



# Hydrofluorocarbons and other fluorinated greenhouse gases rulemaking

Informational meeting

December 16, 2024

# Ecology staff

- Meg Baker - Facilitator, Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist
- Tamara Dumitrescu – HFC Technical Lead, Environmental Specialist
- Leonard Machut – Fluorinated Gas Section Manager
- Joshua Grice – CPRP Policy and Planning Section Manager
- Gopika Patwa – Rule Lead
- Kayla Stevenson – Technical Host

# Overview



Background



Rulemaking objectives



Rule language revisions



Timeline



Questions and initial input



Next steps

# Background

- In 2021, the Governor signed RCW 70A.60 (Hydrofluorocarbons – Emissions Reduction) into law.
  - This law will help Washington to achieve the state’s overall goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions to net zero by 2050.
- In 2023, Ecology adopted a rule supporting the transition away from using certain potent greenhouse gases known as hydrofluorocarbons (or HFCs) in products and equipment.

# Rulemaking context

- Amendments to Chapter 173-443 WAC

Establishes:

- Requirements for the transition to more climate-friendly refrigerants and refrigerant substitutes in air conditioning and refrigeration, aerosol propellants, and foam in Washington.
- A refrigerant management program to address refrigerants leaking from existing large equipment in Washington.

- Ecology is considering:

- Revisions to WAC 173-443-065 & -075 to modify the sell-through provision that allows equipment manufactured prior to prohibition dates to be sold for a limited amount of time
- Revisions to WAC 173-443-040 to modify the prohibitions for Automatic Commercial Ice Machines (ACIMs)
- Other necessary technical and administrative changes throughout the chapter.

# Rulemaking Objectives

- This rulemaking will:
  - Support the transition away from using certain potent greenhouse gases known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in products and equipment.
  - Improve implementation of the statute.

# Revisions: Sell-through provision

- WAC 173-443-065 & -075 Prohibitions and additional requirements for new or retrofit refrigeration & air conditioning equipment listed in Table 2 and Table 3.
  - *(2) Sell through provision. Refrigeration/Air conditioning equipment that is manufactured prior to **January 1, 2024**, may be sold, **leased, rented**, installed, or otherwise introduced into Washington commerce until **January 1, 2026**.*
- Rental equipment not included in any other sell through provision
- Specific dates in provision prior to some restriction dates in Tables 2 and 3

## Revisions: Automatic commercial ice machines

- Ecology has elected to refrain from enforcement of the January 1, 2025, effective date in WAC 173-443-040, Table 1
- ACIM manufacturers must comply with EPA's Technology Transitions rule in 40 CFR 84.54(a)(i)-(ii) and (c)(14), as published on October 24, 2023 (88 FR 73205)
- Ecology will update the rule to reflect the EPA requirements
- Ecology will issue guidance by the end of 2024



# Revisions: Technical and administrative

- Including, but not limited to:
  - Clarifying language
  - Changing program titles
    - Air Quality Program to Climate Pollution Reduction Program
  - Fixing typos

# Rulemaking timeline

## Rule announcement

- Introduce rulemaking
- **Stakeholder meetings**
- Rule development
- **Informal public comment periods**

October 2024 – July 2025

Issue guidance  
December 2024

## Rule proposal

- Announce public hearings
- Provide proposed rule language
- **Formal comment period**
  - Hold public hearings
  - Submit comments

