

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 19, 2008

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

RE: State Innovations Grant Quarterly Report

Dear Jack:

Attached is the combined quarterly report for the FY07-2010 Sustainable Washington State Innovation Grant Project for the period from October 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008. Ecology is pleased with the overall progress of the project and appreciates the support from both the EPA and the Environmental Results Program States Consortium. During this period, Alison Chamberlin was hired as the new ERP Coordinator and Jack Boller was designated the EPA Region 10 state innovations grant coordinator.

The Ecology project team has been actively developing the program, including identifying approximately 950 auto body shops to include in the ERP/EnviroStars pilot project, conducting outreach with the EnviroStars cooperative, local auto body trade associations, regional clean air directors and the Washington Association of Business. Ecology has also conducted cross-agency coordinator with the air, water and waste programs to coordinate on the development of the draft ERP checklist, including regulatory requirements.

Ecology launched the Local Source Control Partnership in January 2008 to provide small business technical assistance in the Puget Sound region and Spokane River Watershed. Ecology is partnering with 12 local governments to conduct the ERP site visits. The press release is attached.

Ecology is requesting an extension to finalize the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and expect to have the final draft QAPP completed by June 30, 2008. This extension will allow us the time necessary to provide a final QAPP that most accurately reflects the objectives and parameters of the project.

Contact Alison Chamberlin, Project Coordinator at 360-407-7337 or acha461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ken Zarker, Manager
Pollution Prevention and Regulatory Assistance Section

cc: Donna Allen, Ecology
Beth Termini, EPA Region 1
Gerald Filbin, EPA OPEI HQ

**Washington State Department of Ecology
State Innovations Grant - Sustainable Washington Project**

Project Progress Report

This is a combined quarterly progress report covers the period from October 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008.

Part 1 – Synopsis of accomplishments during the reporting period.

During this period, there have been several personnel changes both at EPA and Ecology. Alison Chamberlin is the new ERP Coordinator and Jack Boller is the EPA Region 10 grant coordinator. The project team has been developing the program, including defining the EPR Auto Body universe, developing the draft EPR checklist and workbook, and coordinating with the air, water and waste programs at Ecology.

Ecology launched the Local Source Control Partnership in January 2008 and is working with 14 local governments to help implement the program. This new program will focus on small business technical assistance in the Puget Sound region and Spokane River watershed. These local government partners play a significant role in the program implementation and service delivery.

Overall, Ecology has accomplished several key objectives, including making significant progress on the EPR/EnviroStars Program design and submittal of the draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to EPA. Ecology will continue to refine the QAPP and draft workplan in coordination with Jack Boller.

With regard to scheduled tasks, Ecology has accomplished the following during the six months covered by this report:

Task 1.1 – ERP Pilot Team: Ecology’s initial timeline made the following commitments regarding the establishment of a pilot team for the ERP portion of the Sustainable Washington project:

Commitment	Accomplishment
Establish ERP Pilot Team to develop work plan	ERP Pilot Team established.
Review and update ERP materials	Existing ERP materials have been reviewed and update is currently underway.
Establish data base needs and number/names of potential facilities	Database needs currently being identified and strategies developed. Facility universe (number and names of facilities in target area) completed.
Conduct pre-ERP facility visits to determine compliance rate	Pre-ERP visits were determined to be unnecessary; site visit numbers instead based on “worst case” scenario. This is the approach used in USEPA’s ERP “Sample Planner,” which Ecology will use in accordance with the QAPP.

Conduct outreach with regional offices and Local Control Specialists (LCS)	Outreach to regional offices and LCS currently underway.
Identify sector incentives	Ecology is working to identify what types of technical assistance and financial incentives will be offered to program participants.
Determine mandatory/voluntary nature of ERP program	Determined ERP will be quasi-voluntary; return of documents voluntary, but random follow-up site visits may be mandatory.

