



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

1904 3rd Ave #105
Seattle, WA 98101

206-343-8800

pscleanair.gov

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Tacoma

Joe Bushnell
Board Chair

Executive Director

Christine Cooley

Please use the Zoom link provided in the calendar invite.

If you have trouble accessing this, please email
Stephaniea@pscleanair.gov.

The Agency will make reasonable accommodations for any person who needs assistance to participate in the Advisory Council meeting, or to access our services. Our meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Sign language services, language translation and interpretation, and communications materials in alternative formats can be made available given sufficient notice by contacting 206-689-4069, or you may reach her by dialing 800-552-3565, ext. 4069.

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:05 Call to order – Roll Call – Quorum Established – Land Acknowledgement:
We would like to acknowledge that our Agency operates in four present-day counties, which are the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people, past and present. This acknowledgement does not take the place of authentic relationships with indigenous communities in our jurisdiction and beyond but serves as a first step in honoring the people whose land we work and reside on.
- 9:05–9:05 **I. Approval of Minutes**
March 12, 2025 In Person Meeting
- II. New Business**
- 9:05 – 9:35 A. Incorporating Feedback from the Advisory Council retreat*
- 9:35 – 9:55 B. CCAP Objective 1.4 - Recap of Community Engagement Events*
- 9:55 – 10:05 Break
- 10:05 – 10:55 C. Strategic Plan Second Annual Report Update*
- 10:55 – 11:30 D. Strategic Plan Objective 1.6 - Reasonable Alternatives to Outdoor Burning (RAOB) Update*
- 11:30 – 11:40 **III. Staff Reports**
A. Staff Report*
- 11:40 – 12:00 **IV. Advisory Council Member Reports**

**PUGET SOUND CLEAN AIR AGENCY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2025

1904 3rd Avenue, Suite 105
Seattle, WA 98101

Note: This was a hybrid meeting via the Zoom platform and all Advisory Council members and staff were present by computer or phone or in person at 1904 3rd Ave #105, Seattle, WA 98101.

Advisory Council Members Present:

Ryan Kellogg, representing Health
Steve Nicholas, representing Ports
Tim Gould, representing King County Public-at-Large
Kristin Lynett, representing Pierce County Public-at-Large
Suzy Oversvee, representing Snohomish County Public-at-Large
Satwinder Kaur, representing King County Suburban Cities
Joe Deets, representing Kitsap County Suburban Cities
Keith Weir, representing Labor
Kelly McGourty, representing Transportation
Debbie Hannig, representing Area Sources
Kristin Marshall, representing Industry - Large
Dan Rankin, representing Wood Smoke Communities
Greg Tisdell, representing Industry Small/Medium
Stephanie Gowing, representing Construction
Melissa Malott, representing Environment
Charles Adkins, representing Tribal
Nico Wedekind, representing Environmental Justice – Regional and State
Nancy Johnson, representing Suburban Cities, Snohomish County

Advisory Council Members Absent:

Tina Turner, representing Fire Chiefs
Paulina Lopez, representing Environmental Justice - Local
Bonnie Meyer, representing Pierce County Suburban Cities

Yorik Stevens-Wajda, representing Planning
Ronn Griffin, representing Kitsap County Public-at-Large

I. Welcome from Vice Chair Kaur and Approval of Minutes

Satwinder Kaur called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and read the land acknowledgement.

A motion to approve the January 8, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Joe Deets. The motion was seconded by Dan Rankin and it passed unanimously.

New Business

II. Equity at Scale: A Facilitated Conversation about Population-Level Impact

Anastasia Greenmore from Reclaiming us led the group through the framework of distributive and procedural justice under the umbrella of environmental justice – and how the Agency roles intersect with those.

Breakout groups discussed imaginary scenarios to identify whether elements of distributive or procedural justice, or both, were present. Case studies from PM nonattainment and asbestos inspections were also presented to demonstrate where this framework could help aid conversation around environmental justice.

III. Lunch

IV. A Message from our Host: The Northwest Seaport Alliance

The host for the meeting was the Northwest Seaport Alliance. They shared more about the Ports Clean Air Strategy and the opportunities and challenges ahead. Steve Nicholas of the NW Seaport Alliance gave a presentation that allowed participants to see what was being discussed in our view from the building.

V. Reviewing Representation and Feedback Loops that Amplify the Strategic Plan

The Advisory Council, led by Executive Director Christine Cooley, reviewed the current processes of the Advisory Council and solicited feedback on how to improve. A worksheet was provided to capture responses for a future discussion.

VI. Election of Vice Chair

Executive Director Cooley shared that Vice Chair Kaur was interested in continuing as Vice Chair but wanted to allow others the opportunity to step forward.

Executive Director Cooley invited nominations, and Ryan Kellogg recommended Vice Chair Kaur retain the position. Joe Deets motioned, Keith Weir seconded and it passed unanimously.

VII. Closing

With no further business, the Advisory Council adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct record of the Minutes of the March 12, 2025 meeting of the Advisory Council of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Attest:

Christine S. Cooley
Executive Director

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PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

DATE **May 14, 2025**

TO **Advisory Council**
 Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

SUBJECT **Feedback Received at Advisory Council retreat**

Advisory Council Members:

Thank you for providing your input on how to strengthen feedback loops within the Advisory Council of the Agency. Strong communication will help amplify the results of the Agency's strategic plan.

During this presentation, the input received from the workshop at the retreat will be summarized, and both immediate and planned long-term adjustments will be shared. Specific questions you will be asked include:

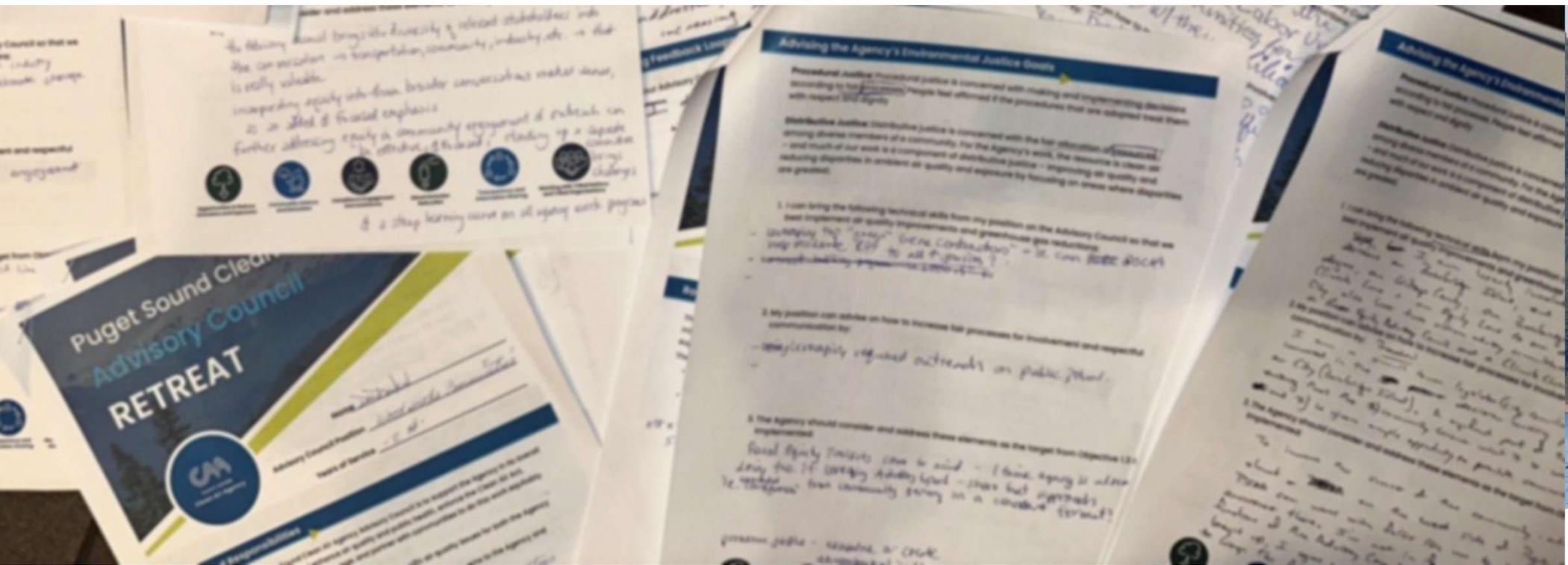
- 1) *Does this presentation reflect the key themes and improvements discussed during the retreat?*
- 2) *Are there any improvements that you would still recommend?*
- 3) *Can you agree with the approach to our longer-term changes?*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine S. Cooley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Christine S. Cooley
Executive Director

Attachment



Incorporating Feedback from the Retreat Advisory Council Meeting



Roles and Responsibilities

The mission of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Advisory Council is to support the Agency in its overall mission to preserve, protect, and enhance air quality and public health, enforce the Clean Air Act, support policies that reduce climate change, and partner with communities to do this work equitably.

The Advisory Council achieves this by:

- Acting as a group to provide a sounding board on specific air quality issues for both the Agency Board of Directors and staff.
- Acting as representatives of stakeholder groups to bring public concerns to the Agency and communicate Agency activities to the public.

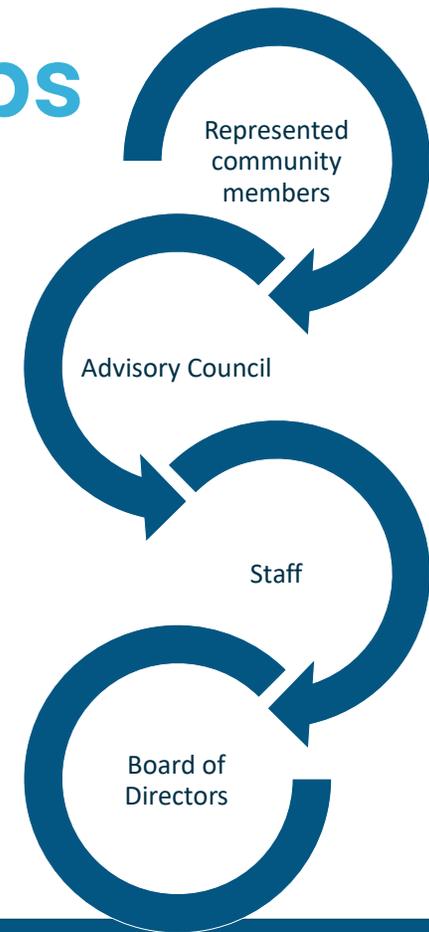
Maintaining Feedback Loops

The Advisory Council is one vehicle the Agency uses to engage with community members

Staff incorporate feedback into programs as feasible

Presenting Advisory Council comments to Board of Directors

Presenting Board decisions back to Advisory Council



Appreciation for Existing Feedback Loops

- The advisory council brings the diversity of relevant stakeholders into the conversation – transportation, community, industry, etc. – that is really valuable.
- Board packet already goes out a week in advance, that's great time to prepare
- Hearing directly from staff/ one on one convos with staff
- In person time together – especially the retreats





Ways the Agency Can Encourage More Individual Feedback

- Smaller Group Size would help
 - “I want to let others speak”
 - “I’m an introvert”
 - “A large zoom meeting is intimidating “
- Provide more specific prompts for questions, and available in advance
- Clearly state the purpose of the presentation and how feedback will be used.
- Provide easy follow up for either reflection or talking to other partners
- A better understanding of where the program is at internally – where are future decision points?

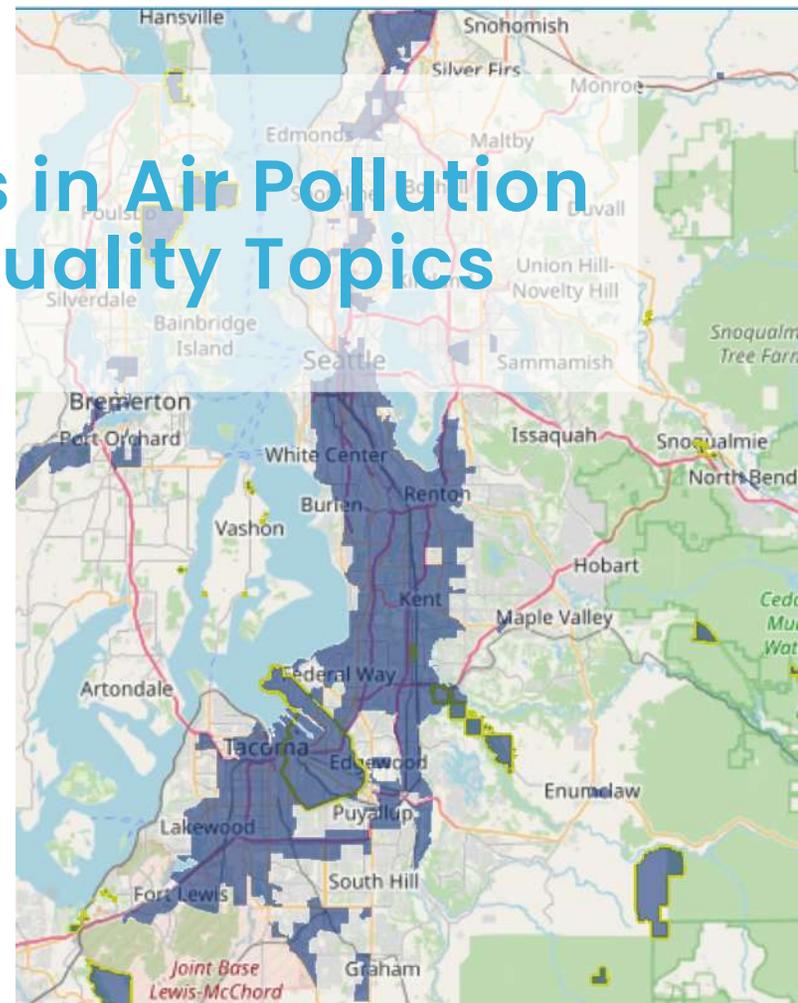
Information Flows



1.3 Objective: Reduce Inequities in Air Pollution and Effectively Engage on Air Quality Topics

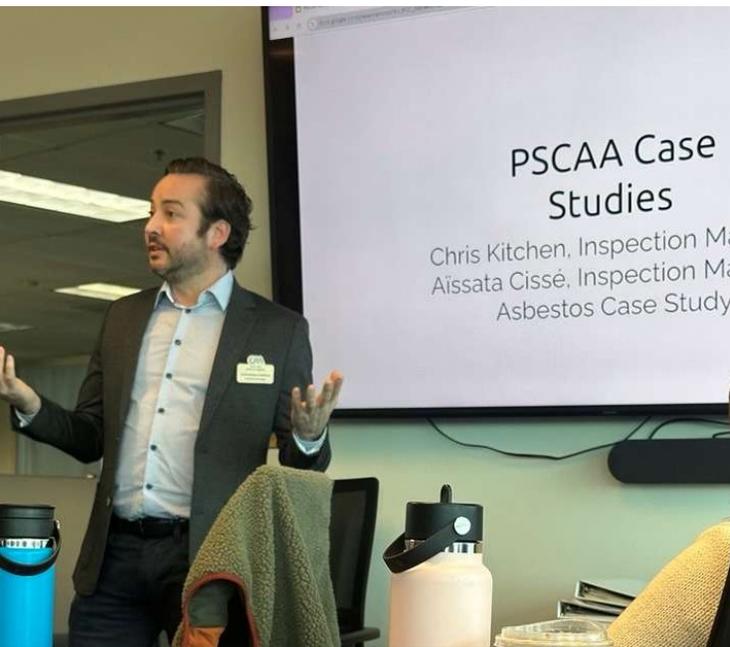
Create or use an existing external environmental justice council or advisory committee to advise the Agency on its environmental justice policies, actions, and expenditures.

