

Comments about Cap-and-Invest Linkage

Updated October 2025



Ecology has been seeking comments on [carbon market linkage](#) since early 2023. We began by engaging Tribal governments and seeking input from the Environmental Justice Council. We then continued engagement with interested parties and the broader public. During this time, Ecology offered several opportunities to provide input on linkage and related topics. Comment periods are summarized below.

Tribal governments: ongoing since early 2023

Ecology has held several forums for Tribal government staff since early 2023 and also invited a Government-to-Government consultation. Tribal forums are not recorded.

Environmental Justice Council: ongoing since early 2023

Ecology staff have presented and joined discussions about linkage at several Environmental Justice Council meetings and regularly participate in CCA Committee meetings. Meeting notes and recordings are posted on the [Environmental Justice Council website](#).

The Environmental Justice Council submitted a letter to Ecology on Oct. 26, 2023 with their comments about linkage. View the letter: [Environmental Justice Council Letter to Ecology RE – Linkage](#)

Linkage exploratory phase: January - May 2023

During this phase, Ecology sought broad input on linkage through surveys, online listening sessions, meetings, and emails.

- Ecology incorporated a summary of all of the input received during the exploratory phase in the [Preliminary Analysis Report](#) (in Appendix C). The report also includes Ecology's initial evaluation of the linkage criteria from the CCA.
- Review the [compilation of all the comments](#) we received during the exploratory phase. Some comments we received include graphics that are not accessible to a screen reader. Please contact us at CCALinkage@ecy.wa.gov for assistance with accessibility.
- Recordings of the 2023 listening sessions are available as well: [March 16](#), [March 29](#), [April 18](#).

Carbon Market Linkage Bill: October - December 2024

To help align certain aspects of Washington's Cap-and-Invest Program with the programs in California and Québec, Ecology developed agency request legislation in fall 2023 and asked for input on the draft legislative proposal. The legislation was introduced in the 2024 Washington Legislative session as [SB 6058](#) and [HB 2201](#). SB 6058 passed the Legislature and Governor Inslee signed it into law in March 2024.

- Comments on the draft bill submitted through our online SmartComments system are available at: [Cap-and-Invest Bill](#) and [Cap-and-Invest Program updates](#)
 - Some comments were submitted by email and are not posted in SmartComments.
- Review the [Environmental Justice Assessment for the 2024 Agency Request Legislation](#)

Rulemaking: ongoing since April 2024

In April 2024, Ecology began a rulemaking process to amend certain provisions in the Cap-and-Invest Program rules necessary for linkage. To date we have held numerous informal comment periods for the rulemaking. Visit the [Cap-and-Invest Program Updates and Linkage rulemaking webpage](#) for links to comments we received and recordings of public meeting.

Linkage agreement: November 2024 – March 2025

In November 2024, we asked for input on the linkage agreement. We are using that input to inform our discussions of a draft linkage agreement with California and Québec.

- Nov. 21, 2024 through March. 31, 2025: [Comments on linkage agreement](#)

Additional opportunities

We'll hold a public hearing and ask for input again on the draft agreement.

Please sign up for the [Climate Commitment Act email list](#) to receive notifications about future comment periods or visit the [Cap-and-Invest linkage webpage](#).