Task 1.2 – Trade Association Meetings: Ecology’s initial timeline made the following commitments regarding meetings with applicable trade associations:

Commitment	Accomplishment
Conduct at least two ERP meetings with trade associations	Ecology conducted an ERP presentation at the Washington Association of Business Environmental Conference in October 2007. Ecology has been in dialogue with the Auto Body trade associations and will be meeting with them in May 2008 to coordinate on the pilot project, including project feedback and materials review.

Task 1.3 – Facility Universe: Ecology’s initial timeline made the following commitments regarding the establishment of the facility universe for the ERP pilot:

Commitment	Accomplishment
Identify ERP facility universe	ERP facility universe identified and random site visit list generated
Develop statistically valid site visit protocols	Statistically valid site visit protocols developed and approved by EPA

Task 1.4 – Staff Training: Ecology’s initial timeline made the following commitments regarding staff training:

Commitment	Accomplishment
Conduct ERP staff field training	Training is currently scheduled to occur in June 2008.
Test baseline site visit protocols	To review checklist and protocols with local source control specialists and trade association representatives, and obtain comments in advance of June 2008 training.

Part 2 – Narrative Discussion

Task 1.1 – ERP Pilot Team: Ecology’s initial timeline committed to achieving the following outputs by April 30, 2008 (as measured by the listed performance measures):

Output/Performance Measure	Accomplishment
Final work plan for team	Ecology has prepared a task outline and timeline for the project, based on and expanding upon the contents of the project’s final QAPP.
Final guidance materials, including workbooks, checklists, certification forms	Final checklist is expected by June 2008. Other documents are currently being drafted and are expected to be finished during the third quarter.
Technical Assistance visits to establish baseline compliance rate	Ecology determined this step was unnecessary. In accordance with the QAPP, Ecology will use USEPA’s “Sample Planner” to determine the number of site visits necessary to achieve a statistically valid sample.
Local Source Control Coordinator hired	The new Local Source Control Coordinator, Julia McHugh, has been hired. Her first day of work is May 1, 2008.
Incentives implemented for ERP phase of program	Ecology is still working to determine what technical assistance and other incentives will be offered for the ERP phase of the program.

Task 1.2 – Trade Association Meetings: Ecology’s initial timeline committed to achieving the following output by December 31, 2007 (as measured by the listed performance measure):

Output/Performance Measure	Accomplishment
Conduct at least two ERP meetings with trade associations	Trade association meetings slated for May 29, 2008, and September through October 2008 for project feedback and materials review.

Task 1.3 – Facility Universe: Ecology’s initial timeline committed to achieving the following outputs by April 30, 2008 (as measured by the listed performance measures):

Output/Performance Measure	Accomplishment
Identify ERP facility universe, including number of businesses in universe and number of initial site visits required for statistically valid sample	Universe of 954 facilities identified.
Develop statistically valid site visit protocols	Inspection protocols developed and reviewed by Michael Crow.

Task 1.4 – Staff Training: Ecology’s initial timeline committed to achieving the following outputs by April 30, 2008 (as measured by the listed performance measures):

Output/Performance Measure	Accomplishment
Conduct ERP staff field training for 10 new staff and 30 existing field staff	Training is scheduled for June 2008.
Test baseline site visit protocols	To review checklist and protocols with local source control specialists and trade association members, and obtain comments in advance of June 2008 training.

Part 3 – Projection of Activities, Accomplishments, and Major Expenditures for Next Quarter Report

During the remainder of the next quarter (May and June 2008), Ecology expects to accomplish the following tasks:

- Finalize site visit checklists
- Conduct staff trainings

During the following quarter (July-September 2008), Ecology expects to accomplish the following tasks:

- Finalize draft certification workbooks and other ERP materials
- Conduct baseline site visits in accordance with established protocols
- Establish and test ERP database
- Conduct technical assistance activities and workshops

Part 4 – Financial Report

Ecology’s expenditures during the first six months have been for salary and benefits for staff. Ecology will coordinate with Jack to track program expenditures.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Jan. 15, 2008
08-09

‘Puget Sound Initiative’ helps small businesses reduce, eliminate pollution

OLYMPIA – As part of a greater “Puget Sound Initiative” to clean up the Sound, small businesses from across the region will get onsite technical assistance to control and prevent toxic pollution sources.

