

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 9, 2012

Jack Boller, State Innovation Grant Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-9797

RE: Washington State Innovations Grant – FY2012 End-of-Year/Final Report

Dear Jack:

Attached is the final progress report for the FY07-2011 Sustainable Washington State Innovation Grant Project for the period from July 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012. We are pleased to announce that Ecology is the first state environmental agency to meet the criteria under the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) – a significant milestone achieved as part of our state innovations grant. The [sustainability report](#) is available via the Ecology website.

This report will conclude our state innovations grant that has achieved many successes over the past several years. This includes our Environmental Result Project related to the collision repair industry. We appreciate EPA's support for our efforts and look forward to build on these results.

**Ecology's Sustainability Report - Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**

Ecology released the report that captures the agency's financial, environmental, social and governance performance indicators in one sustainability report. Ecology is the first state environmental agency in North America to meet reporting criteria under the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), a world-wide standard for sustainability reporting.

Ecology is using its GRI Report to highlight activities to reduce waste, improve efficiencies, engage stakeholders and promote Lean innovation at the department based on key performance measurements. Ecology's Carbon Smart Initiative is highlighted. The initiative's energy-efficiency actions have resulted in annual utility savings of \$103,965. Also, a green information- technology project will save the agency \$1.2 million over a five-year period by reducing the need for new servers, electricity and cooling costs.

The GRI standard is being increasingly adopted across the U.S. and Washington state. Starbucks, Weyerhaeuser, Microsoft and other companies are using this universal, standardized measurement tool. By providing both quantitative and qualitative measures of our efforts,

Ecology's report allow us to see our results, renew our commitment, and celebrate our successes together as an agency.

### [Environmental Management Systems Training](#)

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), in partnership with the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR), the Stewardship Action Council (SAC), and the Auditing Roundtable (AR) are hosting a six part webinar series to help develop, use, and evaluate Environment Management Systems (EMS).

EMS is the "Plan, Do, Check, Act" process that organizations use to manage, review, correct, and reduce their impact on the environment. An EMS offers a systems-based approach to improving sustainability and business performance. The series is designed for people that are new to EMS, as well as experienced practitioners.

The webinars have been well attended with over 125 attendees for the first three webinars.

Sincerely,



Ken Zarker, Manager  
Pollution Prevention and Regulatory Assistance Section

cc: Gerald Filbin, EPA HQ Office of Strategic Environmental Management

Attachments