- The Agency should consider and address these elements as the target from Objective 1.3 is implemented:



The Agency should consider and address these elements as the target from Obj. 1.3 is implemented:

- Representation from the communities you wish to reach. Either by creating a specialty group for feedback or by changing the representation on the advisory council.
- Establish good feedback loops to council with community input on projects. Always ask and unpack whose voice is not being heard.
- The Advisory Council and possible EJSC would likely have different scopes and charters. ... consider a subcommittee for each objective
- 2 groups would present double the workload and may give conflicting advice. Instead, keep using the advisory council and always have analysis of procedural and distributive justice for each topic brought to the AC.
- Could better representation on the advisory council be found by paying for childcare, adjusting meeting hours, depending on the need etc.?



Washington Clean Air Act

RCW 70A.15.2560 Air pollution control advisory council. The board of any authority may appoint an air pollution control advisory council to advise and consult with such board, and the control officer in effectuating the purposes of this chapter. The council shall consist of at least five appointed members who are residents of the authority and who are preferably skilled and experienced in the field of air pollution control, chemistry, meteorology, public health, or a related field, at least one of whom shall serve as a representative of industry and one of whom shall serve as a representative of the environmental community. The chair of the board of any such authority shall serve as ex officio member of the council and be its chair. Each member of the council shall receive from the authority per diem and travel expenses in an amount not to exceed that provided for the state board in this chapter (but not to exceed one thousand dollars per year) for each full day spent in the performance of his or her duties under this chapter. [1991 c 199 s 709; 1969 ex.s. c 168 s 30; 1967 c 238 s 41; 1957 c 232 s 24. Formerly RCW 70.94.240.]

Finding—1991 c 199: See note following RCW 70A.15.1005.

Immediate Adjustments:

- In your packets:
 - Memos will now include the specific questions to be asked, and how feedback will be used
- During presentations:
 - Watch for more detailed information on related community engagement efforts
 - Breakout rooms/other ways to engage being added
 - Questions from memo repeated in presentation
- Survey being sent after meetings to capture additional thoughts





Longer Term Changes

- Test out these changes and iterate to make them most effective
- Evaluate positions on Council
- Consider roles
 - especially as it we get clearer what is community feedback, and what is the unique role of the Advisory Council

Specific Questions:

1. Does this presentation reflect the key themes and improvements discussed during the retreat?
2. Are there any improvements that you would still recommend?
3. Can you agree with the approach to our longer term changes?





Healthy air, climate, and environmental justice for the benefit of all people in the Puget Sound region.

ision

We preserve, protect, and enhance air quality and public health, enforce the Clean Air Act, support policies that reduce climate change, and partner with communities to do this work equitably.

Values + Behaviors

Strive for Excellence

- We strive continuously for improvement and growth through learning and development.
- We manage resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to stakeholders.

Innovation

- We empower ourselves and the community with tools, technology, and expertise to achieve our mission and goals.
- We seek out and implement positive change by challenging the status quo.

Integrity

- We base our actions on science, law, and facts.
- We own our actions and our words and hold ourselves accountable.

Leadership

- We seek to continuously improve our air quality and advance new strategies and tools.
- We boldly act on climate change through vision and clear direction.
- We respect and empower everyone to be agents of change.

Collaboration

- We work together for positive productive outcomes with compassion and respect for all people and perspectives.

Active Transparency

- We share the maximum allowable information as a timely manner.
- We close the loop with each other and when we seek out public input, we list them what we did with it.
- We show people how we do our work and why.

Equity + Inclusion

- We respect and integrate the diversity of individual experiences, opinions, and skills.
- We recognize, cultivate, engage, and listen to all voices, especially those that are disproportionately impacted and face barriers to clean air to make communities, actions, and policies.

Goals

Air pollution drops by 20%. The economic impact of air pollution health effects drops by \$500 million - \$1 billion

Cancer risk from toxic air pollutants reduced 70%, especially in our most vulnerable communities

Smog is in our faces in our cars in our homes

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Puget Sound region drop by 50% compared to 1990 levels

Thank you!

Thank You



PUGET SOUND

Clean Air Agency

DATE **May 14, 2025**

TO **Advisory Council**
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

SUBJECT **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Community**
Engagement Workshop Update

Honorable Advisory Council Members:

In March and April, Agency staff held four community-focused climate planning workshops to help inform our region's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP document is a key deliverable under the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Phase 1 program awarded to the Agency in 2023. The goal of these workshops was to hear from our region's community members how emission reduction measures could best be implemented in our neighborhoods. We are excited to share with you a summary of feedback from these workshops and discuss the next steps in the CCAP development process.

Specific questions we will be asking you are:

1. Is the CCAP scope and development timeline clear?
2. How can you help the Agency spread the word for the CCAP open house engagement opportunity in the fall?

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine S. Cooley'.

Christine S. Cooley
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Randy Bott Photography

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Community Engagement Workshop Update

Advisory Committee

May 14, 2025



Equity Focus Topics



Opportunities to Reduce Emissions and Exposures



Community Science and Education



Compliance Engagement and Assistance



Diesel Emission Reduction



Transparency and Information Sharing



Working with Tribal Nations and Tribal Organizations

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

PSCAA received a grant from the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program to lead regional climate action planning.

We are currently developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due December 1, 2025.

The regional plan includes King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

Community engagement is a component of the CCAP.



Climate Plan Goals

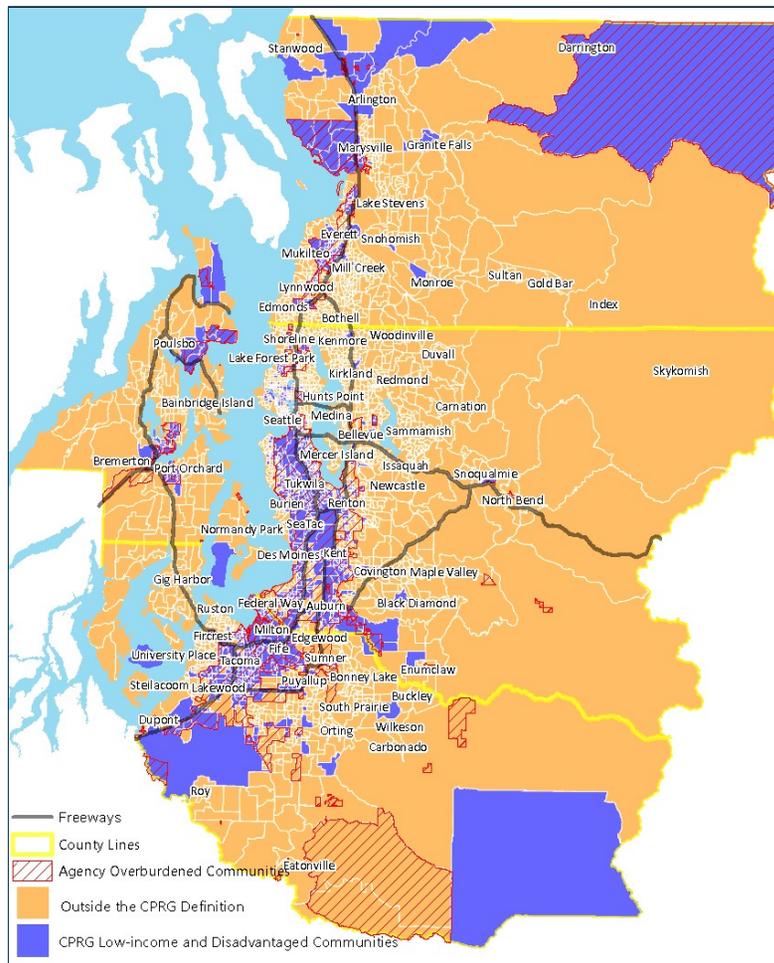
- Create a **long-term regional plan** to achieve climate goals
- **Align with and complement** state and local plans
- Build regional **collaborations** for collective climate action
- Make our region more competitive for **grant applications**
- **Align priorities** and foster **equity** across our region

Questions for Advisory Council (to be discussed later in presentation)

- 1) Is the CCAP scope and development timeline clear?
- 2) How can you help the Agency spread the word for the CCAP open house engagement opportunity in the fall?

Community Engagement

- Staff held four workshops, one in each county of our jurisdiction
- Venues selected based on their location in a LIDAC (overburdened) community
- Registrants received a \$50 stipend, if eligible
- Food and children activity packs provided
- Translation and interpretation services provided for 4 languages + English
- Community Workshop Summary document will be included in the CCAP



Workshop Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Times for Input
5:30 PM	Welcome and Agenda Overview	
5:40 PM	Introduction to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant & Comprehensive Climate Action Plan	Q&A
6:10 PM	Discussion Overview	
6:15 PM	Discussion #1: Community Benefits & Impacts of Strategies	Discussion
6:45 PM	Discussion #2: Your Implementation Ideas	Discussion
7:15 PM	Wrap Up & Next Steps	



Snohomish County

Venue: Everett Community College

Date: March 13, 2025

Attendees: 6 plus Agency staff and regional partners

Partners: Snohomish County Departments of Planning & Development Services, and Conservation & Natural Resources



Kitsap County

Venue: Bremerton Government Center

Date: March 20, 2025

Attendees: 18 plus Agency staff and regional partners



King County

Venue: El Centro de la Raza

Date: April 3, 2025

Attendees: 43 plus Agency staff and regional partners

Partners: King County Executive Climate Office, Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment

Translation and Interpretation: Cantonese, Spanish, Arabic, Korean



Pierce County

Venue: Clover Park Technical College

Date: April 15, 2025

Attendees: 33 plus Agency staff and regional partners

Partners: Pierce County Planning & Public Works, Tacoma Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability

We are Hosting an Art Contest

Share your passion for art and the environment.

Enter the **Creative Climate Action Art Contest** for a chance to have your artwork featured in the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and materials.

Enter the contest here:

pscleanair.gov/ArtContest

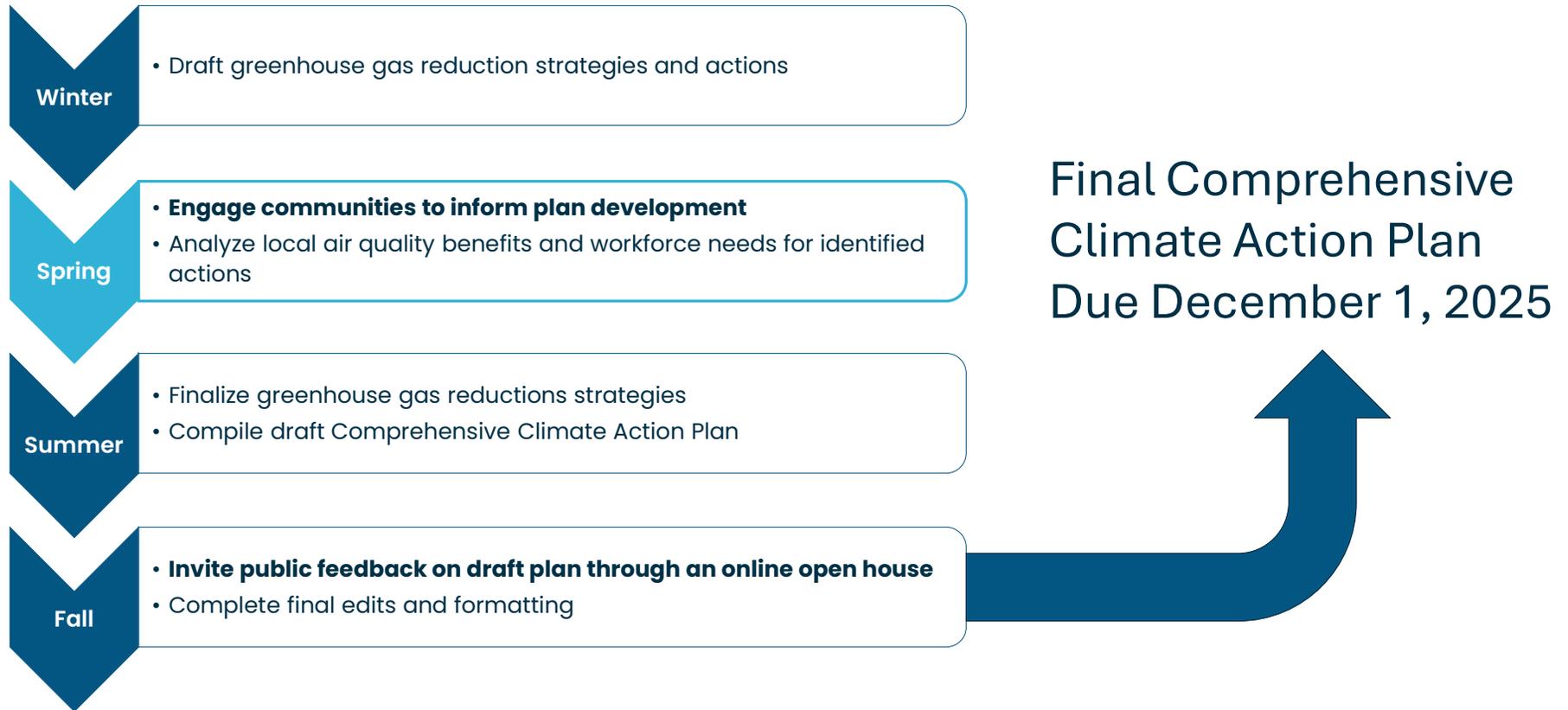
Please help us spread the word!



