

2026 Enacted Supplemental Budget – Operating

Operating

		2026 Enacted Supplemental Operating Budget 4/1/2026				
4/1/2026 \$ in thousands - Biennialized FTEs		FTE	GF-State	MTCA ¹	Other	Total
2025-27 Enacted Base Budget		2,281.5	67,558	379,422	626,790	1,073,770
Maintenance Level Changes						
1	Compensation for New 2025-27 FTEs		34	210	398	642
2	HQ Parking Garage COP Adjustment ²		(74)	(320)	(222)	(616)
3	Headquarters Bldg Repair Adjustment ²		(456)	(502)	(382)	(1,340)
4	State Parks Lease Adjustment ²		(78)	(352)	(230)	(660)
5	Other ML Changes ³		15	75	38	128
Policy Level Changes						
Reduce and Prepare for Climate Impacts⁴						
6	Statewide Emissions Data (SB 5036, Laws of 2025) ²	(0.6)		(670)	510	(160)
7	Zero-Emissions Vehicle Program (HB 2077, Laws of 2025) ²	0.6			148	148
8	Emissions/Trade-Exposed (SB 6246)	1.8			603	603
9	Fuels/CCA (HB 2215)	1.6			511	511
10	Waste to Energy Facilities (HB 2416)	0.7			226	226
11	Large Energy Use Facilities (HB 2515)				50	50
12	Climate Change Response Strategy - Reduction	(0.4)			(232)	(232)
Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution⁴						
13	Laboratory Accreditation (SB 6151)	2.9	(1,087)		2,102	1,015
14	Solid Waste Management (SB 5284, Laws of 2025) ²	0.5			934	934
Protect and Manage Our State's Waters⁴						
15	Vancouver Lake Cleanup Plan		50			50
16	Shorelands & Env Asst Reduction		(200)			(200)
Other						
17	Cultural Resources Model Ordinance		25			25
18	GAR-Administrative Reduction		(43)			(43)
19	MTCA Fund Shifts			(6,118)	6,118	-
20	Other PL Changes ³		456	1,973	1,577	4,006
Total Changes		7.1	(1,358)	(5,704)	12,149	5,087
Total Operating Budget		2,288.6	66,200	373,718	638,939	1,078,857

Notes:

¹ Model Toxics Control Operating Account (23P-1, 23P-7), Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account (23R-1).

² Reflects maintenance level (ML) or policy level (PL) adjustments requested by Ecology.

³ Reflects statewide ML and PL items, including adjustments for legal services, audit services, workers' compensation, PEBB rate adjustments, and central services (OFM, DES, CTS).

⁴ Goal in the Department of Ecology's 2025-30 Strategic Plan (<https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/strategic-plan/2025-30-strategic-plan>).

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

As the state’s lead environmental protection agency, Ecology is deeply committed to protecting, preserving, and enhancing Washington’s environment for current and future generations. Through innovative partnerships, we protect and sustain healthy land, air, and water in harmony with a strong economy. And we take great care to develop strategic plans that have a broad and holistic approach to what we do and how we do it.

Ecology’s strategic goals are:

1. Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees.
2. Reduce and prepare for climate impacts.
3. Prevent and reduce waste, toxic threats, and pollution.
4. 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 our work to accomplish those goals.

The 2026 enacted supplemental operating budget for Ecology totals \$5,087,000 and 7.1 FTEs above the enacted budget level for the 2025-27 biennium. This includes investments to ensure Ecology can continue to effectively support audit and accreditation requirements of environmental and drinking water laboratories that operate in or do business with the state of Washington.