July 2025 – Fall 2025

## Rule adoption

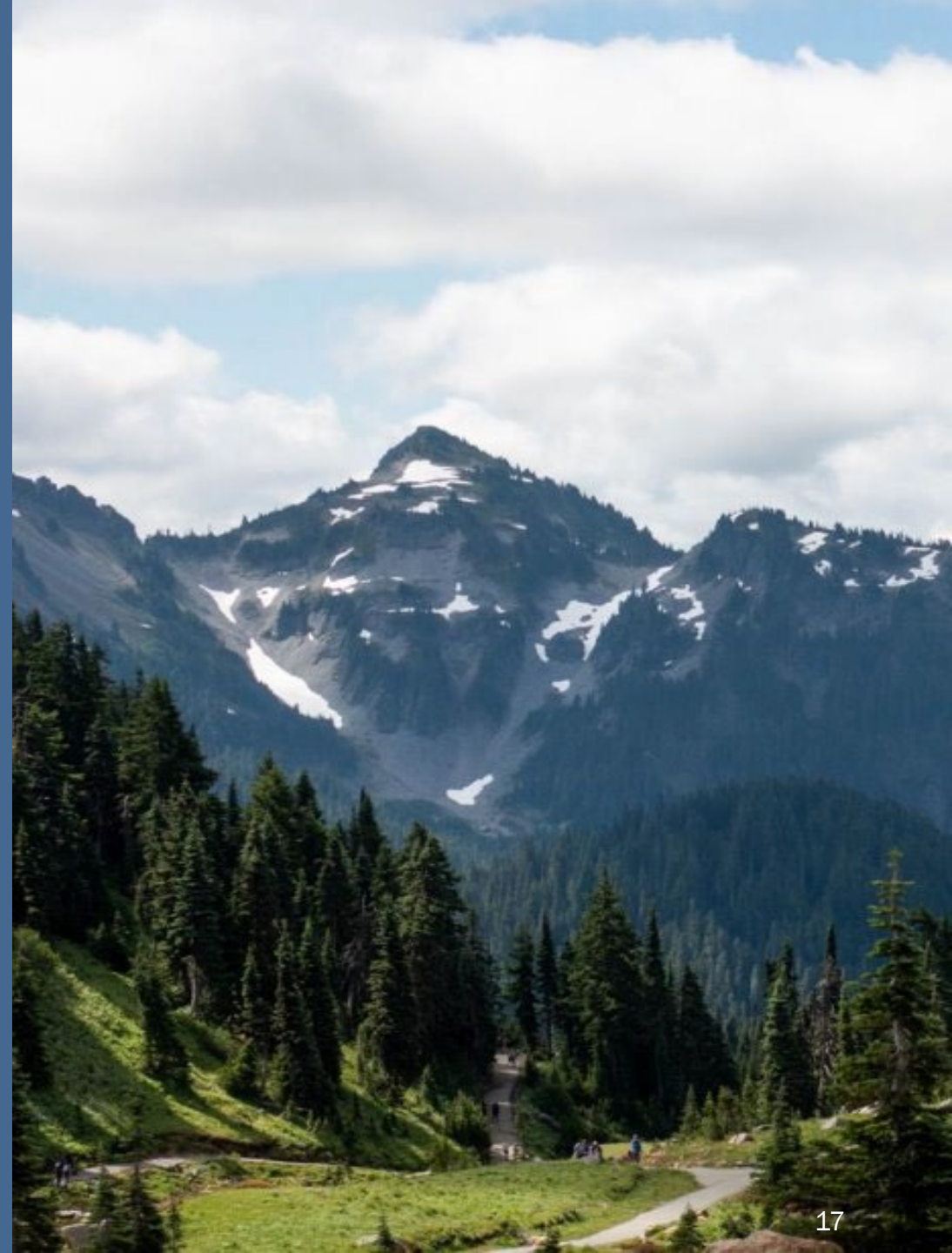
- Adopt final rule language (File CR-103)
- Concise Explanatory Statement
- Economic analysis
- Rule effective after 31 Days

Late 2025



# Questions and Initial input

Please comment in the chat or raise your hand to be called on.



# Next steps

## Informal comment period:

- Collecting initial input
- Open December 16, 2024, until 11:59 p.m. January 10, 2025
- Comment online: <https://aq.ecology.commentinput.com?id=tH6Ch8VWA>

## Upcoming:

- Share draft rule language
- Climate Rules Tribal Forum
  - January 13, 2025
- Environmental Justice Assessment
  - Community Forum on January 29, 2025

# Ecology contacts

## Compliance/Technical Assistance

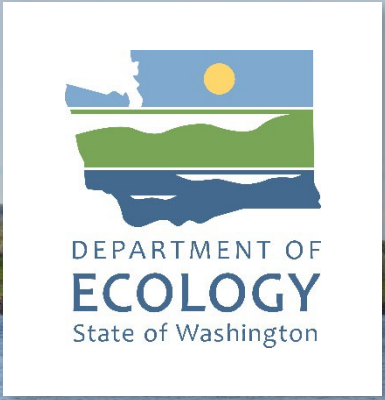
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## Rulemaking

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**Thank you**



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