The Puget Sound Initiative is a collaborative effort – by local, tribal, state and federal governments, business, agricultural and environmental interests, and the public – to restore and protect the Sound.

Together, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) have announced the funding selection of 12 Puget Sound local governments to hire business assistance specialists who will help small businesses prevent pollution and improve business practices.

Most local governments already help small businesses safely manage hazardous and solid wastes. The state money for interagency contracts from Gov. Chris Gregoire and the 2007 Legislature boosts these local programs as part of a comprehensive effort to restore Puget Sound being overseen by the Partnership.

“Small businesses play a critical role in the overall economic vitality of our state and local communities,” said Gov. Gregoire. “A clean environment is crucial to our quality of life and Washington’s competitive position in a global economy. Thousands of small businesses will benefit from the guidance that these local, on-the-ground specialists provide.”

The specialists will work directly with small businesses to:

- Conduct site visits to identify pollution sources.
- Advise businesses about pollution prevention measures.
- Help businesses understand the regulations and permits they need.
- Lend assistance to help promote sustainable business practices.

“It is better to prevent pollution than to clean up wastes after they are formed. Technical assistance will save businesses money by helping them control the amount of waste they generate, hopefully preventing the need for expensive cleanups later on,” said Ecology Director Jay Manning.

“As we work to protect the Sound, business will be one of our key partners,” said Partnership Executive Director David Dicks. “These kinds of affiliations between business and governments will be crucial to our long-term success.”

Nearly 70 percent of the businesses that generate hazardous waste in Washington are in the Puget Sound region.

A recent Ecology report found that “surface-water runoff” from land is generally the largest contributor of toxic chemicals to the Sound. Surface-water runoff, according to the report, includes stormwater, groundwater that discharges into rivers and streams, and many different hard-to-trace sources of pollution from the land with no obvious points of discharge.

All of the 12 Puget Sound governments will use the money to hire at least one business specialist. Kitsap County Public Works, for instance, will be able to use the money to hire two specialists.

Individual contracts range from about \$125,000 up to \$270,000. The 2007-09 operating budget contains \$2.1 million for the Puget Sound source control program. It is supported by Ecology and the Partnership.

The following Puget Sound governments have been selected to receive funding through the program:

- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department – \$270,000
- Kitsap County Public Works – \$212,000 (in collaboration with Mason County and other local governments)
- Snohomish Health District – \$210,300
- San Juan County – \$196,300
- City of Bellevue – \$180,000
- King County – \$180,000
- Seattle Public Utilities – \$168,800
- Whatcom County Health Department – \$162,500
- Kitsap County Health District – \$161,200 (in collaboration with Clallam and Jefferson counties)
- City of Issaquah – \$139,200
- Skagit County – \$126,700
- City of Bellingham – \$125,200

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Katy Johansson, Puget Sound Partnership media relations, 360-725-5442; cell, 360-701-3568 (katy.johansson@psp.wa.gov)

For more information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/lsp/index.html>

Puget Sound Partnership Web site: <http://www.psp.wa.gov/>

Ecology’s Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>

Broadcast version

Efforts to clean up the Sound are ramping up with the state entering into contracts with twelve Puget Sound governments to hire local specialists who will help area small businesses control, reduce or eliminate toxic pollution sources.

The local business specialists will help keep toxic pollution from reaching the Sound.

The state will use the two-point-one million-dollar program to train the local business specialists. On average, each contract is worth about one-hundred seventy-seven-thousand dollars.

Local governments already help small businesses safely manage hazardous and solid wastes. The state money and support helps builds on the success of local programs throughout the Puget Sound region.