

**Operating**

9/10/2024 \$ in thousands - Biennialized FTEs  
2025-27 Carryforward Level Base Budget

		2025-27 Biennium Budget Request 9/10/2024				
		FTE	GF-State	MTCA <sup>1</sup>	Other	Total
<b>2025-27 Carryforward Level Base Budget</b>		<b>2,180.4</b>	<b>77,385</b>	<b>353,778</b>	<b>484,572</b>	<b>915,735</b>
<b>Maintenance Level Changes</b>						
1	WCC Member Wages and Benefits			235	351	586
2	Manchester Lab Facility Costs			638	70	708
3	Teck Metals Litigation Support			700		700
4	HQ Parking Garage Renovation COP		74	320	222	616
5	Public Participation Grants			939		939
6	Hanford Workload Adjustment <sup>2</sup>				-	-
7	Minimum Wage Increases - Facilities		18	82	60	160
8	Meeting Air Operating Permit Needs	0.6			182	182
9	DES Training Fee Increases		12	68	34	114
10	Lease Adjustments		24	100	76	200
<b>Policy Level Changes</b>						
<b>Reduce and Prepare for Climate Impacts</b>						
11	Implementing Climate Resilience	3.5	1,158			1,158
12	Washington Fuel Report System	0.8			1,316	1,316
13	Federal Rules for Power Plants	2.9	852			852
<b>Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution</b>						
14	Laboratory Accreditation Auditors	5.8	4,025	(2,091)		1,934
15	Reduce Toxic Tire Chemical Exposure	16.1	6,656	1,496	822	8,974
16	PFAS Response	10.9	3,908		100	4,008
17	Solid Fuel Burning Devices	1.2	291		115	406
18	Lead in Cookware	2.1		604		604
19	Litter Control & Market Development	2.3			5,000	5,000
20	Hanford Holistic Negotiations	3.4			1,077	1,077
21	Air Quality Industrial Inspectors	2.3			558	558
22	Hanford Unit Closure & Construction	1.8			418	418
<b>Protect and Manage Our State's Waters</b>						
23	Protecting Washington's Shorelines	4.5	1,317			1,317
24	Accelerating Floodplain Resilience	2.3	1,122			1,122
25	Coastal Resilience Capacity Grants		2,000			2,000
26	Water Rights Processing	4.6	1,280			1,280
27	Drought Planning and Preparedness	1.7	2,000			2,000
28	Aquatic Permitting and Aquaculture	2.3	671			671
29	River Migration Mapping for Salmon	1.2	378			378
30	Water Management and Compliance	2.3	702			702
31	Water Resource and Climate Resilience	4.5	1,895			1,895
32	European Green Crab Research	2.3	542			542
33	Addressing Harmful Algae Blooms	1.2	451			451
34	Small Oil Spills Prevention				600	600
35	WQ Grant & Loan Administration	2.3			604	604
<b>Other</b>						
36	Environmental Justice Capacity	6.9	528	882	704	2,114
37	BIL/IRA Federal Authority <sup>3</sup>	9.1			83,620	83,620
<b>Total Changes</b>		<b>98.9</b>	<b>29,904</b>	<b>3,973</b>	<b>95,929</b>	<b>129,806</b>
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>		<b>2,279.3</b>	<b>107,289</b>	<b>357,751</b>	<b>580,501</b>	<b>1,045,541</b>
<b>Transportation Budget Reappropriation</b>						
1	Electric School Bus Program			15,715	4,000	19,715

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Model Toxics Control Operating Account (23P-1, 23P-7), Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account (23R-1), Model Toxics Control Capital (23N-

<sup>2</sup> Reflects a fund shift of \$413,000 from General Fund-Federal (001-2) to Radioactive Mixed Waste Account (20R-1).

<sup>3</sup> General Fund-Federal appropriation to support increased federal funding applied for and/or received by Ecology through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

**Protecting the Environment | Ensuring Public Health | Supporting Economic Growth & Jobs**

As the state's lead environmental agency, Ecology strives to protect and preserve the environment for current and future generations, while valuing and supporting Washington's economic success. We're tackling challenges that are unique to our times and require us to take a broad and holistic approach to our work that focuses on not only *what* we do, but also *how* we do it.

Ecology's strategic goals are to:

- Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees.
- Reduce and prepare for climate change impacts.
- Prevent and reduce waste, toxic threats, and pollution.
- Protect and manage our state's waters.

Ecology's \$129.8 million 2025-27 biennial operating budget request reflects an economy that is largely recovered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and leverages new federal funding available to the state while continuing to protect environmental and public health through a focus on equity and environmental justice. This operating budget request is needed to:

- Protect people, fish, wildlife, and our environment from the impacts of emerging toxic chemicals, including Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 6PPD-quinone, which are associated with a wide range of adverse health impacts and impacts to salmon.
- Continue effectively implementing enacted climate policy legislation aimed at reducing carbon pollution and responding to climate change, including Washington's Clean Fuel Standard and Climate Resilience Strategy.
- Continue supporting priorities and actions from the Governor's 2021 Salmon Strategy Update and State/Tribal Riparian Protection & Restoration Workgroup needed to better monitor the health of our riparian buffers and protect salmon.
- Assist local communities with environmental issues, including contaminated drinking water, air quality, coastal climate hazards, flood risks, water availability, invasive species, and the impacts of solid waste and litter accumulation.
- Advance efforts in meeting the state's environmental justice goals under the Healthy Environment for All law (HEAL Act) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.
- Pass through and use federal funding available from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act to support environmental and public health work and projects across the state.
- Meet obligations related to Hanford cleanup and respond to federal changes impacting the state's power plant sector and aquaculture industry.
- Support legal costs incurred by the Attorney General's Office related to current litigation involving Ecology.

This request is supported primarily by federal grants, dedicated environmental funds, and direct charges to customers for services provided.

The following summarizes each request for Ecology. The numbers for each item correspond with the numbers in the spreadsheet at the beginning of this section.