The following summarizes each budget item included in the 2026 enacted supplemental operating budget for Ecology. The numbers for each item correspond with the numbers in the spreadsheet at the beginning of this section. Funding duration detail included in the descriptions below aligns with WinSum outlook backup provided by the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Maintenance Level

- 1. Compensation for New 2025-27 FTEs. \$642,000.** The 2025–27 enacted operating budget included funding for general wage increases and targeted job-class increases per the state’s collective bargaining agreements. That funding was based on Compensation Impact Model projections using May 2024 staffing data. However, for Ecology, the projections did not account for significant staffing increases included in the 2025-27 operating budget. As a result, current funding was insufficient to cover compensation adjustments for these new positions. This maintenance level adjustment provides the ongoing funding required to fully

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support the wage and job-class increases for new positions added in the 2025-27 operating budget. (Multiple funds)

- 2. HQ Parking Garage Certificate of Participation (COP) Adjustment – Reduction. (\$616,000).** This reduction eliminates funding no longer needed for planned debt payments on Ecology’s parking garage repair project because Ecology paid the full project cost upfront at the end of the 2023-25 biennium. (Multiple funds)
- 3. Headquarters Bldg. Repair Adjustment – Reduction. (\$1,340,000).** This reduction eliminates funding for debt-service payments on Ecology’s east wall repair project because the agency paid off the remaining balance in 2023. (Multiple funds)
- 4. State Parks Lease Adjustment – Reduction. (\$660,000).** This item reduces Ecology’s funding to account for payments State Parks now makes under its lease to occupy space in Ecology’s Headquarters Building. These lease payments cover a portion of Ecology’s building operating costs, allowing an equivalent reduction in Ecology’s maintenance level budget. (Multiple funds)
- 5. Other ML Changes. \$128,000.** This reflects several statewide maintenance level items, such as ongoing adjustments for legal services, audit services, workers’ compensation, PEBB rate adjustments, and central services (OFM, DES, CTS). (Multiple funds)

Policy Level

Reduce and Prepare for Climate Impacts

- 6. Statewide Emissions Data (SB 5036, Laws of 2025) – Reduction. (\$160,000), (0.6) FTE.** This item aligns Ecology’s funding for implementing SB 5036 (Laws of 2025) with the bill’s final fiscal note and shifts remaining costs from the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Operating Account to the Climate Investment Account. This ongoing adjustment supports Ecology’s work to publish statewide emissions data, maintain reporting systems, and meet updated statutory requirements beginning in the 2025-27 biennium. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account, Climate Investment Account)
- 7. Zero-Emissions Vehicle Program (HB 2077, Laws of 2025). \$148,000, 0.6 FTE.** This item provides ongoing funding for Ecology to implement SHB 2077 (Laws of 2025), which added new reporting and tax-compliance requirements for zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) manufacturers. It supports publishing ZEV credit data, preparing tax-impact materials, and coordinating with the Department of Revenue and other agencies. (Climate Commitment Account)

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- 8. Emissions/Trade-Exposed (SB 6246). \$603,000, 1.8 FTEs.** Ongoing funding is provided to implement ESB 6246 (emissions/trade-exposed) pertaining to a report about the Climate Commitment Act and energy intensive/trade-exposed facilities. (Climate Commitment Account)
- 9. Fuels/CCA (HB 2215). \$511,000, 1.6 FTEs.** Ongoing funding is provided for the costs related to E2SHB 2215 (fuels/climate commitment act), including rulemaking, reporting, and technical assistance related to an increase in covered entities under the Climate Commitment Act. (Climate Investment Account, Air Pollution Control Account)
- 10. Waste to Energy Facilities (HB 2416). \$226,000, 0.7 FTE.** Ongoing funding is provided for rulemaking and other costs related to E2SHB 2416 (waste-to-energy facilities), which modifies requirements under the Climate Commitment Act for greenhouse gas emissions associated with a waste-to-energy facility. (Climate Commitment Account)
- 11. Large Energy Use Facilities (HB 2515). \$50,000.** One-time funding is provided for a report to the Legislature characterizing and quantifying water and energy use for emerging large energy use facilities and estimating no cost allowances allocated to emerging large energy use facilities in Washington under RCW 70A.65.120. (Climate Investment Account)
- 12. Climate Change Response Strategy – Reduction. (232,000), (0.4) FTE.** This eliminates funding that was first provided in the 2023-25 budget to implement Chapter 169, Laws of 2023 (E2SHB 1170), which directed Ecology to update the statewide Climate Change Response Strategy in coordination with multiple other state agencies. (Natural Climate Solutions Account)

Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution

- 13. Laboratory Accreditation (SB 6151). \$1,015,000, 2.9 FTEs.** Ecology's Laboratory Accreditation Unit is responsible for auditing environmental and drinking water labs that do business in or with Washington State. The workload for this unit has increased significantly over the last decade as the need for technical assistance has grown, along with the demand to accredit new labs looking to analyze complex, novel compounds like 6PPD-quinone.