A Subset of Themes we Heard

1. Reduce car dependency by making it easier and safer to walk, bike, and use transit
2. Make electric vehicles more affordable and improve charging access
3. Electrify other polluting vehicles like trucks, planes, ferries, and landscaping equipment
4. Make homes more efficient and comfortable through weatherization and appliance upgrades
5. Improve access to incentives and hands-on support for home efficiency and appliance upgrades
6. Increase urban tree canopy and green spaces, focusing on equity
7. Increase recycling and composting, and reduce food waste

Climate Plan Development Timeline



Questions for Advisory Council (from earlier in presentation)

- 1) Is the CCAP scope and development timeline clear?
- 2) How can you help the Agency spread the word for the CCAP open house engagement opportunity in the fall?



Thank you!
Questions?



PUGET SOUND

Clean Air Agency

DATE

May 14, 2025

TO

**Advisory Council
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency**

SUBJECT

Strategic Plan Second Annual Report

Honorable Advisory Council Members:

We are excited to share with you our second annual report that summarizes progress on our Strategic Plan. The Agency is committed to share our progress annually as a mechanism of transparency, accountability, and adaptive management. The presentation and draft annual report are attached.

Our specific questions for Advisory Council members are included in the presentation for your consideration and include:

- 1) *Are there areas in the report that are unclear/communication could be improved upon?*
- 2) *Are there areas in today's presentation that are unclear/could be better communicated?*
- 3) *Do you have any specific suggestions for us to consider for next year's third annual report?*
- 4) *Do you have any advice for us to share this report/further our objective for transparency?*
- 5) *Other observations/questions?*

We value your questions and input, which we will share with our Board of Directors at their May meeting. We look forward to the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine S. Cooley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christine S. Cooley
Executive Director

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2030 Strategic Plan Annual Report for 2024, Year 2

April 2025



PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency



Our Vision



Healthy air, climate, and environmental justice for the benefit of all people in the Puget Sound region.

Our Mission



We preserve, protect, and enhance air quality and public health, enforce the Clean Air Act, support policies that reduce climate change, and partner with communities to do this work equitably.

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
2024 Key Opportunities and Challenges	5
Target Status	6
Focus Topics	7
Section One Objectives	9
Meet and Surpass the Health-Based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	9
Measure, Analyze, and Communicate Air Quality Risk	10
Reduce Inequities in Air Pollution and Effectively Engage on Air Quality Topics	13
Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions to Reduce our Region’s Contribution to Climate Change	16
Prevent, Reduce, and Control Emissions and Exposure from Stationary Sources and their Regulated Activities	18
Reduce Harmful Wood Smoke Emissions and Exposure	20
Reduce Harmful Diesel Emissions and Exposure	22
Section Two – Values in Action	25
Attract, Develop, and Inspire Talented Staff that reflect the Diversity of the region and Develop a Culture of Belonging	26
Develop and Sustain a Culture that	28
Embeds Equity Principles in our	28
Day-to-day Work and Decisions	28
Build and Maintain the Agency’s Long-Term Financial Strength and Ensure Accountability	29
Develop and Implement Technology to Succeed	31
Model Environmental Sustainability	32
Building on Progress: Adapting for the Future	33

Introduction

The Agency adopted the [2030 Strategic Plan](#) in March of 2023, outlining ambitious objectives and targets to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and lessen disparities in air pollution exposure across our jurisdiction. As part of our commitment to adaptive management, transparency, and continuous improvement, we produce and share annual progress reports to highlight each year’s main achievements and how we are measuring up to our targets.

This is our second annual progress report. Please use this report as a supplement of the original [Strategic Plan](#), which contains more detailed information about our Agency, the roles we serve, and narratives for each objective. For more information on baseline regional goals, please see our [first annual report](#). Activities included here span from March 2024 to March 2025, except for targets specifying calendar or fiscal years.

2024 Key Opportunities and Challenges

We started the year with opportunities of unprecedented levels of federal funding to support climate and environmental justice programs in our region. With a change in federal administration at the start of 2025, support for science-based climate work and environmental justice has dissipated. While federal support has waned for climate and environmental justice work, we have committed to continue our CPRG planning grant, and potential funding streams remain at the state level. The Agency is also fortunate for being grounded in the Washington State Clean Air Act which provides a state-level backstop for our compliance and enforcement work. We were able to make significant strides on permitting sources, engaging our communities on air quality topics, providing community-led monitoring, removing old polluting wood stoves, and more. Despite the lack of continued federal support, we anticipate making significant strides on our Strategic Plan in its third year (2025). The changing funding landscape will require us to make some adjustments, demonstrating our fiscal responsibility and prioritizing actions to best deliver on our strategic plan.

For each objective in this report, you’ll see an update on target status and corresponding icon – the five categories include: Continued to meet, Making progress, Just getting started, Falling short, and Not yet timely



Target Status

Objective	Target	Year 1	Year 2
1.1	The Puget Sound region attains the National Ambient Air Quality Standards	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.2	The Agency expands community science engagement events through partnerships in all overburdened communities by 2030	Just getting started	Making progress
1.2	The Agency provides visual tools that clearly communicate air pollution risk information, accessible and available in multiple languages by 2027	Just getting started	Making progress
1.3	By 2030, air quality in overburdened communities improves more than air quality in the rest of the region	Not yet timely	Not yet timely
1.3	Complete a community engagement guide by the end of 2023 to operationalize best practices for authentic community engagement	Almost complete	Continued to meet
1.3	Create or use an existing external environmental justice council or advisory committee to advise the Agency on its environmental justice policies, actions, and expenditures	Not yet timely	Just getting started
1.4	The region's GHG emissions are reduced to 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 (and the region is on a trajectory to achieve the state goal of 95% below 1990 levels by 2050)	Falling short	Falling short
1.5	The Agency fully meets its EPA-delegated programs, obligations, and commitments	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.5	The Agency effectively adjusts implementation efforts to address air pollution prevention and public health benefit and new regulatory and scientific information.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.6	Communities most impacted by wood smoke achieve the Agency's fine particle pollution health goal each year	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.7	Large-scale regional efforts to deploy electric drayage trucks are underway by 2030	Just getting started	Just getting started
1.7	At least 50% of diesel-powered yard trucks identified near overburdened communities are replaced with electric yard trucks by 2030	Just getting started	Just getting started
1.7	All rail operators in the region have implemented projects to replace diesel equipment by 2030, with a focus on zero-emission replacements	Just getting started	Just getting started
2.1	The demographic makeup of job applicants in each position matches or is more diverse than the demographics of the Puget Sound region by 2027	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.1	The Agency retains staff by building and sustaining a culture of inclusion and belonging by emphasizing wellness, anti-racism, and growth through continuous improvement	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.1	All Agency employees have professional development pathways and access to project management and process improvement training.	Just getting started	Making progress
2.2	By 2026, the Agency will launch a racial equity organizational self-assessment	Not yet timely	Not yet timely
2.3	The Agency has a balanced and sustainable budget each year.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.3	The Agency obtains a clean audit each year.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.3	The Agency maintains sufficient financial reserves each year	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.3	The Agency tracks its annual expenditures starting in fiscal year (FY) 24 and achieves 40% investment of its budget in overburdened communities by FY27.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.4	Technology (like our website, telephone, servers) is available to staff and the public 99% of the time	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.4	On-premise infrastructure is migrated to the cloud to reduce risk and improve functionality by 2028.	Just getting started	Making progress
2.5	Continue to be carbon neutral (through reducing emissions and with offset purchases)	Just getting started	Continued to meet
2.5	Reduce our need to offset our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% (from 2022) by 2030	Just getting started	Just getting started

Falling short	Not yet timely	Just getting started	Making Progress	Continued to meet
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Focus Topics

The Agency continues its commitment to environmental justice through our focus on air quality improvement in overburdened [communities](#). These communities were identified based on a combination of socioeconomic barriers to decision making, poorer health outcomes, and more air pollution sources. Focus topics were selected to provide common solutions and approaches across many overburdened communities. Throughout this report, look for these focus topic icons to see how each objective aligns with our strategic efforts to support overburdened communities:



Opportunities to Reduce Emissions and Exposures – collaborating across sectors to identify emission reduction opportunities, grant writing support, providing mitigation resources, etc.



Community Science and Education – community input on monitoring, youth/adult education workshops, community monitoring, and building awareness.



Compliance Engagement and Assistance – notification sharing, improving awareness, collecting input to inform policies.



Diesel Emission Reduction – identifying potential projects, grant writing support, data sharing, and informing community.



Transparency and Information Sharing - data sharing, communications, public health information, and website improvement.



Working with Tribal Nations and Tribal Organizations – identifying opportunities to collaborate, building relationships, information sharing, education and awareness of tribal history and its impact on environmental perspectives, etc.

The Agency's vision of environmental justice takes two paths:

Procedural Justice: Concerned with making and implementing decisions according to fair processes. People feel affirmed if the procedures that are adopted treat them with respect and dignity. Procedural justice is a focus of Objective 1.3 – increasing our inclusivity, better understanding communities' concerns, and reducing barriers to participation.

Distributive Justice: Concerned with the fair allocation of resources among diverse members of a community. For the Agency's work, the resource is clean air – and much of our work is a component of distributive justice – improving air quality and reducing disparities in ambient air quality and exposure by focusing on areas where disparities are greatest.



Section One

Protect and Improve Air Quality and Public Health, Reduce Air Pollution Disparities, and Protect our Climate

Section One Objectives

Our seven objectives in section one highlight our actions in various roles to protect and improve air quality and public health, reduce air pollution disparities, and protect our climate.

1.1

Meet and Surpass the Health-Based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)



The Puget Sound region continued to meet the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards across all 6 criteria pollutants (particulate matter, ground level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and lead). The criteria pollutant fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) drives the majority of health risk in our region, which is the subset of particle pollution that's less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

Staff continue to work on our second 10-year maintenance plan for the Tacoma-Pierce PM_{2.5} nonattainment area to ensure the area continues to enjoy improved, healthy air.

Ozone pollution levels remain close to the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) as well. This is the result of short periods of time that exceed the standard on hot summer days when ozone forms. The highest ozone levels typically occur in rural southeast King County.

The EPA sets national ambient air quality standards for six pollutants called “criteria pollutants.” These include particulate matter (also called particle pollution), ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

In our region, we focus on fine particle pollution (also called PM_{2.5}), which is the subset of particle pollution that's less than 2.5 microns in diameter. These tiny particles come from a variety of sources and have the greatest health impacts in our region including: heart and lung impacts like heart attack, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Target

The Puget Sound region attains the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Status

Continued to meet.



1.2

Measure, Analyze, and Communicate Air Quality Risk



The Agency maintained its ongoing monitoring network, focused primarily on harmful fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}). We continued to make air quality [information available in real time](#), and also published our regular [annual data summary](#). This year, we added nitrogen dioxide and coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) monitoring at the Seattle Duwamish site to support the Washington State Department of Ecology's work with Overburdened Communities as part of the Climate Commitment Act.

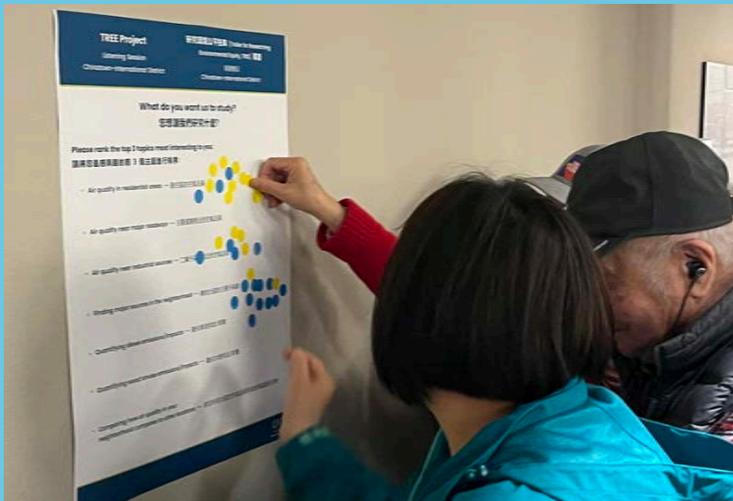


With the expansion of residents obtaining sensors through their own means and our lending program, we are able to calibrate and map them in real time – meaning over 90% of the four county's population now live within 5 kilometers of a fine particle air sensor that they can view in real time.