## Maintenance Level

- 1. WCC Member Wages and Benefits. \$586,000.** The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) partners with organizations across the state to carry out environmental restoration and recreation enhancement projects. As the state minimum wage rises, WCC needs to adjust the living allowances and benefits for its AmeriCorps members to stay competitive with other opportunities, retain members for their full terms, and ensure that service opportunities are accessible to individuals regardless of their socioeconomic background. This maintenance-level adjustment is necessary to align the WCC living allowance with the state's minimum wage law. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account, General Fund-Federal, General Fund-Private/Local)
- 2. Manchester Lab Facility Costs. \$708,000.** Ecology shares space with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the Manchester Environmental Laboratory in Kitsap County. EPA has informed Ecology that costs have risen as of January 2024. This request seeks a maintenance-level increase to cover these additional costs, ensuring that essential environmental laboratory analyses continue to support Ecology's vital work, as well as that of other state agencies, Tribes, and local partners. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account, Water Quality Permit Account)
- 3. Teck Metals Litigation Support. \$700,000.** This request supports the Office of the Attorney General's (AGO) corresponding budget request for continuation of Phase 3 of the Pakootas v. Teck Metals, Ltd. (Teck) litigation, in which Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are co-plaintiffs in federal district court. The case, which has been ongoing since 2003, has already established Teck's liability for releasing metals and other chemicals into the Columbia River from its Canadian smelting complex through Phases 1 and 2. Phase 3 aims to address recovery of natural resource injuries and damages resulting from this pollution. This request covers the expert and AGO resources required next biennium to complete this phase of the litigation, which Ecology will be billed for. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)
- 4. HQ Parking Garage Renovation COP. \$616,000.** The 2022 Legislature authorized Ecology to finance and undertake a major restoration project for the parking garage structure at Ecology's Headquarters building in Lacey. This request seeks operating appropriation authority to pay for the Certificate of Participation (COP), based on a 10-year financing schedule. (Multiple Accounts)
- 5. Public Participation Grants. \$939,000.** The Public Participation Grant Program is a competitive grant initiative that provides funding to individuals and nonprofit public interest organizations for education and outreach efforts related to the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. It also supports recycling and waste management projects aimed at improving recycling rates and waste management outcomes. Ecology is seeking a maintenance-level adjustment to ensure this funding remains in alignment with RCW 82.21.030, which requires 1% of revenue collected under

the Hazardous Substance Tax be used for these grants. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

- 6. Hanford Workload Adjustment.** As the U.S. Department of Energy escalates mixed waste permitting and management activities at the Hanford site, Ecology has noticed a decrease in the proportion of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act cleanup work at Hanford. This trend has persisted over several biennia and is anticipated to continue due to rising federal funding for tank waste treatment, storage, and disposal at Hanford. Ecology is requesting a net-zero fund shift of expenditure authority from the General Fund-Federal to the Radioactive Mixed Waste Account to support the transition of workload associated with permitting and oversight of mixed waste management activities. (General Fund-Federal, Radioactive Mixed Waste Account)
- 7. Minimum Wage Increases – Facilities. \$160,000.** Since 2011, Washington State’s minimum wage has risen annually and is adjusted each year under RCW 49.46.020 based on the U.S. Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers. These wage increases, combined with shifts in prevailing wage rates, have led to higher costs for Ecology’s existing service and maintenance contracts, including those for janitorial and security services. Ecology is requesting a maintenance-level funding adjustment to address the increased costs associated with these changes in minimum and prevailing wage rates for its facilities. (Multiple Accounts)
- 8. Meeting Air Operating Permit Needs. \$182,000, 0.6 FTE.** Federal and state laws outline the scope and requirements of the Air Operating Permit Program. These laws mandate that industrial facilities emitting significant amounts of air pollution comply with the program and cover its full cost. State law requires Ecology to use a workload analysis model to determine the budget needed for administering the program each biennium. In June 2024, Ecology released its workload analysis for the 2025-27 biennium, which projects an increased workload based on current costs and projections. Ecology is requesting additional spending authority to align with the adjusted fee level. (Air Operating Permit Account)
- 9. DES Training Fee Increases. \$114,000.** Since 2018, Ecology has faced rising costs for training due to increased administrative fees from the Department of Enterprise Services and contracted instructors. To ensure staff continue to receive the necessary training to effectively carry out their roles, Ecology is requesting a maintenance-level funding adjustment. (Multiple Funds)
- 10. Lease Adjustments. \$200,000.** This request is for a maintenance-level lease increase for Ecology’s Central Region Office in Union Gap. The Department of Enterprise Services Real Estate Services negotiates this lease increase on behalf of Ecology. The work conducted at this facility supports the public, other state agencies, Tribes, and local partners, contributing to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Washington’s environment for current and future generations. (Multiple Funds)

## Policy Level

### Reduce and Prepare for Climate Impacts

- 11. Implementing Climate Resilience. \$1,158,000, 3.5 FTEs.** As directed by the Legislature, Ecology is leading the update of the state’s climate resilience strategy, with a deadline of September 30, 2024. This update includes recommending a durable governance structure to facilitate interagency coordination and effective strategy implementation. Together with nine agency partners, Ecology has developed a preferred governance structure that necessitates core staff at Ecology and funding to enhance capacity and ensure participation from overburdened communities, vulnerable populations, and Tribes. Ecology is proposing agency request legislation to formalize and establish this governance structure and is requesting funding and staff resources to implement the updated strategy. This request is also related to implementing the Puget Sound Action Agenda and the Governor’s Salmon Strategy. (General Fund-State)
- 12. Washington Fuel Report System. \$1,316,000, 0.8 FTE.** The Clean Fuel Standard, enacted in 2021, mandates that fuel suppliers reduce the carbon intensity of their products by 20% below 2017 levels by 2038. To implement this law, Ecology developed the Washington Fuels Reporting System, an online platform for regulated entities to register, report fuel transactions, calculate credits and deficits, and trade credits for compliance. However, the system, which launched in January 2023, was based on outdated technology from California that needed replacement. In 2023, the Legislature allocated funding for a three-year period to enable Ecology to work with California on co-developing a new market platform for both states. Due to delays in California starting the project, Ecology is requesting the unspent funding from the 2023-25 biennium be appropriated again for fiscal years 2027 and 2028. This will provide the necessary resources for Ecology to complete the project once California resumes work by summer 2025. (Clean Fuels Program Account)
- 13. Federal Rules for Power Plants. \$852,000, 2.9 FTEs.** The Environmental Protection Agency is introducing two federal rules to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. The Greenhouse Gas Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants mandate that Ecology develop a state implementation plan outlining how Washington’s power plants will comply with these new federal regulations. This request seeks funding to support the staff needed to create the state implementation plan and update any related rules. (General Fund-State)

### Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution

- 14. Laboratory Accreditation Auditors. \$1,934,000, 5.8 FTEs.** Ecology’s Laboratory Accreditation Unit audits environmental and drinking water labs in Washington State to ensure proper analysis and reliable data. Over the past decade, increased technical needs and the demand for new lab accreditations, including those for complex compounds like 6PPD-quinone, have significantly raised the unit's workload. To address this, the Legislature provided temporary funding for five auditor positions for 2023-25. Following a 2021 Environmental Protection Agency audit revealing overdue lab audits, Ecology raised fees in 2023 to support additional staff. This request seeks

ongoing funding for these positions and aligns our base funding for the laboratory accreditation unit with where fees are deposited. (General Fund-State, Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

- 15. Reduce Toxic Tire Chemical Exposure. \$8,974,000, 16.1 FTEs.** The Legislature previously provided one-time funding to Ecology to address the significant threat posed by 6PPD and its harmful byproduct, 6PPD-quinone, which has been shown to be lethal to Coho salmon and other aquatic species. While this support has been beneficial, ongoing efforts are essential to fully tackle this critical issue. Ecology is now requesting additional funding and staff resources to enhance its work in several key areas: identifying effective stormwater treatment solutions, exploring safer alternatives to harmful chemicals, monitoring environmental impacts, and developing laboratory methods for analyzing water and sediment. This initiative is crucial for protection of aquatic ecosystems and aligns with the priorities outlined in the 2021 update of the Governor’s Salmon Strategy, as well as the implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (General Fund-State, Model Toxics Control Operating Account, Water Quality Permit Account)
- 16. PFAS Response. \$4,008,000, 10.9 FTEs.** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pose significant environmental and public health challenges, given their widespread presence in products such as waterproof clothing, furniture, food packaging, and firefighting foam. In light of recent regulatory changes—including new federal drinking water standards and proposed waste regulations—Ecology is seeking additional funding and staff to bolster PFAS testing and monitoring efforts across the state. This funding will enable Ecology to identify contaminated sites that need remediation, ensuring protection of clean drinking water for communities. Additionally, this request focuses on reducing PFAS use among businesses and investigating their presence in stormwater and wastewater systems. These efforts align with the PFAS Statewide Funding Strategy mandated by the 2023-25 capital budget and support implementation of the Governor’s Salmon Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda, both of which aim to enhance environmental health and ecosystem resilience. (General Fund-State, Water Quality Permit Account)
- 17. Solid Fuel Burning Devices. \$406,000, 1.2 FTEs.** Wood smoke from residential wood heating (RWH) is the largest source of fine particle air pollution from human activities in Washington, posing significant health and regulatory challenges. Once a national model, Washington’s RWH laws and regulations have become outdated and are now less protective compared to newer federal standards. The current regulatory framework for RWH devices in Washington is complex and fragmented, relying on a mix of state and federal policies. To address these issues, Ecology is proposing request legislation to update Chapter 173-433 WAC, review new solid fuel burning devices, and create a list of approved devices for sale in Washington. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (General Fund-State, Wood Stove Education & Enforcement Account)
- 18. Lead in Cookware. \$604,000, 2.1 FTEs.** In 2024, the Legislature passed 2SHB 1551, which prohibits the manufacture, sale, and distribution of cookware containing lead or lead compounds in amounts exceeding five parts per million. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. To implement the new law, funding and staff will be required starting July 1, 2025, as outlined in

Ecology's final fiscal note for the bill. The requested staff will focus on developing outreach, compliance, and testing programs. They will also engage with cookware manufacturers and sellers affected by the new lead restrictions, as well as educate consumers, particularly those in overburdened communities, about the risks of lead in cookware and how to select safer options. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

- 19. Litter Control & Market Development. \$5,000,000, 2.3 FTEs.** Waste generation rates are steadily increasing, while recycling rates have stagnated, and litter pollution continues to rise. To address these issues, additional investments are needed to bolster local recycling market development and enhance litter control measures. Ecology is requesting funding to boost investments in litter control and support the state's Recycling Market Development Center. This funding will also provide pass-through grants to state and local partners for litter pickup and education programs focused on waste reduction. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account)
- 20. Hanford Holistic Negotiations. \$1,077,000, 3.4 FTEs.** In 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Ecology began voluntary mediated negotiations to establish a practical plan for cleaning up radioactive and chemical waste from underground tanks at the Hanford Site. These negotiations concluded in 2024 with a signed settlement agreement and proposed revisions to cleanup deadlines in the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, as well as the Washington v. Granholm consent decree. Ecology is now seeking funding from the Radioactive Mixed Waste Account to support the permitting and engineering efforts essential for the safe and effective cleanup of tank waste. (Radioactive Mixed Waste Account)
- 21. Air Quality Industrial Inspectors. \$558,000, 2.3 FTEs.** Ecology currently lacks capacity for industrial inspectors necessary to ensure compliance with state and federal air quality regulations and permits, which is crucial for protecting air quality and public health. Industrial inspectors play a key role in monitoring 519 industrial facilities across Ecology's 17-county jurisdiction in Central and Eastern Washington. By the end of 2023, only 38% of these facilities had been inspected within the program's target frequency of every two or three years, and 57% had not been inspected for six or more years. Ecology is requesting funding for additional industrial inspectors to meet inspection targets, enhance compliance, safeguard air quality and public health, and ensure consistent enforcement of pollution reduction strategies, particularly in overburdened communities significantly affected by air pollution. (Air Pollution Control Account)
- 22. Hanford Unit Closure & Construction. \$418,000, 1.8 FTEs.** Following issuance of the Hanford dangerous waste permit renewal (Revision 9), there is an urgent need to manage the closure of 23 Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMUs) according to their respective closure plans. The situation is further complicated by the fact that 32 additional units now meet the criteria for closure, which significantly increases the workload for managing these processes at the Hanford Site. Additionally, the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order M-091 Milestone Series mandates the construction of the Contact Handled Facility, a new set of DWMUs specifically designed for the processing, shipment, and disposal of radioactive and hazardous waste. Given the

complexity and scale of these projects, Ecology is requesting additional resources to effectively support the permitting and oversight necessary for both the DWMU closures and the construction activities. (Radioactive Mixed Waste Account)