In 2023-25, the Legislature provided one-time bridge funding for five new auditor positions to help Ecology address this increased workload and respond to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency audit, which found that drinking water labs had not been audited within three years, as required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

To remain current on drinking water lab audits and continue to address the backlog of environmental labs in need of audits, Ecology completed rulemaking in 2023 to increase fees so the five new auditor positions would be supported on an ongoing basis. While the

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2025-27 biennial budget did not include an appropriation to this effect, the 2026 supplemental budget now includes sufficient funding and FTE authority to maintain these additional positions on an ongoing basis.

This funding is also supported by Ecology's agency request legislation (SB 6151), which created a dedicated account for lab accreditation fees. The budget shifts all base funding for this program to the new account, improving transparency and financial stability. (General Fund-State, Laboratory Accreditation Account)

- 14. Solid Waste Management (SB 5284, Laws of 2025). \$934,000, 0.5 FTE.** This one-time adjustment aligns Ecology's funding with the final fiscal note for E2SSB 5284 (Laws of 2025), which expanded solid waste management requirements. The funding provides resources to complete the equity subcommittee work, conduct the deposit-return and ex-ante studies, and carry out related implementation activities beginning in 2025-27. (Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account; Responsible Recycling Management Account)

Protect and Manage Our State's Waters

- 15. Vancouver Lake Cleanup Plan. \$50,000.** One-time funding is provided to develop and implement Phase 3 of the Vancouver Lake cleanup plan. (General Fund-State)
- 16. Shorelands & Env Asst Reduction. (\$200,000).** Funding for the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program is reduced on an ongoing basis. (General Fund-State)

Other

- 17. Cultural Resources Model Ordinance. \$25,000.** One-time funding is provided for Ecology to participate in the development of a model ordinance for archaeological and cultural resource protection with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. (General Fund-State)
- 18. GAR-Administrative Reduction. (\$43,000).** Funding is reduced to reflect an ongoing reduction in administrative services for Ecology. (General Fund-State)
- 19. MTCA Fund Shifts. \$3,381,000 Water Quality Permit Account and \$2,737,000 Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account / (\$6,118,000) Model Toxics Control Operating Account.** As requested by Ecology, this shifts eligible ongoing expenditure authority from the MTCA Operating Account to two dedicated accounts with sufficient balances to help address the current MTCA Operating Account shortfall. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account, Water Quality Permit Account, Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account)

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20. Other PL Changes. \$4,006,000. This reflects several statewide PL items, such as ongoing adjustments for legal services, audit services, archives/records management, self-insurance premium, and central services (OFM, DES, CTS). (Multiple funds)

2026 Enacted Supplemental Budget – Capital

Capital

4/1/2026 \$ in thousands		2026 Enacted Supplemental Capital Budget 4/1/2026			
		SBCA ¹	MTCA ²	Other	Total
Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution³					
1	WW Settlement Funded Projects			22,000	22,000
2	Cleanup Settlement Account Projects			500	500
3	Waste Tire Pile Cleanup and Prevention		1,600	1,600	3,200
Protect and Manage Our State's Waters³					
4	Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary Project	(8,750)		25,209	16,459
5	Statewide Water Conservation ⁴			8,977	8,977
6	Columbia River Water Supply Development Program	(52,185)		55,385	3,200
7	Floodplains by Design	(59,629)		59,629	-
8	Chehalis Basin Strategy	(73,029)		73,029	-
9	Yakima River Basin Water Supply	(52,020)		52,020	-
10	North Shore Levee	(17,000)		17,000	-
Total Capital Budget		(262,613)	1,600	315,349	54,336

Notes:

¹ State Building Construction Account (057).

² Model Toxics Control Capital Account (23N-1), Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account (23R-1) .

³ Goal in the Department of Ecology's 2025-30 Strategic Plan (<https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/strategic-plan/2025-30-strategic-plan>).