Our Air Sensor Lending Program supports community-driven air quality monitoring by providing access to reliable, easy-to-use tools. This year we received 21 loan requests, each evaluated based on need, priority, and the potential to advance environmental justice. As a result, we loaned PurpleAir sensors and distributed handheld sensors on

16 occasions. Partners in this effort include schools, non-profits, and private interested individuals across our region. To ensure best results, the Agency provides users training on best practices for data collection and use.

We made substantial progress on our EPA-funded Trailer Researching Environmental Equity (TREE) grant this year. This grant provided an opportunity for community-led air monitoring in East Lakewood, and the Seattle neighborhoods of the Chinatown-International District, Duwamish Valley, and Central District. We completed listening sessions in each of the Seattle neighborhoods where communities identified locations of interest over the course of 2024, providing interpretation services at several meetings.



Chinatown-International District TREE Listening Session



The Trailer for Researching Environmental Equity

We also completed the community air monitoring campaign of the TREE project. In partnership with youth groups in each county, we monitored neighborhood air quality in areas identified during listening sessions and collected data from an air monitoring trailer stationed in the neighborhood, equipped with high grade air monitoring equipment. We shared mobile monitoring results on a [mapping platform](#). Additionally, we provided information and resources about health impacts, types of air pollution, and their sources. The youth groups provided end of monitoring campaign presentations to each other and community members in each of their respective neighborhoods.

The Agency made progress establishing a new monitoring site near SeaTac Airport through EPA funding. We also purchased and deployed ultrafine particle monitoring equipment through 2023 legislative funding. Ultrafine particles are a subset of particle pollution, with a diameter of 0.1 microns or less. Health impacts from ultrafine particles are [not yet as well understood](#) or established as other sizes like PM_{2.5}. However, monitoring these very tiny particles may help us to better understand and communicate sources of pollution.

As a follow up of our [2023 Air Toxics Study](#), we initiated a hexavalent chromium study with EPA funding to refine our estimates of potential cancer risk from this pollutant in the Seattle Duwamish and Tacoma Tidelands areas. Air monitoring is now complete, and preliminary results show our improved risk estimates are similar to those provided in the 2023 study.



Matt Harper giving a tour of the new SeaTac airport monitoring station to Des Moines City Council member, JC Harris



Multi-size Binning Ultrafine Particle Monitor at Seattle 10th and Weller Street



Tacoma Tidelands monitoring site near Commencement Bay

Through 2023 Legislative funding, we continued quarterly coordination with our local health jurisdictions and the Washington State Department of Health. One goal of this group is to refine clear joint messaging to better communicate issues related to indoor and ambient air quality, as well as climate change. This year, we held four meetings, with topics including Air Monitoring, the Built Environment and Indoor Air Quality, Climate and Transportation, and messaging across various air quality topics.

Target

The Agency provides visual tools that clearly communicate air pollution risk information, accessible and available in multiple languages by 2027.

Status

We continued to develop and refine our forecasting and data display tools, and will continue to create and revise technical content and improve accessibility.



Target

The Agency expands community science engagement events through partnerships in all overburdened communities by 2030.

Status

We have conducted over 47 specific engagement events in 10 overburdened communities this year, and 67 events with 20 partnerships since the start of the Strategic Plan (in 2023). We plan to deepen this work through partnerships in future years.



Some of our science engagement this year included activities such as air quality collection with sensors, showcasing our community science functions, and presenting study results with:



1. Lake City Collective - Northeast Seattle
2. InterimCDA WILD Program - Seattle Chinatown-International District
3. Black Farmers Collective - Seattle Yesler Terrace
4. Rainier Scholars - Seattle Central District
5. YMCA - Seattle Central District
6. Duwamish River Community Coalition - Seattle Duwamish Valley
7. Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association - Seattle Duwamish Valley
8. PIE (Partner in Employment) - South SeaTac, Kent, and Tukwila (you can just point to Seatac here)
9. Tacoma Tool Library - South Tacoma
10. Wa-Ya Institute - Lakewood

1.3

Reduce Inequities in Air Pollution and Effectively Engage on Air Quality Topics



Over the past year, we have taken deliberate steps to engage communities across our region in meaningful conversations about air quality. Recognizing that access to information and participation opportunities are not equally available to all, we have worked to make engagement more structured, inclusive, and accessible.

One key initiative was to finalize our Community Engagement Guide, an internal resource designed to operationalize best practices for community engagement. Our entire staff received training on this guide and the associated resources available internally. The guide addresses common barriers to participation, including language accessibility, event timing and location, child-friendliness, and stakeholder compensation. It also provides staff with practical tools, such as a database of accessible venues, food vendors, key community contacts, and facilitation resources, ensuring that our outreach efforts are both effective and equitable.

In fall 2024, we publicly launched our sponsorship program via a webpage to expand our partnerships with organizations that align with our mission. By providing financial support for community events and initiatives, we hope to strengthen relationships with both new and existing partners.

FY25 Sponsorships

 American Lung Association	American Lung Association \$10,000	 Sustainable Solutions for All	Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) \$5,000
 BREAKING BARRIERS Collaborative Business accelerating equitable climate action	Breaking Barriers Climate Solutions \$10,000	 Rebuilding Together	Rebuilding Together South Sound \$5,000
 CHB	Community for a Healthy Bay \$5,000	 The Backpack Academy Multicultural Support Plans	The Backpack Academy \$5,000
 Duwamish River Community Coalition	Duwamish River Community Coalition \$3,500	 Transportation Choices	Transportation Choices Coalition \$2,500

In addition to the sponsorship program, we made strides to more effectively organize our community engagement efforts through an internal community engagement request form.

Culturally and linguistically accessible communication remains a core focus of our engagement strategy. We consistently translate materials into Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and other commonly spoken languages, and offer live interpretation services at key events.

We have also taken steps to build regional and state alignment in air quality communication. Through the Northwest Air Quality Communicators Group, we are collaborating with clean air agencies across Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to develop shared messaging, common language, and pooled resources. This collaboration strengthens public outreach efforts across the Pacific Northwest and ensures consistent, science-based communication.

We continue to see challenges in engagement and participation at our workshops and events. Although we consistently use a multi-channel outreach strategy that includes social media, organizational partnerships, local media outreach and more, attendance varies across projects. By deepening relationships across our four-county jurisdiction with local health jurisdictions, community groups, and regional partners, we hope to increase engagement and participation in Agency-led events.

Finally, building on our expanded environmental justice approach to overburdened communities, we continued to engage the Agency's longstanding Environmental Justice Steering Committee (EJSC). With the adoption of a new charter and promotion of our internal framework to help staff present projects for the committee's review, we provided input on ten projects with diverse objectives. Staff are encouraged to return to the EJSC as projects reach key milestones or conclude, ensuring ongoing accountability and alignment with goals.

Supporting Community Action

This year the Agency continued its efforts to help community-based organizations (CBOs), local governments, tribal organizations, and ports in overburdened communities to identify emission reduction projects and author grant applications, as well as to provide grant reporting support for entities that receive grants. We started this work as part of a 2023 Legislative proviso.

We met with area CBOs and local governments to discuss potential partnerships on grant opportunities; responded to inquiries for support; and supported grant applications by nine organizations. Some highlights of Agency efforts include:

- Encouraged participation in state and federal school bus electrification funding by contacting transportation staff at 29 school districts serving overburdened communities within the Agency's jurisdiction.
- Provided technical assistance to identify air pollution sources and community impacts to support a workforce development grant to the US EPA Environmental & Climate Justice Community Change grant.
- Promoted, met with partners to discuss project ideas, and matched interests and project partners for the WA Ecology "Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities" grant. Agency staff coordinated with seven community organizations, nine local government offices, and two ports.

With state funding for Grant Writing Support ending in June 2025, we will apply program learnings to catalyze future Agency work in service to our overburdened communities.

Target

By 2030, air quality in overburdened communities improves more than air quality in the rest of the region.

Status

We will conduct comparisons in future progress reports, based on fine particle pollution ($PM_{2.5}$) that drives health risk.



Target

Complete a community engagement guide by the end of 2023 to operationalize best practices for authentic community engagement.

Status

Staff have received training on the guide so that they can apply to their projects. We will evaluate and adjust the guide periodically to be most helpful to staff.



Target

Create or use an existing external environmental justice council or advisory committee to advise the Agency on its environmental justice policies, actions, and expenditures.

Status

We are exploring how our Advisory Council can take on a more structured role in advising on environmental justice at a strategic, budgetary, and policy level.

In spring 2025, members provided valuable feedback on the specific adaptations needed to advise on environmental justice at a level that would complement the direct community feedback we receive.



1.4

Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions to Reduce our Region’s Contribution to Climate Change



The Agency continues to lead EPA’s 2023 regional Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) planning grant under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to lead regional climate planning for our four counties. Under this grant, we are now working on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which is due December 1, 2025. The CCAP will deliver a consolidated and updated inventory of all significant greenhouse gas sources and sectors within the Puget Sound region, establish near-term and long-term emission reduction goals, and compile a comprehensive list of strategies and actions to achieve greenhouse gas reductions. Analyses will include consideration of potential

impacts and benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities, potential funding sources, authority to implement identified actions, and workforce development needs to implement the proposed actions.

As of this report, we have worked with external partners to develop an initial list of emissions reductions actions in all sectors, and begun updates to the regional greenhouse gas inventory. With this initial list of actions, we are now starting broader stakeholder and community engagement which will be completed this Spring, and reported on next year. We’re looking to community members to help inform how proposed actions can best be designed and implemented in our neighborhoods.

We are also coordinating with other local climate planning processes, as well as the State Departments of Commerce and Ecology as they develop a state-level CCAP. We aim to align with and complement state and local policies and plans, and support jurisdictions at all stages of planning. The CCAP will define regional funding-ready strategies that are competitive for future funding opportunities as they arise.

Collaborative relationships formed during the CPRG planning processes will benefit jurisdictions by aligning priorities and leveraging collective resources to maximize impacts of future efforts to achieve emissions reductions.



Executive Director Cooley stands alongside EPA and King County representatives at Press event announcing \$50 million EPA grant



Executive Director Cooley with Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Project Management Team at press event

While the Agency leads the planning phase of the CPRG grant, a summer 2024 EPA award will result in tangible greenhouse gas emission in our region. King County received over \$49 million on behalf of the region to reduce carbon in buildings. The application and resulting contract with EPA directed funding to go Multifamily Programs (\$19M) for projects in affordable housing settings, and Family Care (\$12M) which is directed to either low-income homes, or homes where 50% of those receiving services are low-income. These programs benefit communities at higher-than-average risk for experiencing climate impacts, and who often experience disproportionate negative health outcomes associated with environmental exposure. These home upgrades improve energy efficiency and utility cost burden; reduce air pollution; improve indoor air quality; and increase climate resilience for vulnerable populations during climate emergencies including heat waves and wildfire smoke. Federal uncertainty has delayed progress on this grant, but the Agency continues to support the regional implementation group as they seek clarity on the federal government's commitment to this work.

Target

The region's GHG emissions are reduced to 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 (and the region is on a trajectory to achieve the state goal of 95% below 1990 levels by 2050).

Status

We estimate that for 2024, we are still 5 to 10% above 1990 levels. We need the successful implementation of ambitious decarbonization measures to meet the 2030 target and beyond. The Agency and partners must pursue highly collaborative strategies to seek innovation and additional funding streams for the success of this target.



1.5

Prevent, Reduce, and Control Emissions and Exposure from Stationary Sources and their Regulated Activities



The Agency has consistently met this goal for many years. Agency Compliance staff met commitments to EPA regarding our high priority inspection work again in 2024. A Full Compliance Evaluation (FCE) was completed for each operating permit and synthetic minor limited source (see callout box) for the federal fiscal year (October 2023 – September 2024). Each FCE includes at least one unannounced onsite inspection coupled with the review of the required compliance report submittals to the Agency. Larger, more complex sources may receive more than one onsite inspection.



During the first two years of the strategic plan, the Agency has continued to issue operating permits (both original permits and renewed permits) at a rate of approximately 6 per year. This effort is an additional requirement and commitment to EPA to implement this program for the largest sources in our region. Additionally, the Agency has continued to update our delegation requests to implement EPA regulations on their behalf and includes sources subject to these regulations as part of our priority inspection and compliance annual work planning.

This year, we created and shared additional information on our website linked to permit actions with public comment processes, in support of our compliance engagement goals. We developed this new material to provide background information about the public comment process and how comments would be reviewed and processed for final decisions. This information is intended to help potential commenters understand the type of information that an effective comment may include. We plan to evaluate how this is received, with potentially more materials provided in the future.

There are approximately 30 operating permit sources (the larger sources in our area) and approximately 75 synthetic minor sources (sites with enforceable emission limitations to avoid major source program requirements). All air quality compliance work associated with these sources is documented and the activity information is extracted from our database and uploaded to the EPA's database on monthly. The uploaded information is displayed and shared through EPA's [ECHO \(Enforcement & Compliance History Online\) website](#) which displays geographic information and source specific information related to a variety of environmental media topics (air quality, water quality, and more).

Target

The Agency fully meets its EPA-delegated programs, obligations, and commitments.

Status

Continued to meet this target (as in previous years) and will continue to follow this goal for compliance work planning in future years.



Target

The Agency effectively adjusts implementation efforts to address air pollution prevention and public health benefit and new regulatory and scientific information.

Status

Continued to meet this target through a variety of activities (e.g. asbestos process improvements, compliance engagement, etc.). Annually, work assignments for inspection are adjusted to focus on other source priorities (e.g. sources subject to federal rules delegated to the Agency and other emergent issues) beyond the EPA commitments.