### **Protect and Manage Our State's Waters**

- 23. Protecting Washington's Shorelines. \$1,317,000 4.5 FTEs.** In 2023, the Legislature passed HB 1181, which incorporated climate change resilience and environmental justice goals into the state's Growth Management Act. The bill also mandates updates to local comprehensive development plans and shoreline master programs. Washington communities require support and guidance from Ecology to meet these new requirements, overcome implementation challenges, and enhance climate resilience. Ecology is requesting additional funding and staff to offer technical assistance, expand review capacity, and effectively support implementation of the new shoreline master program provisions. Related to implementing Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy, the Governor's Salmon Strategy, and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (General Fund State)
- 24. Accelerating Floodplain Resilience. \$1,122,000, 2.3 FTEs.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the National Flood Insurance Program, which helps communities understand flood risks. Although FEMA produces and updates flood risk maps, many in Washington are outdated, limiting the state's ability to safeguard homes, businesses, and public infrastructure from flooding. Additionally, outdated maps are delaying and increasing the costs of numerous salmon restoration projects. Ecology is requesting additional resources to update flood risk maps, offer technical support to communities, and advance salmon recovery projects. Related to implementing Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy, the Governor's Salmon Strategy, and Puget Sound Action Agenda. (General Fund-State)
- 25. Coastal Resilience Capacity Grants. \$2,000,000.** Washington's coastal communities are increasingly vulnerable to climate change risks such as flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. In response to Governor Inslee's request, the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council developed a set of recommendations in 2021 aimed at fostering collaboration between state agencies and coastal communities to tackle these challenges. While Ecology has already received funding to enhance data analysis for assessing site-specific vulnerabilities and provide coordinated state-level technical assistance, this request seeks the funding to boost local capacity for designing and implementing effective, on-the-ground climate resilience projects. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation and implementing Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy. (General Fund-State)
- 26. Water Rights Processing. \$1,280,000, 4.6 FTEs.** Processing water right applications has become increasingly challenging due to intensified competition for limited water resources across the state, along with the growing legal, scientific, and technical complexities involved in water right decisions. Consequently, the number of water right permit decisions made by Ecology each year has dropped by more than 45% compared to a decade ago. Without additional funding, the backlog of pending water right applications and processing times will continue to rise. Ecology is



- requesting funding for additional staff to increase the number of water right decisions made annually, which will support economic development and also protect the environment. (General Fund-State)
- 27. Drought Planning and Preparedness. \$2,000,000, 1.7 FTEs.** Washington is experiencing significant impacts from climate change, including threats to its snowpack, infrastructure, and water supply, as droughts become more frequent and temperature extremes more common. To address these challenges, Ecology used one-time funding from the 2023-25 operating budget to launch a pilot program offering competitive grants for drought planning and preparedness. These grants aim to help communities and agricultural users stabilize water access before emergencies arise. This request seeks to secure ongoing funding to continue and expand this grant program for both drought planning and preparedness projects. Related to implementing Washington’s Climate Resilience Strategy. (General Fund-State)
- 28. Aquatic Permitting and Aquaculture. \$671,000, 2.3 FTEs.** In March 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers revoked Nationwide Permit 48 for shellfish aquaculture in Washington. This decision has led to an unexpected increase in workload for Ecology, because the programmatic approval for Nationwide Permit 48 is no longer applicable. Consequently, all shellfish aquaculture projects previously covered under this permit now require individual review, public notice, and separate decisions by Ecology. Additional staff are needed to handle this increased workload, protect water quality, and ensure project proponents understand and comply with water quality certification conditions. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (General Fund-State)
- 29. River Migration Mapping for Salmon. \$378,000, 1.2 FTEs.** A State/Tribal Riparian Work Group focused on salmon recovery has identified Channel Migration Zone mapping as a key priority for riparian habitat protection. In response, the Legislature allocated one-time funding for fiscal year 2023 and the 2023-25 biennium to Ecology to develop a statewide Channel Migration Zone mapping methodology. This request seeks ongoing funding to continue collaborating with Tribes, agencies, and other community partners to finalize the remaining tasks and provide ongoing technical support to Tribes and local governments. This request directly implements priority recommendations and actions in the 2021 Governor’s Salmon Strategy update, it supports Washington’s Climate Resilience Strategy and is related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation. (General Fund-State)
- 30. Water Management and Compliance. \$702,000, 2.3 FTEs.** The waters of the state are publicly owned, and Ecology grants rights to use specific volumes of water for designated purposes in particular locations under the "prior appropriations" system. Once these water rights are issued, Ecology manages water users to safeguard senior rights, including instream flows. This management involves watermasters who track water use and enforce compliance through active oversight. Ecology is requesting funding to increase watermaster staff in Eastern Washington and the Walla Walla Basin to enhance water use management, ensure adherence to state water laws, and bolster Washington's resilience to climate change impacts. Related to implementing Washington’s Climate Resilience Strategy and Governor’s Salmon Strategy update. (General Fund-State)

- 31. Water Resource and Climate Resilience. \$1,895,000, 4.5 FTEs.** Washington State's water supply is increasingly affected by climate change, with reduced snowfall, earlier snowmelt, and diminished summer streamflow. As salmon and other aquatic life face shrinking water resources, competition intensifies between people and wildlife. Addressing the impacts of climate change and population growth on our environment and water supply is vital for developing solutions that serve all users. Ecology seeks funding and additional staff to enhance climate resilience, strengthen instream flows, and ensure statewide water security. Related to implementing Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy. (General Fund-State)
- 32. European Green Crab Research. \$542,000, 2.3 FTEs.** The European green crab is an invasive species posing a significant threat to Washington's coastal resources and potentially causing long-term ecological and economic damage. In response, Governor Inslee issued Emergency Proclamation 22-02, prioritizing emergency control measures on state-owned lands. The Legislature allocated funding to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with Ecology receiving a portion for trapping efforts in 2023-25. Ecology is now seeking additional resources for research to better understand the crab's behavior, which is crucial for developing long-term management and monitoring strategies. This request aims to help natural resource managers assess environmental factors influencing the pest's spread and predict its impacts on coastal resources. This request is related to the Governor's Salmon Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (General Fund-State)
- 33. Addressing Harmful Algae Blooms. \$ 451,000, 1.2 FTEs.** Pollution and climate change are leading to an increase in harmful algae blooms (HABs) in Washington's lakes, rivers, and streams. These blooms pose escalating health risks to humans, animals, and water quality, potentially contaminating drinking water and closing recreational areas. Ecology is requesting dedicated resources to join a coordinated, multi-agency effort to address HABs. Related to implementing Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (General Fund-State)
- 34. Small Oil Spills Prevention. \$600,000.** Over 26% of oil spills in Washington waters originate from recreational boats, marinas, commercial fishing vessels, and ports. In 1991, the Legislature established the Washington Sea Grant Small Spill Prevention Education Program to address spills from these sources (RCW 79A.60.620). Funded by a budget proviso that has remained unchanged since its inception, the program's effectiveness has been diminished by over 30 years of economic inflation, despite the growing need for boater education due to an increasing number of recreational boats. This request seeks funding to continue the Washington Sea Grant's capacity to deliver vital outreach across the state to prevent spills. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Oil Spill Prevention Account)
- 35. WQ Grant & Loan Administration. \$604,000, 2.3 FTEs.** This request is a technical adjustment to shift funding for two existing FTEs associated with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program from the capital budget (Fund 727) to the operating budget (Fund 564). This change will align the funding for these positions with the fund source used for the rest of the staff managing this loan program. (Water Pollution Control Revolving Administration Account)

