

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 25, 2024

TO: Agency Leaders

FROM: Laura Watson, Director

SUBJECT: Ecology Rulemaking on Climate Funds Reporting

I am writing to update you on a rule proposal from the Department of Ecology that may impact your agency.

J) Water

Earlier this week, Ecology proposed the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Funds Reporting rule (Chapter 173-446B WAC). This rule is expected to be adopted in October 2024 and will set reporting requirements for recipients of legislatively appropriated funding from the Climate Commitment Act accounts. Reporting requirements will include those related to direct and meaningful benefits for vulnerable populations in overburdened communities and funds for projects that have Tribal support through adoption of a Tribal resolution. The rule will also require reporting on greenhouse gas reductions associated with funded projects. The reporting will allow us to compile information and provide an annual report to the Washington Legislature, as required under RCW 70A.65.300.

Any agency that receives appropriations from at least one of three CCA accounts and/or four CCA sub-accounts (established in RCW 70A.65.240 through RCW 70A.65.280 and ESSB5974) will have reporting requirements under the CCA Funds Reporting rule. The relevant accounts and sub-accounts are:

- 1. Carbon Emissions Reduction Account
 - Climate Active Transportation Account
 - Climate Transit Programs Account
- 2. Climate Investment Account
 - Climate Commitment Account
 - Natural Climate Solutions Account
- 3. Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement Account.

We invite you to participate in the <u>formal public comment period</u> for this rule, which began on April 23, 2024 and ends on June 28, 2024. We will hold public hearings on June 5, 2024, and June 13, 2024. If you'd prefer to provide feedback directly, please contact rule lead, Harrison Ashby, <u>harrison.ashby@ecy.wa.gov</u>, 360-485-2771.

Further information, including a sign-up form for notifications about this rule and links to register for public hearings, is <u>available here</u>.

Thank you for your engagement, and we look forward to working with you throughout the rulemaking process. Please feel free to reach out to me or Harrison with any questions or concerns.