⁴ List of specific projects can be found at: <https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2026proposals/Documents/sc/StatewideWaterConserv.pdf>.

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The 2026 enacted supplemental capital budget for Ecology totals \$54,336,000 in six new appropriations supporting the environmental and public health investments described below. The numbers for each item correspond with the numbers in the spreadsheet at the beginning of this section.

Capital Budget

Prevent and Reduce Waste, Toxic Threats, and Pollution

1. **VW Settlement Funded Projects. \$22,000,000.** Ecology administers the Volkswagen Program to reduce harmful diesel emissions in Washington, using \$112.7 million from the VW Federal Settlement and state penalty awarded in 2018. Since then, approximately \$22 million in interest has been accrued on these funds. Appropriation authority is provided to use the accrued interest to implement the requirements of the Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practice, and Products Liability Litigation settlement to reduce harmful diesel emissions in our state, especially for communities and Tribes highly impacted by air pollution. (General Fund-Private/Local)
2. **Cleanup Settlement Account Projects. \$500,000.** This appropriation supports the cleanup work associated with one toxic site previously operated by ASARCO. The account ensures

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settlement funds are used to support specific site cleanup activities or address injuries to natural resources from the settled liability. (Cleanup Settlement Account)

- 3. Waste Tire Pile Cleanup and Prevention. \$3,200,000.** Illegally dumped tires are a significant threat to public health and the environment. They release pollutants into the environment, create breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease carriers, and increase the risk of dangerous fires. Additional funds are added to the original 2025-27 appropriation to support the Twin Bridges Road Tire Pile Cleanup project. (Waste Tire Removal Account, Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

Protect and Manage Our State's Waters

- 4. Capital Lake-Deschutes Estuary Project. \$16,459,000.** The Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project was transitioned from Department of Enterprise Services to Ecology via an appropriation in the enacted 2025-27 capital budget. Ecology was directed to use past reports and studies, consider existing stakeholder input, and critically consider elements of the current but incomplete design. The design must include a recommended series of projects phased over several biennia with defined deliverable outcomes that move the state forward to a restored estuary. The 60% design was delivered at the end of December 2025. This supplemental funding is provided to complete 100% design and permitting work by June 30, 2027. Funding provided also includes private/local authority for federal and Tribal grants awarded to the state in the 2023-25 biennium, and which supported the 60% design but were not previously budgeted for in the budget bill. Additionally, the biennial appropriation from the State Building Construction Account is shifted to the Natural Climate Solutions Account. (General Fund-Private/Local, Natural Climate Solutions Account)
- 5. Statewide Water Conservation. \$8,977,000.** This provides new direct appropriations for eight projects identified by the Legislature. (Natural Climate Solutions Account)
- 6. Columbia River Water Supply Development Program. \$3,200,000.** This provides a new appropriation for the Columbia Basin Irrigation District for completing design and engineering specifications for irrigation infrastructure to serve the remaining acres in the Odessa groundwater replacement project. Additionally, the original biennial appropriation from the State Building Construction Account is shifted to the Natural Climate Solutions Account. (State Building Construction Account, Natural Climate Solutions Account)
- 7. Floodplains by Design. \$59,629,000/(\$59,629,000).** The original biennial appropriation is shifted from the State Building Construction Account onto the Natural Climate Solution Account. (State Building Construction Account, Natural Climate Solutions Account)

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- 8. Chehalis Basin Strategy. \$73,029,000/(\$73,029,000).** The original biennial appropriation is shifted from the State Building Construction Account onto the Natural Climate Solution Account. (State Building Construction Account, Natural Climate Solutions Account)
- 9. Yakima River Basin Water Supply. \$52,020,000/(\$52,020,000).** The original biennial appropriation is shifted from the State Building Construction Account onto the Natural Climate Solution Account. (State Building Construction Account, Natural Climate Solutions Account)
- 10. North Shore Levee. \$17,000,000/(\$17,000,000).** The original biennial appropriation is shifted from the State Building Construction Account onto the Natural Climate Solution Account. (State Building Construction Account, Natural Climate Solutions Account)

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