## Other

- 36. Environmental Justice Capacity. \$2,114,000, 6.9 FTEs.** This funding request is focused on addressing capacity gaps for implementing environmental justice requirements outlined in the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act, alongside other state and federal environmental justice and equity mandates. Ecology's initial fiscal note for the HEAL Act in 2021 identified several indeterminant fiscal impacts related to its implementation. Now, with a clearer understanding of the workload and requirements, Ecology is seeking funding to hire additional staff. These new positions will embed expertise within key environmental programs across the agency, ensuring environmental justice considerations are integrated into decision-making processes. This is crucial for effectively addressing the needs of marginalized communities and promoting equitable outcomes in environmental management. (Multiple Funds)
- 37. BIL/IRA Federal Authority. \$83,620,000, 9.1 FTEs.** Passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act has significantly increased federal funding available to state, local, and Tribal governments nationwide for environmental and public health priorities, including water infrastructure upgrades, legacy pollution cleanup, and climate crisis mitigation. In response to these new funding opportunities, Ecology—along with other state agencies, Tribes, and local governments in Washington—has applied for and secured funds to support various environmental and public health initiatives across the state. Ecology is now requesting additional federal spending authority to use seven new funding opportunities that have been awarded or applied for as of August 1, 2024. (General Fund-Federal)

## Transportation Budget Reappropriation

- 1. Electric School Bus Program. \$19,715,000.** Ecology received additional funding for the Electric School Bus Program in the 2024 supplemental budget; however, due to the approximately 12-month delivery time for electric school buses, we will not be able to fully obligate and spend these funds before the 2025-27 biennium. Therefore, Ecology is requesting reappropriation of \$19.7 million to ensure school bus owners have enough time to receive, test, and implement their new buses. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account, Carbon Emissions Reduction Account)

**Capital**

9/10/2024 \$ in thousands

2025-27 Biennium Budget Request 9/10/2024			
SBCA	MTCA <sup>1</sup>	Other	Total

<b>Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution</b>				
1	Protect Investments in Cleanup Remedies		4,450	4,450
2	Remedial Action Grant Program	64,028	44,203	108,231
3	Reducing Diesel Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and Toxic Emissions	21,319		21,319
4	PFAS Response	5,000		5,000
5	Eastern Washington Clean Sites Initiative		16,250	16,250
6	Affordable Housing Cleanup Grant Program		9,654	9,654
7	Swift Creek Natural Asbestos Flood Control and Cleanup	11,540		11,540
8	Product Replacement Program		9,000	9,000
9	ASARCO Everett Smelter Plume Cleanup		7,239	7,239
10	Reducing Toxic Wood Stove Emissions		4,164	4,164
11	Clean Up Toxic Sites-Puget Sound Initiative		3,150	3,150
12	Waste Tire Pile Cleanup and Prevention			1,000
13	Cleanup Settlement Account Projects			650
<b>Protect and Manage our State's Waters</b>				
14	Water Pollution Control Revolving Program			614,000
15	Centennial Clean Water Program	80,000		80,000
16	Floodplains by Design	84,000		84,000
17	Stormwater Financial Assistance Program	13,219	66,781	80,000
18	Columbia River Water Supply Development Program	56,469		1,415
19	Yakima River Basin Water Supply	59,000		59,000
20	Chehalis Basin Strategy	80,000		80,000
21	Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Grant Program	30,000		30,000
22	Streamflow Restoration Program			40,000
23	State Match – Water Pollution Control Revolving Program			41,000
24	Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Water Conservation	3,320		3,320
25	Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnerships	25,000		25,000
26	Riparian Buffer Incentive Program	30,000		30,000
27	Freshwater Algae Grant Program			800
28	Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plants Grant Program			1,700
29	Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds			10,000
<b>Facility Related</b>				
30	Product Testing Laboratory Construction	16,969		16,969
31	Lacey Building Fire Alarm System Replacement	1,138		1,138
32	Eastern Regional Office HVAC Boiler and Condenser Replacement	800		800
<b>Total Capital Budget</b>		<b>581,802</b>	<b>164,891</b>	<b>710,565</b>
				<b>1,457,258</b>

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Model Toxics Control Capital (23N-1) and Stormwater (23R-1) Accounts.

**Protecting the Environment | Ensuring Public Health | Supporting Economic Growth & Jobs**

As the state's lead environmental agency, Ecology strives to protect and preserve the environment for current and future generations while valuing and supporting Washington's economic success. We're tackling challenges that are unique to our times and require us to take a broad and holistic approach to our work that focuses on not only *what* we do, but also *how* we do it.

Ecology's strategic goals are to:

- Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees.
- Reduce and prepare for climate change impacts.
- Prevent and reduce waste, toxic threats, and pollution.
- Protect and manage our state's waters.

Our agency's deep commitment to environmental justice is tied to each of our strategic goals and guides the way we work to accomplish those goals.

