climate Pollution Reduction Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-6700

Washington State Department of Ecology – www.ecology.wa.gov

- Headquarters, Olympia 360-407-6000
- Northwest Regional Office, Bellevue 425-649-7000
- Southwest Regional Office, Olympia 360-407-6300
- Central Regional Office, Union Gap 509-575-2490
- Eastern Regional Office, Spokane 509-329-3400

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-972-0313 or email at kayla.stevenson@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility> for more information.

Implementation Plan
Chapter 173-446 WAC
Climate Commitment Act Program Rule

Climate Pollution Reduction Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

This page is purposely left blank.

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Purpose.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Implementation and Enforcement.....	2
Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule	3
Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance	4
Evaluating the Rule.....	5
Training and Informing Ecology Staff.....	6
List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised	7
More Information.....	8
Contact Information	9

Purpose

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides the information in this implementation plan to meet agency and Administrative Procedure Act ([RCW 34.05.328](#)) requirements related to rule adoptions.

Introduction

On July 16, 2025, Ecology adopted amendments to Chapter 173-446 WAC Climate Commitment Act Program Rule (AO # 23-04) to update the ozone depleting substances (ODS) protocol. The purpose of this rule implementation plan is to inform those who must comply with Chapter 173-446 WAC about how Ecology intends to:

- Implement and enforce the rule.
- Inform and educate persons affected by the rule.
- Promote and assist voluntary compliance for the rule.
- Evaluate the rule.
- Train and inform Ecology staff about the amended rule.

Also included in this plan is information about:

- Supporting documents that may need to be written or revised because of the amended rule.
- Other resources where more information about the rule is available.
- Contact information for Ecology employees who can answer questions about the rule implementation.

Implementation and Enforcement

In 2021, Ecology established the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Implementation Group to design and implement Washington's Cap-and-Invest Program. The CCA Implementation Group, now referred to as the Cap-and-Invest Group, has primary responsibility for ensuring the successful implementation of Chapter 173-446 WAC. The group includes a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting and Verification Section, an Auctions and Market Section, and a Policy Section, as well as communications and support staff. The Group's staff will work to provide outreach, education, and technical assistance. The Cap-and-Invest group's enforcement related authority and actions are described in Chapter 173-446-555 and 173-446-580 WAC.

Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule

Throughout the rulemaking process, Ecology has taken the following actions to help inform interested persons:

- Emailed notices to the Cap-and-Invest Offsets email list, Air Quality Program general distribution list on rules and statewide plans email list, the Climate Commitment Act email list, and the WACTrack email list
- Sent out public notices
- Sent out letters to Tribal Governments
- Posted information on Ecology's Climate Commitment Act Program rulemaking website
- Held a Technical Working Group for rule development
- Held Environmental Justice Working Group Meetings monthly since August 2024
- Held two public hearings via webinar
- Held Tribal forums and public meetings
- Held meetings with interested parties upon request

Ecology maintains a webpage for the [Offsets rulemaking](#) that houses resources including the rulemaking timeline, slideshows and recordings from public meetings and public hearings, a description of the ODS protocol changes, and an explanation for changes that were considered but ultimately not implemented..

Additionally, Ecology maintains a [webpage for offsets](#) under the Cap-and-Invest program that houses the following resources:

- The mechanisms for how offsets work
- Examples of offsets projects
- Requirements for an offset project under the Cap-and-Invest Program
- Tribal Carbon Offset Assistance Grant program
- Guidance and resources for project developers, verifiers, and registries
- Ecology Offset Issuance Table

As the need arises, additional materials may be developed to provide guidance around this rule.

Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance

The actions mentioned above that inform and educate interested parties also help promote voluntary compliance. Those who are required to comply with the rule are project developers who choose to opt-in to the Cap-and-Invest program. Several other activities have proven useful in promoting voluntary compliance, such as:

- Posting the regulations and implementation plan on Ecology's website.
- Availability of Ecology staff to answer technical assistance questions from interested parties.
- Involving staff responsible for implementing this rule in the development of the adopted rule.
 - Holding staff trainings and staff meetings to allow Ecology staff to answer compliance questions as they arise.
 - Using the agency website to train and inform any additional agency staff.
- Maintaining a file for comments and suggestions for improving regulations. We use the file during each subsequent rulemaking. These suggestions come from Ecology staff, and the regulated community.

Evaluating the Rule

Ecology will monitor the impacts of the rule. To evaluate the effectiveness of the rule, Ecology will do the following:

- Work with covered entities to understand the efficacy of the protocol for compliance purposes. Ecology will continue to update the ODS protocol as deemed necessary.
- Work closely with covered and opt-in entities along with third-party project verifiers and registries
- By December 1, 2027, and at least every four years thereafter, Ecology must submit a report to the legislature that includes a comprehensive review of the implementation of the program to date, including but not limited to outcomes relative to the state's emissions reduction limits, offset credits granted, overburdened communities, covered entities, and emissions-intensive, trade-exposed businesses. This report would include the progress of the implementation of the adopted rule and offset project development.

Training and Informing Ecology Staff

Ecology has conducted extensive internal communication and training to ensure staff understand the requirements of the Climate Commitment Act. Staff responsible for implementing this amended rule have been involved its development. Ecology will hold staff trainings, use staff meetings, and the agency website to train and inform any additional agency staff.

List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised

Ecology maintains a webpage for the Offsets rulemaking that houses resources including press releases, slideshows and recordings from public meetings and public hearings, and frequently asked questions. We will continue to update this website.

Additionally, Ecology maintains a [webpage for offsets](#) under the Cap-and-Invest program that houses the following resources:

- The mechanisms for how offsets work
- Examples of offset projects
- Requirements for an offset project under the Cap-and-Invest Program
- Tribal Carbon Offset Assistance Grant program
- Guidance and resources for project developers, verifiers, and registries
- Ecology Offset Issuance Table

As the need arises, additional materials may be developed to provide guidance around this rule.

More Information

[Chapter 173-446 WAC—Cap-and-Invest Offsets Rulemaking Webpage](#)

[Environmental Justice Offset Working Group](#)

[Washington's Cap-and-Invest Program](#)

[Climate Commitment Act Program Rule Chapter 173-446 WAC](#)

Contact Information

Rulemaking Lead

Kayla Stevenson
Department of Ecology
Climate Pollution Reduction Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
360-972-0313
kayla.stevenson@ecy.wa.gov

Subject Matter Expert

Jordan Wildish
Department of Ecology
Climate Pollution Reduction Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
jordan.wildish@ecy.wa.gov