This year, the Agency developed an outreach tool to cooperatively work with city and county permitting departments for asbestos work. This builds on previous efforts that improved our asbestos website and online notification. With the new asbestos notification program online, staff have developed new outreach materials that may be left at a city/county permit desk with a QR code that will bring a contractor to our website directly. This information may also be used by city/county permitting teams on their own websites to integrate this compliance transaction. The hope is that our new online notification program coupled with this easily used link will allow contractors to satisfy the notification transaction more efficiently, if they are ready to complete the transaction. Inspectors will be reaching out to refresh or reestablish this cooperative effort throughout 2025.

Asbestos Safety: Notify Before You Renovate or Demolish



Are you performing an Asbestos Renovation or Demolition?

All renovation and demolition work requires notification to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. For more information about the notification process and asbestos please scan the QR code below.

Instructions:

1. Open your camera app
2. Point the camera at the QR code
3. Hold the phone steady for a few seconds
4. Tap the notification that appears to open the link
5. Your phone's web browser will automatically launch and go to [pscleanair.gov/asbestos](http://www.pscleanair.gov/asbestos)



www.pscleanair.gov/asbestos

1.6

Reduce Harmful Wood Smoke Emissions and Exposure



The Agency is administering a grant through Washington State Department of Ecology funding to promote the removal of older, highly polluting wood stoves. Approved applicants who voluntarily recycle eligible wood burning devices are paid a \$500 cash incentive. This grant has been wildly successful; as of this report, we had expended initial grant funding and requested more. We had broad participation across the four counties, with participation in Kitsap and Snohomish substantially greater than their population share. Since the last report (March 2024) we have scrapped over 850 old stoves across our four counties, resulting in an estimated reduction of 20 tons of harmful $PM_{2.5}$ emissions each year.

To promote program enrollments, the Agency funded a digital advertising campaign which launched in May 2024 and continued into March 2025. This included advertising on multiple social media platforms, and ads on search tools like Google. Starting in September 2024, we also provided ads and all program materials in Spanish to try to reach more households in their preferred language. There were multiple successful applications submitted through the Spanish enrollment form, and we plan to use enrollment metrics to inform our future program design and promotion.

To address short-term wood smoke pollution, we forecasted for potential burn bans. Although we had colder than average temperatures in January and February, we remained below burn ban thresholds and no burn bans were issued. Weather conditions like still, stagnant air and inversions contribute to poor air quality. Burn bans are intended to reduce residential wood smoke, a significant source of harmful fine particle pollution ($PM_{2.5}$) during these weather episodes.

**STOVE
OUT.
CASH
IN.**

Get \$500 for recycling your old wood stove.

CAA
PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

**Te pagamos
por deshacerte
de tu estufa
de leña.**

Obtén \$500 al reciclar tu estufa de leña vieja.

CAA
PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

Woos Stove Recycling Program ad campaigns in English and Spanish.

This year, we started to evaluate if changes to residential yard waste burning boundaries are warranted based on reasonable availability of other methods to dispose of yard waste (like leaves and brush). This process is part of a state mandate to regularly assess the availability of alternatives to outdoor burning outside the urban growth area. We started our evaluation by comparing availability of alternatives – including access to transfer stations and curbside pickup – as compared to the criteria laid out in the Washington Administrative Code. Next, we will connect with stakeholders to better understand availability of alternatives and any co-benefits and challenges to implementation.

Target

Communities most impacted by wood smoke achieve the Agency’s fine particle pollution health goal each year.

Status

Our communities most impacted by wood smoke include South End Tacoma, Marysville, and Darrington. All three areas met the Agency’s health goal of $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Marysville just barely meets with EPA’s rounding convention) for daily $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations, which is more protective than the federal daily standard of $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This measurement is based on EPA’s daily standard formula with wildfire smoke days removed.



1.7

Reduce Harmful Diesel Emissions and Exposure



Building on our successful [Electric Yard Trucks Program](#), the Agency was awarded a grant through the Federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program in summer 2024. This funding will support four external partners to replace seven diesel-fueled yard trucks with all-electric yard trucks by September 2027. We have started working with partners to replace trucks operating in [overburdened communities](#) in King County, specifically the South Seattle and Tukwila neighborhoods.

Successful completion of this grant will bring the total number of yard trucks electrified through this program to 27. Past and current project partners include BNSF, Seattle Public Utilities, King County Solid Waste, Albertsons, McLane Company, NewCold Logistics, Lineage Logistics, and Alaska Marine Lines. They each have committed to covering the project costs not funded by the grant, and are also partnering to reduce emissions from cargo-handling equipment in our region.

This year, we also participated in the Puget Sound Zero-Emission Truck Collaborative to create the Decarbonizing Drayage Roadmap, expected to be released in spring 2025. The Roadmap is a critical blueprint for cutting harmful emissions, which account for 85% of the cancer risk from air toxics, while also tackling climate pollution. This plan ensures a smooth, equitable transition that protects public health and supports the region's economic and environmental goals.

Several of Washington's climate policies also reduce harmful diesel pollution in addition to greenhouse gas emissions. This is important, as diesel fine particles (also known as diesel particulate matter or DPM) contribute over 85% of the potential cancer risk from air pollution in our region. Some of these policies and programs include the Clean Fuel Standard, and Advanced Clean Cars and Advanced Clean Trucks. This year, the Agency advocated with partners to keep these emission-reducing programs going.

Target

Large-scale regional efforts to deploy electric drayage trucks are underway by 2030.

Status

We helped promote the Northwest Seaport Alliance's Zero Emission Drayage Incentive Program launched in December 2024. The program offered incentives to cover 50–80% of replacement costs for eligible Class 8 trucks providing cargo-hauling services at cargo terminals in Seattle or Tacoma. We will continue to support regional efforts as informed by the upcoming release of the Decarbonizing Drayage Roadmap.



Target

At least 50% of diesel-powered yard trucks identified near overburdened communities are replaced with electric yard trucks by 2030.

Status

With previous and current grants, our Electric Yard Truck program is on track to replace 27 diesel-fueled yard trucks with electric trucks. We are continuing efforts to identify other yard trucks and project partners in our region for action in future years.



Shared by Albertsons Companies as part of their required community outreach



Shared by King County as part of their required community outreach

Target

All rail operators in the region have implemented projects to replace diesel equipment by 2030, with a focus on zero-emission replacements.

Status

As we work to identify rail operators in the region for potential projects, we are exploring opportunities to collaborate with some of our partners on locomotive replacements.





Section Two

Excellence, Innovation, Integrity,
Leadership, Collaboration,
Transparency, and Equity & Inclusion

Section Two – Values in Action

The Agency's core values are shown in the figure below. The objectives in this section describe how we apply these values to achieve our mission.

Values + Behaviors

- Strive for Excellence**
 - We strive continuously for improvement and growth through learning and development.
 - We manage resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to stakeholders.
- Innovation**
 - We empower ourselves and the community with tools, technology, and expertise to achieve our mission and goals.
 - We seek out and implement positive change by challenging the status quo.
- Integrity**
 - We base our actions on science, law, and facts.
 - We own our actions and our words and hold ourselves accountable.
- Leadership**
 - We seek to continuously improve our air quality and advance new strategies and tools.
 - We boldly act on climate change through vision and clear direction.
 - We respect and empower everyone to be agents of change.
- Collaboration**
 - We work together for positive productive outcomes with compassion and respect for all people and perspectives.
- Active Transparency**
 - We share the maximum allowable information in a timely manner.
 - We close the loop with each other and when we seek out public input, we tell them what we did with it.
 - We show people how we do our work and why.
- Equity + Inclusion**
 - We respect and integrate the diversity of individual experiences, opinions, and skills.
 - We recognize, cultivate, engage, and listen to all voices, especially those that are disproportionately impacted and face barriers to clean air in their communities.
 - We seek to anticipate and we address the unintended consequences of our decisions, actions, and policies.

2.1

Attract, Develop, and Inspire Talented Staff that reflect the Diversity of the region and Develop a Culture of Belonging

This year, we continued our enhanced onboarding process to ensure new staff develop an understanding of and appreciation for the work of all departments across the Agency. We also built on our staff-led Wellness Committee, with outside of work events like community and sports gatherings for staff and family members. As of this report, we have started planning for ongoing wellness education and training sessions for staff.

To enhance opportunities for professional development and to optimize learning across departments, our HR team developed an Agency-wide training plan. This plan provides staff with a firm understanding of the Agency's training and professional development philosophy and assists our HR team in understanding the training and development needs of staff. Creating the training plan also allows us to better coordinate development efforts across the Agency.

For recruitment, we continued to follow HR industry best practices for redaction (removal of identifying information on resumes and cover letters) to minimize bias in our hiring and required anti-bias training for all interview teams. To increase knowledge of the Agency and career paths in air quality, we shared job announcements widely across our jurisdiction and in diverse venues to attract new staff representative of our four counties.

We continued our enhanced staff feedback loop in monthly all-staff meetings through an online tool that allows staff to provide input and share concerns anonymously with either HR, the Wellness Committee, or leadership at their convenience.

Target

We strive to ensure that the demographic makeup of job applicants in each position matches or is more diverse than the demographics of the Puget Sound region by 2027.

Status

In this second year, we received 298 applications for open positions. Of these, 227 indicated their race. Of those who indicated their race, 99 or 44% indicated BIPOC (black indigenous and people of color). The demographics of our region are slightly less than 40% BIPOC.



Staff at work

Target

The Agency retains staff by building and sustaining a culture of inclusion and belonging with emphasis on wellness, anti-racism, and growth through continuous improvement.

Status

We continued our employee-led wellness committee to create connections and well-being and continued events like our monthly staff meeting with employee recognition, our holiday celebrations, staff intranet profiles, and our annual staff retreat for connection.



Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Staff at annual staff retreat

Target

All Agency employees have professional development pathways and access to project management and process improvement training.

Status

All employees have Professional Development included in their planning activities that they discuss with their managers, including access to relevant trainings. The Agency provided several larger trainings with teams this year, including StrengthsFinder, an Equity Workshop series including managing implicit bias, management training, etc. As noted above, the Agency also developed an Agencywide Training Plan this year.



2.2

Develop and Sustain a Culture that Embeds Equity Principles in our Day-to-day Work and Decisions

This year, we continued to include an equity component in each staff planning document that lays out their priorities and work assignments for the year. With an 'embed' approach, this tactic ensures all staff are included and supporting equity goals.

We continued to provide an Equity Workshop Series for staff, Advisory Council and Board members. Our affinity groups concluded their current facilitation this year, and we are evaluating input from participants to inform models for employee resource groups in the future.

Our cross-departmental Environmental Justice Steering Committee (EJSC) met monthly to discuss Focus Topic projects brought forward by staff. Through the EJSC and our expanded approach to environmental justice, we have begun to evolve components of our racial equity toolkit. This includes addressing the four main questions included in the racial equity toolkit as part of each EJSC project discussion. Focusing on these main toolkit questions has improved staff ability to implement the intent of the toolkit.

CAA
PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

Join Us for
Implicit Bias 101
With Rev. Dr. Bryant T. Marks, Sr

Dr. Marks is returning for Implicit Bias Awareness 101. We are able to share this unique opportunity not only with our staff, but well beyond!

Target

By 2026, the Agency will launch a racial equity organizational self-assessment.

Status

We will report out in a future progress report.



2.3

Build and Maintain the Agency's Long-Term Financial Strength and Ensure Accountability

We are on target to deliver the 2026 fiscal budget on time, with components to address fund balances and anticipated projections for future years beyond the current planning year. A greater time horizon can help understand longer-term impacts of decisions, especially important now with the shifts and uncertainty for federal funding streams in the coming years. This year our Finance Department continued to support multiple recurring and competitive state and federal-level grants as well as process payments for our many compliance transactions.

We developed and applied methodology to track our annual investment in overburdened communities for the baseline fiscal year 2024. Because so many of our objectives prioritize actions in overburdened communities, our baseline indicates that we are already meeting the 2027 target, with 55% of our expenditures in overburdened communities. We will finalize a complete fiscal year 25 value based on actuals following the closeout of the 2025 fiscal year.

Target

The Agency has a balanced and sustainable budget each year.

Status

The Board adopted a balanced FY25 budget in June 2024.



Target

The Agency obtains a clean audit each year.

Status

The Agency received a clean, unqualified audit in this reporting period (delivered in March 2025 for FY2024).



Target

The Agency maintains sufficient financial reserves each year.

Status

As part of our budget process, we regularly assess projections and evaluate reserves. They are sufficient.



Finance staff at work

Target

The Agency tracks its annual expenditures starting in fiscal year (FY) 24 and achieves 40% investment of its budget in overburdened communities by FY27.

Status

As noted above, we developed a methodology to assess our investment and the initial reporting period of fiscal year 2024 our investments in overburdened communities were 55%. The majority of this was staff time conducting air quality activities in overburdened communities.



2.4

Develop and Implement Technology to Succeed

Our Technology Department continued to ensure that software and hardware tools are available to staff to complete their tasks. They also ensured that information is consistently available to the public (for example, through our website), and that we have the tools to communicate with stakeholders (for example, through email and phone service). We are identifying opportunities to transition on-site services to cloud services in relevant areas with a strong business case.

This year, we replaced our aging phone system with a cloud-based Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) system that provides more features and greater flexibility to staff. We also continued development on applications that expand our ability to take advantage of on-line credit card payments. We continued designing applications to provide users the ability to translate page text to their language of choice. We have also begun to re-develop our internal customized application, CleanAir, from an internal application to a web accessible application. This shift will increase accessibility and flexibility for staff.

Target

Technology is available to staff and the public 99% of the time.

Status

We had one very brief, limited technology service outage during this reporting period (< .02 % of the time).



Target

On-site infrastructure is migrated to the cloud to reduce risk and improve functionality by 2028.

Status

We are in the process of migrating services to the cloud where possible. We're designing our customized internal applications to be ready for the transition from on-site infrastructure to the cloud.