Ecology's 2025-27 biennial capital budget request reflects an economy that is largely recovered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and aims to help support our communities while continuing to protect environmental and public health through a focus on equity and environmental justice. This request will provide economic benefits to the state by creating over 3,600 private sector jobs per year during the next four years (based on OFM estimates) and pass through over a billion dollars in new project funding to local communities.

This capital budget request totals \$1.46 billion. It is supported primarily by dedicated environmental funds, federal funds, or state bonds for projects that:

- Promote local economic development through cleaning up contaminated sites for redevelopment.
- Improve water quality and protect salmon.
- Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Deliver water for fish, farms, and people.
- Address local environmental and public health priorities.
- Protect, restore, and enhance state-owned facilities.
- Create jobs.

The following summarizes each request for Ecology. The numbers for each item correspond with the numbers in the spreadsheet at the beginning of this section.

**Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution**

- 1. Protect Investments in Cleanup Remedies. \$4,450,000.** At Superfund sites, or when Washington assumes cleanup liability, the state is responsible for the costs involved. Through a State Superfund

Contract with the Environmental Protection Agency, Washington covers 10% of the cleanup construction costs and 100% of the long-term operation and maintenance costs. When the state takes responsibility—due to bankruptcy, abandonment, or other reasons—ongoing investment is crucial to uphold the remedy. This request seeks funding to meet legal obligations, protect public investments in cleanup, and ensure human health and environmental safety against potential remedy failures. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

- 2. Remedial Action Grant Program. \$108,231,000.** Ecology manages the Remedial Action Grant (RAG) Program to help local governments clean up contaminated sites in Washington. This request will fund pass-through grants for ready-to-proceed projects for the 2025-27 biennium. RAGs support cleanup at contaminated industrial sites that affect the air, land, and water resources of the state and the continued cleanup of Puget Sound. This grant funding will protect public and environmental health, create jobs, promote economic growth through the redevelopment of contaminated properties, and leverage local match funding for this work. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account, State Building Construction Account)
- 3. Reducing Diesel Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and Toxic Emissions. \$21,319,000.** Washington aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Transportation, which accounts for nearly 39% of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions, is a major focus, with electrification of on-road vehicles being crucial. In 2024, the Legislature passed ESHB 1368, directing Ecology to administer a zero-emission school bus grant program. This program will convert fossil-fueled school buses to zero-emission models, support related infrastructure, replace other fossil-fueled vehicles, and fund vocational training. Priority will be given to replacing the oldest diesel buses, particularly in vulnerable and overburdened communities. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (State Building Construction Account)
- 4. PFAS Response. \$5,000,000.** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are over 12,000 synthetic chemicals used in products like waterproof clothing, furniture, food packaging, and firefighting foam. Recent regulatory changes, including new federal drinking water standards and proposed PFAS waste regulations, will impact cleanup efforts. Ecology requests funding and staff to 1) decontaminate fire engines statewide and 2) sample and identify contaminated sites, initiate cleanups, and ensure safe drinking water during the process. This request supports actions outlined in the PFAS Statewide Funding Strategy, required by section 3035 of the 2023-25 capital budget, and is directly related to implementing the Governor’s Salmon Strategy. (State Building Construction Account)
- 5. Eastern Washington Clean Sites Initiative. \$16,250,000.** There are properties in Eastern Washington contaminated with hazardous wastes that have been abandoned or have owners unwilling or unable to pay for site investigation and cleanup. Without cleanup, these sites pose threats to public health, the environment, groundwater, and fish and wildlife resources. Cleaning up these sites protects public and environmental health, creates jobs, and promotes economic growth as the sites are redeveloped. This funding will continue the initiative to have a statewide

cleanup program by making investments outside of the Puget Sound Basin and Western Washington. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

- 6. Affordable Housing Cleanup Grant Program. \$9,654,000.** Washington urgently needs affordable housing throughout the state. The 2019 Annual Report of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board highlights that rising rent prices are outpacing income growth, affecting all communities. A major issue is land availability, because contamination or suspected contamination increases housing development costs. This request seeks funding for brownfield cleanups by public, nonprofit, or private developers committed to redeveloping these sites for affordable housing. Supporting this request will not only advance brownfield redevelopment but also invest in a critical social good—affordable housing. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
- 7. Swift Creek Natural Asbestos Flood Control and Cleanup. \$11,540,000.** For about 80 years, a slow-moving landslide on Sumas Mountain has been depositing large amounts of natural debris into Swift Creek and its floodplain east of Everson. This debris, contaminated with naturally occurring asbestos and heavy metals, obstructs the stream channel, leading to severe flooding and sediment buildup in nearby residential and agricultural areas. Since the 2017-19 biennium, Ecology has received \$12.4 million to address this persistent threat to public safety, property, and the environment in Whatcom County. This funding request aims to continue the design, construction, and maintenance of flood control and sediment management measures to mitigate these risks. (State Building Construction Account)
- 8. Product Replacement Program. \$9,000,000.** Many businesses use toxic chemicals that pose risks to workers, customers, and the environment. To encourage safer practices or product replacements, these businesses often need support. Ecology’s Product Replacement Program partners with local governments to offer financial incentives and technical assistance for removing or replacing harmful chemicals. This includes technology upgrades, best management practices, disposal programs, and safer chemical alternatives. Requested funding will support replacement of machinery, transition to safer products, and building improvements, providing long-term benefits for both businesses and the public. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
- 9. ASARCO Everett Smelter Plume Cleanup. \$7,239,000.** This request seeks to expedite cleanup efforts for the ASARCO smelter site in Everett, which operated from 1894 to 1912. The smelter emitted arsenic, lead, and other contaminants into the air, resulting in widespread pollution of residential soil, groundwater, and industrial areas near the Snohomish River. Without cleanup, these sites pose significant risks to public health, the environment, groundwater, and local fish and wildlife. Addressing the contamination will safeguard public and environmental health, create jobs, and drive economic growth. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)
- 10. Reducing Toxic Wood Stove Emissions. \$4,164,000.** Wood smoke from outdated stoves contributes to asthma, lung disease, heart disease, stroke, and premature death. The Wood Smoke

Reduction Grant Program addresses these issues by reducing emissions from old, high-polluting stoves in communities heavily impacted by wood smoke. Funding will support replacement of uncertified wood-burning devices with cleaner heating options and installation of advanced emission control solutions. Priority will be given to communities at high risk of breaching national air quality standards, aiming to prevent violations and mitigate economic, environmental, and public health impacts. This program is related to Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy and Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

**11. Clean Up Toxic Sites-Puget Sound Initiative. \$3,150,000.** Contaminated sites around Puget Sound and its shorelines significantly contribute to pollution in the basin. Ecology has long been involved in identifying and cleaning up these sites. This focus on comprehensive cleanup has revealed the crucial connection between toxic site remediation and habitat restoration. This request seeks to fund projects that combine shoreline habitat restoration with cleanup efforts, aiming to protect public and environmental health, generate jobs, and boost economic development. These integrated projects will enhance the food chain, benefiting forage fish crucial for species like salmon and Southern Resident orcas. This request is directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

**12. Waste Tire Pile Cleanup and Prevention. \$1,000,000.** Illegally dumped tires in Washington remain a significant threat to public health and the environment. Tire piles release pollutants into the environment, create breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease carriers, and increase the risk of dangerous fires. Ecology is requesting \$1 million to sustain efforts in preventing and removing waste tire piles, as well as to enhance enforcement and education regarding tire storage and hauling regulations. (Waste Tire Removal Account)

**13. Cleanup Settlement Account Projects. \$650,000.** Ecology is seeking funds from the Cleanup Settlement Account (CSA) to advance cleanup efforts at a toxic site formerly operated by ASARCO. The CSA is an interest-bearing account within the state treasury established by the Legislature in 2008. It was designed to manage funds from settlements or court orders related to bankruptcy, limited financial capacity, or natural resource damages. The account ensures these settlement funds are dedicated to targeted cleanup activities or to address environmental injuries resulting from the settled liabilities. (Cleanup Settlement Account)

### **Protect and Manage Our State's Waters**

**14. Water Pollution Control Revolving Program. \$614,000,000.** Congress created the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) under Title VI of the Clean Water Act to support state-run programs that offer low-interest loans for financing water quality projects. In Washington State, this initiative is carried out through the Water Pollution Control Revolving Account (WPCRA), established under Chapter 90.50A RCW. The WPCRA provides low-interest loans to local governments, special purpose districts, and federally recognized Tribes for high-priority water quality projects across the state. Ecology is requesting \$614 million in funding to continue these critical efforts through the



loan program. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Water Pollution Control Revolving Account)

- 15. Centennial Clean Water Program. \$80,000,000.** This \$80 million request for Ecology's Centennial Clean Water Program aims to provide grants to public entities for constructing water pollution control facilities and implementing nonpoint source pollution controls. Funds are allocated through a competitive statewide rating and ranking process. Grant recipients use the funds to tackle high-priority water quality issues across the state. This work is vital to the state's strategy for reducing pollution and safeguarding marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and groundwater. The Centennial Clean Water Program is essential for addressing clean water needs, particularly in small, disadvantaged communities. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (State Building Construction Account)
- 16. Floodplains by Design. \$84,000,000.** According to Washington's 2018 Hazard Inventory and Vulnerability Assessment, flood damages surpass those of all other natural hazards. Since 1980, flooding has resulted in over \$2 billion in damages across the state, with Western Washington's densely populated areas being particularly hard hit. Historically, flood management efforts often conflicted with ecosystem protection and restoration activities. The Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant program addresses this by integrating flood hazard reduction with salmon recovery, habitat restoration, and community benefits. This public-private partnership includes Ecology, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the Puget Sound Partnership. This request is directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy and Puget Sound Action Agenda. (State Building Construction Account)
- 17. Stormwater Financial Assistance Program. \$80,000,000.** The Ecology Stormwater Financial Assistance Program offers grants to public entities for stormwater retrofit projects aimed at treating polluted stormwater in key areas across the state. Funding will be allocated through a competitive rating and ranking process to ensure projects effectively enhance water quality and address issues related to existing urban development. This request for \$80 million will support local governments in their efforts to reduce toxins and other pollutants entering our waterways, safeguarding our marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources. This request is directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account, State Building Construction Account)
- 18. Columbia River Water Supply Development Program. \$57,884,000.** Ecology is seeking \$57.8 million in new appropriation authority to advance the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Program (Chapter 90.90 RCW). This funding will support ongoing projects and provide the Office of Columbia River with the resources needed for significant progress in the 2025-27 biennium. Specifically, the funds will: offer alternative water sources for agricultural users in the Odessa Subarea aquifer; supply new water for pending applications; ensure reliable water during droughts; develop new municipal, industrial, and irrigation water; and place about one-third of these supplies in-stream to support fish, wildlife, and recreational needs. Related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy and Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy. (State Building Construction Account, Columbia River Basin Water Supply Revenue Recovery Account)

- 19. Yakima River Basin Water Supply. \$59,000,000.** The existing water resources infrastructure, programs, and policies in the Yakima River Basin are insufficient to meet the basin’s environmental and economic needs, including aquatic resource support, fish and wildlife habitat, dry-year irrigation, and municipal water supplies. To address these challenges, local stakeholders developed the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Plan, which outlines a comprehensive, long-term approach to water resource and habitat improvement. Ecology is requesting \$59 million for the 2025-27 biennium to advance this plan in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and local partners, aiming to bolster the regional economy and safeguard the environment. This request is directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy. (State Building Construction Account)
- 20. Chehalis Basin Strategy. \$80,000,000.** In the Chehalis River Basin, five of the largest floods on record have occurred in the past 30 years, severely impacting salmon and other aquatic habitats. Climate change exacerbates natural flooding and complicates habitat restoration efforts. Without decisive action, thousands of homes are at risk, U.S. Interstate 5 will face more frequent closures, communities could suffer up to \$3.5 billion in flood-related damages, and the basin’s spring-run Chinook populations will be endangered. Ecology is requesting \$80 million to advance the Chehalis Basin Strategy, aimed at reducing flood damage and restoring aquatic species. Directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy. (State Building Construction Account)
- 21. Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Grant Program. \$30,000,000.** Puget Sound is severely impacted by human sources of excess nutrients, which degrade water quality, disrupt the food chain, and harm orca and salmon populations. This request aims to expand on an initial planning grant cycle by funding a larger second phase: capital pass-through grants to Puget Sound municipalities for permit-required wastewater nutrient reduction planning and implementation. Complying with nutrient discharge limits imposes a significant financial burden on communities, and this funding will help alleviate the cost for ratepayers while ensuring facilities meet permit requirements. Related to implementing Washington’s Climate Resilience Strategy, the Governor’s Salmon Strategy, and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (State Building Construction Account)
- 22. Streamflow Restoration Program. \$40,000,000.** Ecology is seeking \$40 million to advance the Streamflow Restoration Program established under Chapter 90.94 RCW. Enacted in 2018, this law authorizes \$300 million in bonds over 15 years to fund local watershed planning and projects aimed at enhancing instream flows across the state. With this funding, Ecology will provide additional water supplies to improve flows for fish and wildlife. This request is directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Bond Account, Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Taxable Bond Account)
- 23. State Match – Water Pollution Control Revolving Program. \$41,000,000.** Congress created the Clean Water State Revolving Fund under Title VI of the federal Clean Water Act to support state-run, low-interest loan programs for financing water quality projects. In Washington, the Water Pollution Control Revolving Account under Chapter 90.50A RCW administers this loan program, offering low-interest loans to local governments, special purpose districts, and federally recognized