2.5

Model Environmental Sustainability

We continued to electrify the Agency’s relatively small light-duty vehicle fleet with the purchase of three electric vehicles—bringing the total percentage of Agency all-electric zero-emission vehicles to 37%. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles make up 11%, hybrids make up 47%, and the 5% remaining are conventional gasoline. We also continued to offer staff ORCA passes to encourage use of public transit to commute.

Target

Continue to be carbon neutral (through reducing emissions and with offset purchases).

Status

In September 2024, we purchased offsets that have made the Agency carbon neutral since 2020—a commitment we made in our last strategic plan and continued in our current one. We plan to update Agency carbon estimates every three years and offset our emissions through the life of this strategic plan.



Staff with ORCA pass



Carbon offset certificate from Carbonzero



Our pool electric vehicle, Sparky

Target

Reduce our need to offset our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% (from 2022) by 2030.

Status

Our baseline 2022 estimate for our Agency’s carbon emissions is 88 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). As noted above, we will monitor our progress every three years, and will continue to seek ways to reduce our carbon footprint.



Building on Progress: Adapting for the Future

This progress report is one component of our commitment to transparently share our progress and challenges with our communities and stakeholders. As we're still in the early part of the plan, some actions are still very new with time needed to evaluate their effectiveness. We will continue to employ and build upon an Agency-wide culture of continuous improvement to identify opportunities, adapt to changes, and strengthen existing functions that further our vision and mission.

We made great strides in the second year of implementation across objectives: continuing to deliver our on regulatory commitments to EPA (and beyond), completing and communicating multiple air monitoring studies, convening our region's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) planning, removing hundreds of old wood stoves across our region and old diesel yard trucks in overburdened communities, engaging our communities in multiple venues on a range of topics, providing grant support to overburdened communities, and taking strides internally on topics like professional development, wellness committee, connection through staff events and our annual retreat, and evaluating our employee resources groups.

A key adjustment this third year will be adapting to changing federal priorities and budget realities while still delivering on our plan. We're fortunate to be in a state with several strong air quality and climate policies in place – we can leverage these to continue to meaningfully deliver on our plan.





PLEASE CONTACT US

for questions, concerns,
and suggestions.

communications@pscleanair.gov



WEBSITE
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1904 3rd Ave #105
Seattle, WA 98101



Strategic Plan Second Annual Report

Advisory Council Meeting

May 14, 2025



Introduction

- Our strategic plan was adopted in March 2023 – we're two years in!
- Adaptive management intentionally included, with a commitment to prepare an annual report to summarize progress
- Our second annual progress report includes:
 - A high-level summary for each Strategic Plan objective
 - Progress on targets within each objective
- Today's objectives:
 - Share annual report and discuss your questions
 - We will share your input with the Board of Directors at their May meeting

2030 Strategic Plan

January 2023



PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

Questions for Advisory Council (to be repeated at the end of this presentation)

1. Are there areas in the report that are unclear/communication could be improved upon?
2. Are there areas in today's presentation that are unclear/could be better communicated?
3. Do you have any specific suggestions for us to consider for next year's third annual report?
4. Do you have any advice for us to share this report/further our objective for transparency?
5. Other observations/questions?

2030 Regional Goals

- Air pollution overall drops by 20% from 2022 to 2030, and the annual economic impact of air pollution health effects drops by \$500 million - \$1 billion
- Socioeconomic disparities in air pollution exposure are cut in half from 2022 to 2030
- Cancer risk from toxic air pollutants reduces by 50% from 2022 to 2030, especially in overburdened communities
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission in the Puget Sound region drop by 50% compared to 1990 levels overall
 - These are broad, overarching goals – they take time to change
 - Progress on goals will be shared in:
 - Baseline progress report (2024)
 - Mid-year progress report (2027)
 - Final report (2030)

Our Vision



Healthy air, climate, and environmental justice for the benefit of all people in the Puget Sound region.

Our Mission



We preserve, protect, and enhance air quality and public health, enforce the Clean Air Act, support policies that reduce climate change, and partner with communities to do this work equitably.

Report Icon Guide

Progress



Focus Topics



Second year – Adaptive Management Takeaways

- Made strides to deliver objectives across the Strategic Plan
- Federal funding opportunities for climate and environmental justice activities have diminished
- Washington State programs and commitment remain strong
- We will adapt to identify and leverage new opportunities to continue to make progress on the plan

Overall Progress on Targets

Target Status

Objective	Target	Year 1	Year 2
1.1	The Puget Sound region attains the National Ambient Air Quality Standards	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.2	The Agency expands community science engagement events through partnerships in all overburdened communities by 2030	Just getting started	Making progress
1.2	The Agency provides visual tools that clearly communicate air pollution risk information, accessible and available in multiple languages by 2027	Just getting started	Making progress
1.3	By 2030, air quality in overburdened communities improves more than air quality in the rest of the region	Not yet timely	Not yet timely
1.3	Complete a community engagement guide by the end of 2023 to operationalize best practices for authentic community engagement	Almost complete	Continued to meet
1.3	Create or use an existing external environmental justice council or advisory committee to advise the Agency on its environmental justice policies, actions, and expenditures	Not yet timely	Just getting started
1.4	The region's GHG emissions are reduced to 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 (and the region is on a trajectory to achieve the state goal of 95% below 1990 levels by 2050)	Falling short	Falling short
1.5	The Agency fully meets its EPA-delegated programs, obligations, and commitments	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.5	The Agency effectively adjusts implementation efforts to address air pollution prevention and public health benefit and new regulatory and scientific information.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.6	Communities most impacted by wood smoke achieve the Agency's fine particle pollution health goal each year	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
1.7	Large-scale regional efforts to deploy electric drayage trucks are underway by 2030	Just getting started	Just getting started
1.7	At least 50% of diesel-powered yard trucks identified near overburdened communities are replaced with electric yard trucks by 2030	Just getting started	Just getting started
1.7	All rail operators in the region have implemented projects to replace diesel equipment by 2030, with a focus on zero-emission replacements	Just getting started	Just getting started
2.1	The demographic makeup of job applicants in each position matches or is more diverse than the demographics of the Puget Sound region by 2027	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.1	The Agency retains staff by building and sustaining a culture of inclusion and belonging by emphasizing wellness, anti-racism, and growth through continuous improvement	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.1	All Agency employees have professional development pathways and access to project management and process improvement training.	Just getting started	Making progress
2.2	By 2026, the Agency will launch a racial equity organizational self-assessment	Not yet timely	Not yet timely
2.3	The Agency has a balanced and sustainable budget each year.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.3	The Agency obtains a clean audit each year.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.3	The Agency maintains sufficient financial reserves each year	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.3	The Agency tracks its annual expenditures starting in fiscal year (FY) 24 and achieves 40% investment of its budget in overburdened communities by FY27.	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.4	Technology (like our website, telephone, servers) is available to staff and the public 99% of the time	Continued to meet	Continued to meet
2.4	On-premise infrastructure is migrated to the cloud to reduce risk and improve functionality by 2028.	Just getting started	Making progress
2.5	Continue to be carbon neutral (through reducing emissions and with offset purchases)	Just getting started	Continued to meet
2.5	Reduce our need to offset our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% (from 2022) by 2030	Just getting started	Just getting started

Falling short Not yet timely Just getting started Making Progress Continued to meet



Section One

Protect and Improve Air Quality and
Public Health, Reduce Air Pollution
Disparities, and Protect our Climate

1.1 – Meet and Surpass the Health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards



Target: The Puget Sound region attains the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.



- EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants
- We focus on fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) due to its health impacts; EPA strengthened its NAAQS in February 2024 (Agency supported)
- We will continue to work on our second maintenance plan for the Tacoma-Pierce County former PM_{2.5} nonattainment area this year
- We continue to track levels in reference to NAAQS (mainly PM_{2.5} and ozone)

1.2 – Measure, Analyze, and Communicate Air Quality Risk



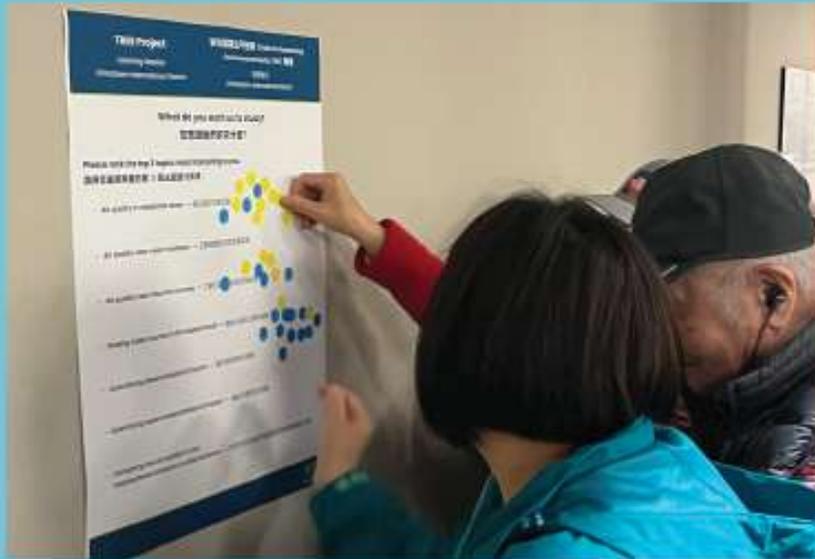
Target: The Agency expands community science engagement events through partnerships in all overburdened communities by 2030.

Target: The Agency provides visual tools that clearly communicate air pollution risk information, accessible and available in multiple languages by 2027.



- Maintained our core PM_{2.5} monitoring network
- Implemented EPA-funded Trailer Researching Environmental Equity (TREE) grant – including extensive community engagement in four communities
- Implemented a follow-up air toxics study to better understand risk from hexavalent chromium
- Continued ultrafine particle research project via proviso funding
- Strengthened health department coordination via proviso funding

TREE Project



Chinatown-International District TREE Listening Session



The Trailer for Researching Environmental Equity

1.3 – Reduce Inequities in Air Pollution and Effectively Engage on Air Quality Topics



Target: By 2030, air quality in overburdened communities improves more than air quality in the rest of the region.

Target: Complete a community engagement guide by the end of 2023 to operationalize best practices for authentic community engagement.

Target: Create or use an existing external environmental justice council or advisory committee to advise the Agency on its environmental justice policies, actions, and expenditures.



- Continued and updated the Agency’s Environmental Justice Steering Committee
- Implemented the Agency’s overburdened community grant support project via proviso funding
- Completed version of Community Engagement Guide and provided staff training across all teams
- Launched and funded our sponsorship program in fall 2024

Sponsorships

	<u>American Lung Association</u> \$10,000		<u>Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS)</u> \$5,000
	<u>Breaking Barriers Climate Solutions</u> \$10,000		<u>Rebuilding Together South Sound</u> \$5,000
	<u>Community for a Healthy Bay</u> \$5,000		<u>The Backpack Academy</u> \$5,000
	<u>Duwamish River Community Coalition</u> \$3,500		<u>Transportation Choices Coalition</u> \$2,500

1.4 – Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions to Reduce Our Region’s Contribution to Climate Change



Target: The region’s GHG emissions are reduced to 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 (and the region is on a trajectory to achieve the state goal of 95% below 1990 levels by 2050).



- Continued lead role for EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for the Puget Sound Region – Phase I planning
- Supported applications for Phase II implementation grants – King County received a \$50M grant on behalf of the region to reduce emissions from the built environment
- Currently developing the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)
- Continue coordination with regionwide steering committee and State (Department of Commerce) as they develop Statewide CPRG deliverables

CPRG Press Event



Executive Director Cooley stands alongside EPA and King County representatives at Press event announcing \$50 million EPA grant



Executive Director Cooley with Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Project Management Team at press event

1.5 – Prevent, Reduce, and Control Emissions and Exposure from Stationary Sources/Regulated Activities



Target: The Agency fully meets its EPA-delegated programs, obligations, and commitments.

Target: The Agency effectively adjusts implementation efforts to address air pollution prevention and public health benefit and new regulatory and scientific information.



- Completed Full Compliance Evaluations for relevant sources of air pollution
- Updated online asbestos notification program, improving coordination with local planning departments
- Created and shared additional material public comment process for permit actions – to help potential commenters

Asbestos Safety Handout

Asbestos Safety:
Notify Before You Renovate or Demolish



Are you performing an Asbestos Renovation or Demolition?

All renovation and demolition work requires notification to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. For more information about the notification process and asbestos please scan the QR code below.

Instructions:

1. Open your camera app
2. Point the camera at the QR code
3. Hold the phone steady for a few seconds
4. Tap the notification that appears to open the link
5. Your phone's web browser will automatically launch and go to pscleanair.gov/asbestos



www.pscleanair.gov/asbestos

1.6 – Reduce Harmful Wood Smoke Emissions and Exposure



Target: Communities most impacted by wood smoke achieve the Agency’s fine particle pollution health goal each year.



- Continued our Ecology grant to scrap old wood stoves in our region – successfully implemented digital advertising with great results – over 850 old stoves removed since last report
- Continued to provide outreach materials on wood smoke as source of fine particle pollution, as well as ways to reduce wood smoke
- Continued to forecast for potential burn bans - conditions were not met, so no burn bans called this year

Wood Stove Program Promotional Ads

The image displays two promotional advertisements for the Wood Stove Recycling Program, presented side-by-side within a light blue border. Each advertisement has a dark blue background and features a white line-art icon of a wood stove with a chimney pipe extending upwards. In the top right corner of each ad is the logo for the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (CAA), which consists of the letters 'CAA' in a stylized font above the text 'PUGET SOUND Clean Air Agency'.

English Ad (Left):
The text reads: **STOVE OUT. CASH IN.** Below this, it says: "Get \$500 for recycling your old wood stove."

Spanish Ad (Right):
The text reads: **Te pagamos por deshacerte de tu estufa de leña.** Below this, it says: "Obtén \$500 al reciclar tu estufa de leña vieja."

At the bottom center of the entire graphic, there is a caption: "Wood Stove Recycling Program ad campaigns in English and Spanish."

1.7 – Reduce Harmful Diesel Pollution Emissions and Exposure



Target: Large-scale regional efforts to deploy electric drayage trucks are underway by 2030.

Target: At least 50% of diesel-powered yard trucks identified near overburdened communities are replaced with electric yard trucks by 2030 .

Target: All rail operators in the region have implemented projects to replace diesel equipment by 2030, with a focus on zero-emission replacements.



- Received federal funding and currently working with partners to replace diesel yard trucks in overburdened communities
- Continued to reach out to industry stakeholders to raise awareness of diesel reduction grant opportunities

Yard Trucks



Shared by Albertsons Companies as part of their required community outreach



Shared by King County as part of their required community outreach



Section Two

Excellence, Innovation, Integrity,
Leadership, Collaboration,
Transparency, and Equity & Inclusion

2.1 – Attract, Develop, and Inspire Talented Staff That Reflect the Diversity of the Region and Develop a Culture of Belonging

Target: The demographic makeup of job applicants in each position matches or is more diverse than the demographics of the Puget Sound region by 2027.

Target: The Agency retains staff by building and sustaining a culture of inclusion and belonging by emphasizing wellness, anti-racism, and growth through continuous improvement



Target: All Agency employees have professional development pathways and access to project management and process improvement training



- Continued our enhanced staff onboarding process
- Built on staff-led Wellness Committee
- Continued to reduce bias in our recruitment process
- Developed Agencywide training philosophy
- Continued multiple staff feedback loops

Annual Staff Retreat



2.2 – Develop and Sustain a Culture that Embeds Equity Principles in our Day-to-day Work and Decisions

Target: By 2026, the Agency will launch a racial equity organizational self-assessment.



- Included equity in individual staff planning documents
- Continued opportunities like Equity Workshop Series, training for Board, Advisory, and staff
- Concluded affinity groups current facilitation; will evaluate input for future Employee Resource Group (ERG) iteration
- Through the expanded environmental justice approach planning, evolved components of our racial equity toolkit

Equity Workshop Series



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

Equity at Scale: A Facilitated Conversation about Population-Level Impact

Date: Thursday, June 27 · 9:00 – 10:30am



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

Join Us for
Implicit Bias 101
With Rev. Dr. Bryant T. Marks, Sr



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

Join Us for
Implicit Bias 201
With Rev. Dr. Bryant T. Marks, Sr



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

Join Us for
History of Race and Racism
With Rev. Dr. Bryant T. Marks, Sr



Second Annual Report

May 2025



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

2.3 – Build and Maintain the Agency’s Long-Term Financial Strength and Ensure Accountability

Target: The Agency has a balanced and sustainable budget each year.

Target: The Agency obtains a clean audit each year.

Target: The Agency maintains sufficient financial reserves each year.

Target: The Agency tracks its annual expenditures starting in fiscal year (FY) 24 and achieves 40% investment of its budget in overburdened communities by FY27.



- Implemented a balanced FY25 budget (currently creating FY26)
- Received a clean audit for FY24
- Tracked investments in overburdened communities
- Supported multiple state and federal grants; working with project managers to plan for uncertainty

2.4 – Develop and Implement Technology to Succeed

Target: Technology (like our website, telephone, servers) is available to staff and the public 99% of the time.



Target: On-premise infrastructure is migrated to the cloud to reduce risk and improve functionality by 2028.



- Software and hardware tools available to staff
- Information consistently available to our public
- Transitioned our phone system to cloud-based Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)
- Took steps in the transition to more cloud solutions

2.5 – Model Environmental Sustainability

Target: Continue to be carbon neutral (through reducing emissions and with offset purchases)



Target: Reduce our need to offset our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% (from 2022) by 2030



- Continued to electrify Agency's fleet with purchase of three electric vehicles (as older vehicles retired)
- Continued to offer ORCA pass to staff, encouraging transit
- Purchased carbon offsets to meet target



Staff with ORCA pass



Carbon offset certificate from Carbonzero



Our pool electric vehicle, Sparky

Next Steps

- Share Section Two Objectives with our Board of Directors (we shared Section One in April Board meeting)
- Post second annual report on our website
- Share via owned social media channels, send to email subscribers
- Follow-up with entities that provided comment letters on the strategic plan

Questions for Advisory Council (from earlier)

1. Are there areas in the report that are unclear/communication could be improved upon?
2. Are there areas in today's presentation that are unclear/could be better communicated?
3. Do you have any specific suggestions for us to consider for next year's third annual report?
4. Do you have any advice for us to share this report/further our objective for transparency?
5. Other observations/questions?



PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

DATE **May 14, 2025**

TO **Advisory Council**
 Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

SUBJECT **Reasonable Alternatives to Outdoor Burning (RAOB) Update**

Advisory Council Members:

At the July 2024 Advisory Council meeting, staff introduced our preliminary evaluation of reasonable alternatives to outdoor burning (RAOB) of residential yard waste. This process is part of a state mandate to regularly assess the availability of alternatives to outdoor burning outside the urban growth area under Agency Regulation 1.

At your May 2025 meeting, staff will share an updated evaluation with you, as well as initial input from key stakeholders on this topic. We look forward to hearing your input, and will specifically seek your perspective on the following questions:

- 1) *Are there areas of this topic or presentation that are unclear, that we can improve for future discussions either to stakeholders, community members, or our Board?*
- 2) *Are there key considerations or stakeholders on this topic that we have not covered in this presentation?*
- 3) *Do you have any additions to the "FAQs"?*

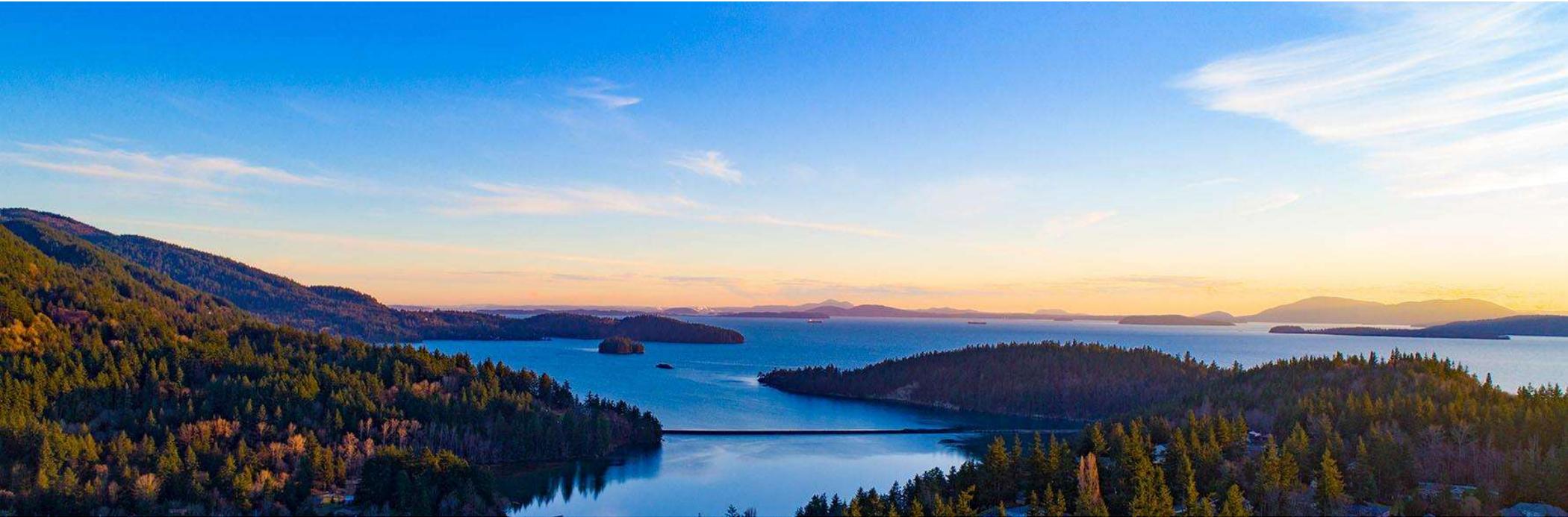
We value your questions and input, which we will share with our Board of Directors at their May meeting. We look forward to the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine S. Cooley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Christine S. Cooley
Executive Director

Attachment



Reasonable Alternatives to Outdoor Burning (RAOB) Update

Advisory Council Meeting

May 2025



RAOB – To be covered today

- Short review of reasonable alternatives to outdoor burning introduced in July 2024:
 - Background – Rules and Framework, Definitions
 - Previous evaluation of residential yard waste burning
- Current availability of reasonable alternatives (yard waste pickup service and transfer stations) and costs (across all four counties)
- Initial Stakeholder Discussion & FAQs
- Next steps, Discussion and Questions



Discussion Questions for Advisory Council (to be discussed at end of presentation)

- 1) Are there areas of this topic or presentation that are unclear, that we can improve for future discussions?
- 2) Are there key considerations or stakeholders on this topic that we have not covered in this presentation?
- 3) Do you have any additions to the “FAQs”?

RAOB Review (Synopsis of July 2024 presentation)

May 2025

As part of our Strategic Plan

Section 1.6.D. Reduce Harmful Wood Smoke Emissions and Exposure:

*“We will minimize illegal outdoor burning through education, partnering with fire districts, and enforcement. **We will evaluate if changes to residential yard waste burning boundaries are warranted based on reasonable availability of other methods to dispose of yard waste.**”*

<https://pscleanair.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5038/2030-Strategic-Plan-Final->



Reminder – Definitions – Different types of burning

What type of burning are we talking about?

	TYPE	STATUS
	Residential burning Yard waste, limbs, leaves, clippings	Banned in urban growth areas Allowed outside UGAs
	Land clearing Fires to clear land for development	Prohibited in entire jurisdiction King, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap counties
	Recreational fires Barbecues, cooking fires, campfires, bonfires, chimineas, fire pits	Allowed in & outside UGAs designated areas or private property or ceremonial purposes
	Other Tumbleweed burning, debris from floods, weed abatement, agricultural	

How residential burning is defined

WAC 173-425-030 Definitions:

*"Residential burning" means the outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings and other yard and gardening refuse originating on lands **immediately adjacent and in close proximity to a human dwelling** and burned on such lands by the property owner or his or her designee.*

There are other regulations for other types of outdoor burning.



Reasonable Alternatives to Outdoor Burning In Revised Code of Washington and Washington Administrative Code

RCW 70A.15.5070 Limited outdoor burning—Program—Exceptions (6)

“Burning shall be prohibited in an area when an alternate technology or method of disposing of the organic refuse is available, reasonably economical, and less harmful to the environment. It is the policy of this state to foster and encourage development of alternate methods or technology for disposing of or reducing the amount of organic refuse.”

WAC 173-425-040 Areas where certain types of outdoor burning are prohibited.

“...every third year...each local air authority, and Ecology in cooperation with counties, must **determine whether any areas...have a reasonable alternative to burning.**”

Review of the Criteria for “Reasonable” in WAC¹

A reasonable alternative exists if the answer to questions 1 and 2 is “yes”

1) Is the area served by available and economical;

a. Recycling (or composting) **pick up service;**

OR

b. Any other method for disposing of material (private chipper, incineration facility or solid waste drop box, transfer station or landfill) located **within a reasonable distance** and that accepts the type of waste **at a cost less than or equal to the median of all county tipping fees in the state.**

2) Is any available and reasonably economical alternative less harmful to the environment than outdoor burning?

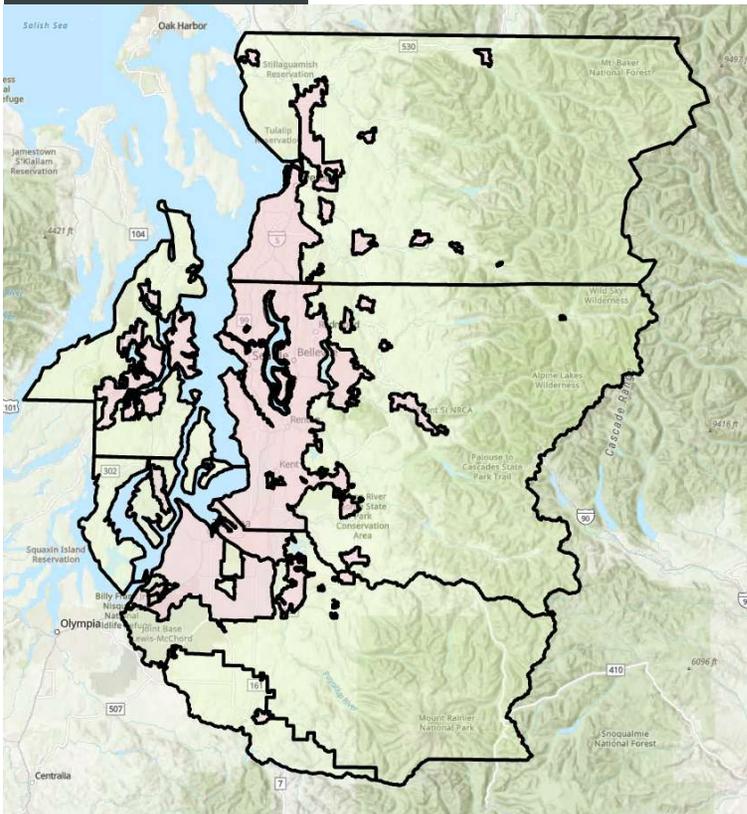
Less harmful



More harmful

Waste Reduction
Recycling
Energy Recovery or Incineration
Landfill Disposal
Outdoor Burning

Urban Growth Areas as of Apr 2024



Agency background Most recent evaluation

- In 2014-2017 review, Agency again evaluated outdoor burning per WAC criteria, with focus on residential burning
 - In that assessment, availability of viable alternatives was limited, particularly in some counties
 - Board at that time expressed a strong interest in countywide boundaries to avoid communication confusion
 - Board at that time agreed 10 miles as reasonable distance to travel to dispose of material
 - Board at that time agreed a substantial amount of county population living outside UGAs (90%) needed to have available alternatives to move forward
 - Residential yard waste burning was determined to not meet the criteria for reasonable alternatives

While no formal action, Board encouraged staff to track and help facilitate greater availability for alternatives (curbside pickup, chipping) and revisit in future years

Reasonable Alternatives to Outdoor Burning 2017 Evaluation

Board supported a preliminary **target of 90% of residents living outside urban growth areas having access to a reasonable alternative** to outdoor burning of residential yard waste would trigger a review of potential changes in allowed burning.