Tribes for key water quality initiatives statewide. Ecology is requesting \$41 million to provide the state match for the anticipated \$205 million in federal funding, which includes a \$23.8 million grant and \$17.2 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (State Taxable Building Construction Account)

- 24. Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Water Conservation. \$3,320,000.** The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation oversees conservation improvements required by the Sunnyside Division Water Rights Settlement Agreement in the Yakima Basin Water Rights Adjudication. Ecology is seeking additional funds to cover the 17.5% state match for these multi-year projects. The Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Phase 2 project is estimated at \$80 million, with Ecology's share totaling \$14 million over an 11-to-15-year period. This request includes \$3.32 million for Phases IIE and IIF to support the construction schedule for the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project during the 2025-27 biennium. Related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy. (State Building Construction Account)
- 25. Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnerships. \$25,000,000.** Stormwater runoff degrades water quality and harms aquatic life and salmon. Ecology's Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3) program strengthens local governments' ability to develop and manage CBP3s, achieving stormwater quality goals and enhancing community well-being statewide. In Phases I and II, Ecology created a statewide learning network, offered technical assistance, and provided funding to support communities—including under-resourced ones—in exploring innovative stormwater solutions. In Phase III, Ecology plans to fund shovel-ready public-private partnership or pay-for-performance pilot projects to advance stormwater management and public benefits. This request is directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (State Building Construction Account)
- 26. Riparian Buffer Incentive Program. \$30,000,000.** This request seeks resources to enhance riparian protection and restoration incentives, expediting the establishment of riparian buffers. It will build on Ecology's successful Centennial Clean Water Grant Program and the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Financial Assistance Program by providing extra funds for ecosystem services incentive payments or other measures to speed up riparian buffer implementation. These buffers are essential for meeting water quality standards, executing cleanup plans, and boosting climate resilience. Related to implementing Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy, the Governor's Salmon Strategy, and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (State Building Construction Account)
- 27. Freshwater Algae Grant Program. \$800,000.** The Freshwater Algae Program offers financial and technical support to local and state governments, Tribes, and special purpose districts to manage and prevent excessive freshwater cyanobacteria, commonly known as blue-green algae. These algae can produce toxins harmful to people, wildlife, livestock, and pets. The program includes public education, technical assistance, a toxicity-testing initiative, and pass-through grants to tackle toxic freshwater blooms. Funding for these grants comes from an annual one-dollar license fee paid by boat owners, which supports efforts to control algae growth in Washington's freshwater bodies. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Aquatic Algae Control Account)

- 28. Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plants Grant Program. \$1,700,000.** The Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plant Program (AIP) offers financial and technical support to local and state governments, Tribes, and special purpose districts to control the spread of freshwater aquatic invasive plants and manage their impacts. Ecology is requesting \$1.7 million to sustain the AIP, which will enable treatment of additional lakes and mitigate the effects of these invasive plants on lakes and streams in our communities. The program features public education, technical assistance, and grants. Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation. (Freshwater Aquatic Weeds Account)
- 29. Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds. \$10,000,000.** The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, funds protection of vital coastal and estuarine areas with high conservation, recreational, or ecological value. Despite covering less than 10% of the nation's land area, coastal wetlands are crucial for diverse plant and animal life. Washington's coastal regions are home to many threatened and endangered species, fishery resources, migratory songbirds, and waterfowl. Ecology oversees the distribution of these federal grants to state agencies, Tribes, and local governments. Ecology is requesting \$10 million in federal capital appropriation authority for the 2025-27 biennium to secure additional grants if awarded. This request is directly related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. (General Fund-Federal)

#### **Facility Related**

- 30. Product Testing Laboratory Construction. \$16,969,000.** Washington State is a national leader in consumer protection, with Ecology's Product Testing Team employing advanced science to detect toxins in consumer products sold in retail or online. This scientific approach supports regulatory actions against non-compliant products and manufacturers. Following funding for feasibility and predesign studies in the 2021-23 and 2023-25 biennia, this request aims to fund construction of a Product Testing Laboratory at Ecology's Headquarters building in Lacey. The new laboratory is essential for complying with the Children's Safe Products Act (CSPA), the Safer Products for Washington Act, and the Toxic Free Cosmetics Act, and will improve testing for Polychlorinated Biphenyls and emerging toxins. (State Building Construction Account)
- 31. Lacey Building Fire Alarm System Replacement. \$1,138,000.** The fire alarm detection and annunciation system at Ecology's Headquarters building in Lacey is now 10 years beyond its expected service life and requires replacement. Major analog components are no longer available, making it challenging to find replacements and often necessitating the use of used parts. Additionally, the system's outdated interface is difficult for first responders to use. This request seeks funding to replace the old system with a modern, digital fire alarm detection and annunciation system. (State Building Construction Account)
- 32. Eastern Regional Office HVAC Boiler and Condenser Replacement. \$800,000.** Key components of Ecology's Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning system at our Eastern Regional Office are nearing the end of their service life and need replacement. HVAC systems typically last 15–20 years; and while the boiler was replaced in 2001 and the condensers in 2006, the remaining components are now outdated. Failure of these essential parts would render the office unusable

due to lack of heating or cooling. Replacing them will also lower our greenhouse gas emissions, as modern systems are more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. (State Building Construction Account)

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 564-200-3541 or email at [witc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:witc461@ecy.wa.gov) or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.