Reasonable access also included being **within 10 miles of a facility accepting yard waste** below the median state tipping fee (curbside is 0 miles).

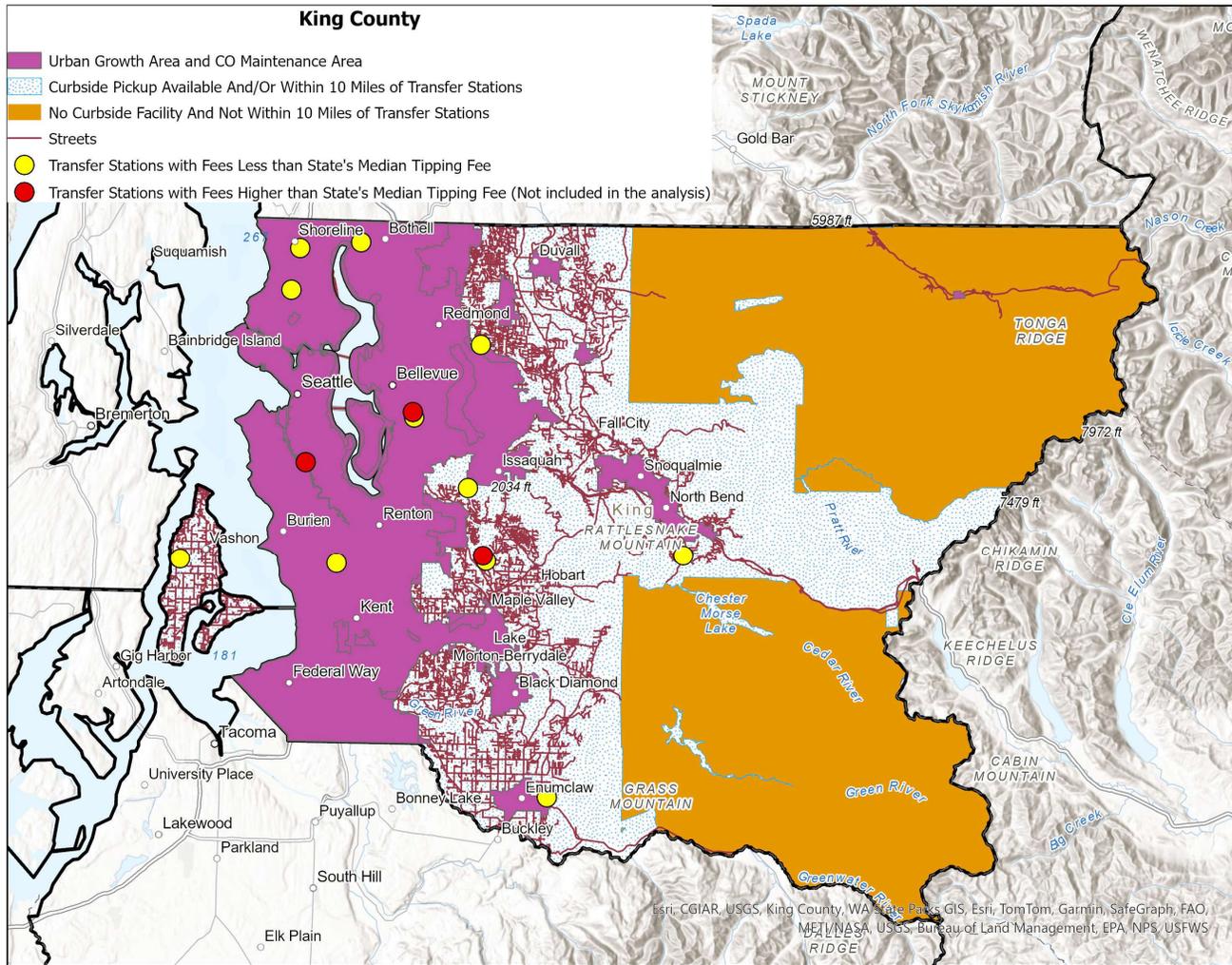
At the time, no counties met these criteria – King was highest with 76% of population meeting criteria, and Kitsap was lowest with 18% (all well below 90%).

RAOB Current Review Update

May 2025

Current Review

- We have used the following data
 - Population data by Census Blocks (US Census Survey 2020)
 - Yard waste Pickup availability by Haulers (Each County provided this)
 - Transfer Stations in each county (County-websites and private stations)
- For checking reasonable alternative availability, we have checked whether each census block :
 - Has Yard waste pickup available
 - Is within 10 miles driving distance from transfer stations where fee is equal to or less than state median tipping fee.



King County

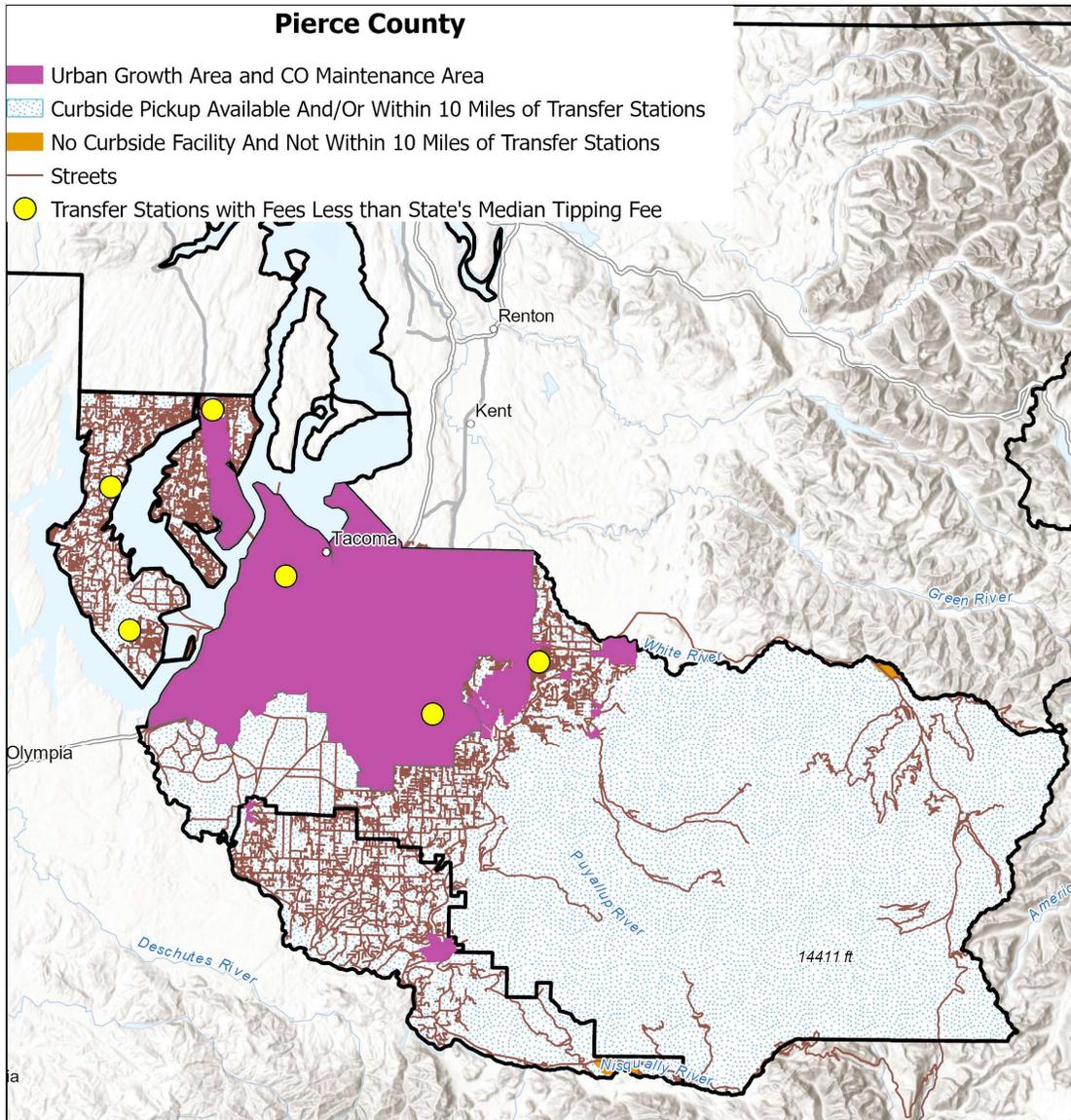
Total population 2,269,675

Total population outside UGAs 246,266

Population outside UGAs with curbside pickup available 245,138 (99.5%)

Population outside UGAs within 10 miles of transfer stations with fees less than state's median tipping fee 214,526 (87%)

Population outside UGAs not covered by either 908 (0.4%)



Pierce County

Total population 920,393

Total population outside UGAs 430,248

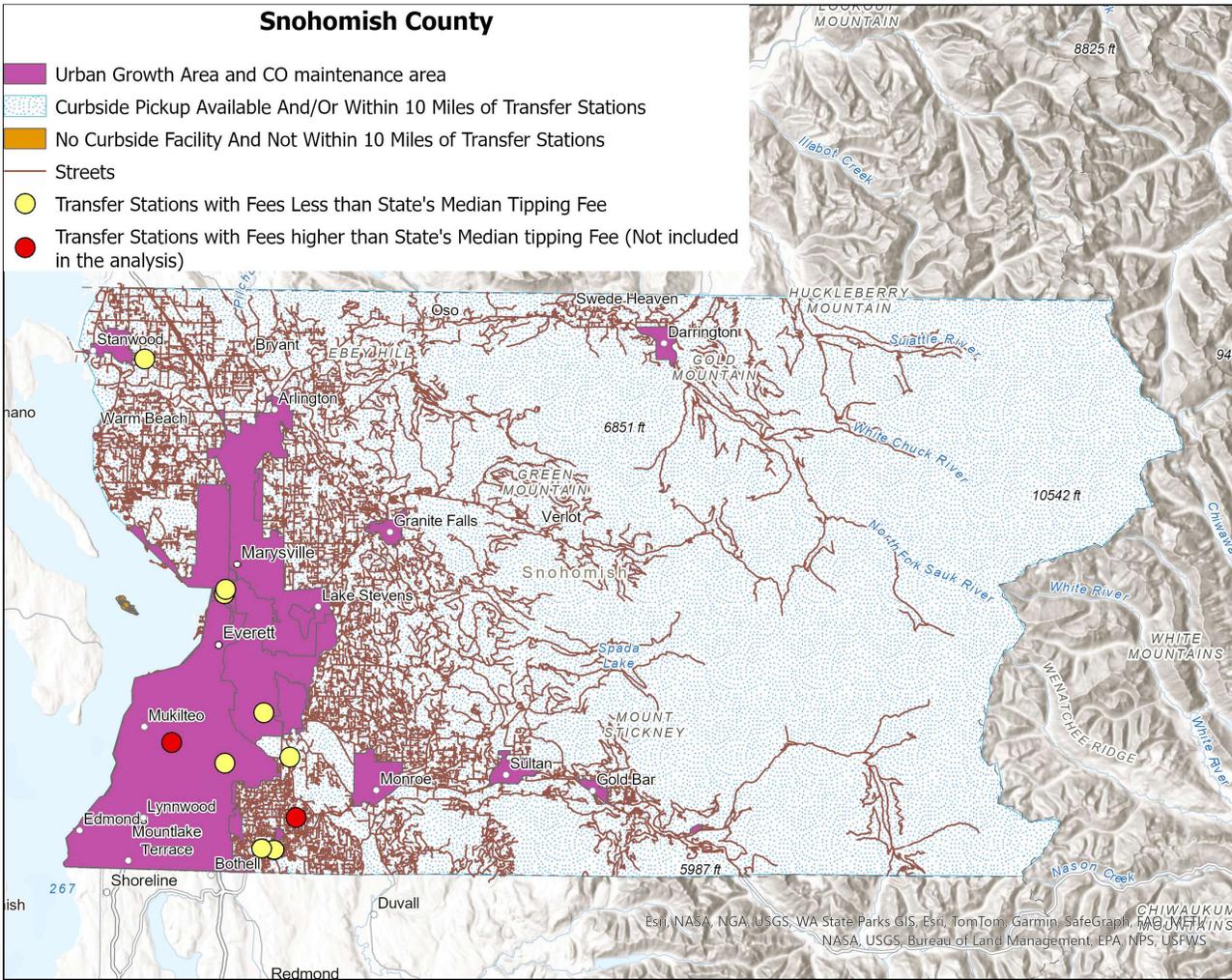
Population outside UGAs with curbside pickup available 428,489 (99.6%)

Population outside UGAs within 10 miles of transfer stations with fees less than state's median tipping fee 397,520 (92%)

Population outside UGAs not covered by either 437 (0.1%)

Snohomish County

- Urban Growth Area and CO maintenance area
- Curbside Pickup Available And/Or Within 10 Miles of Transfer Stations
- No Curbside Facility And Not Within 10 Miles of Transfer Stations
- Streets
- Transfer Stations with Fees Less than State's Median Tipping Fee
- Transfer Stations with Fees higher than State's Median tipping Fee (Not included in the analysis)



Snohomish County

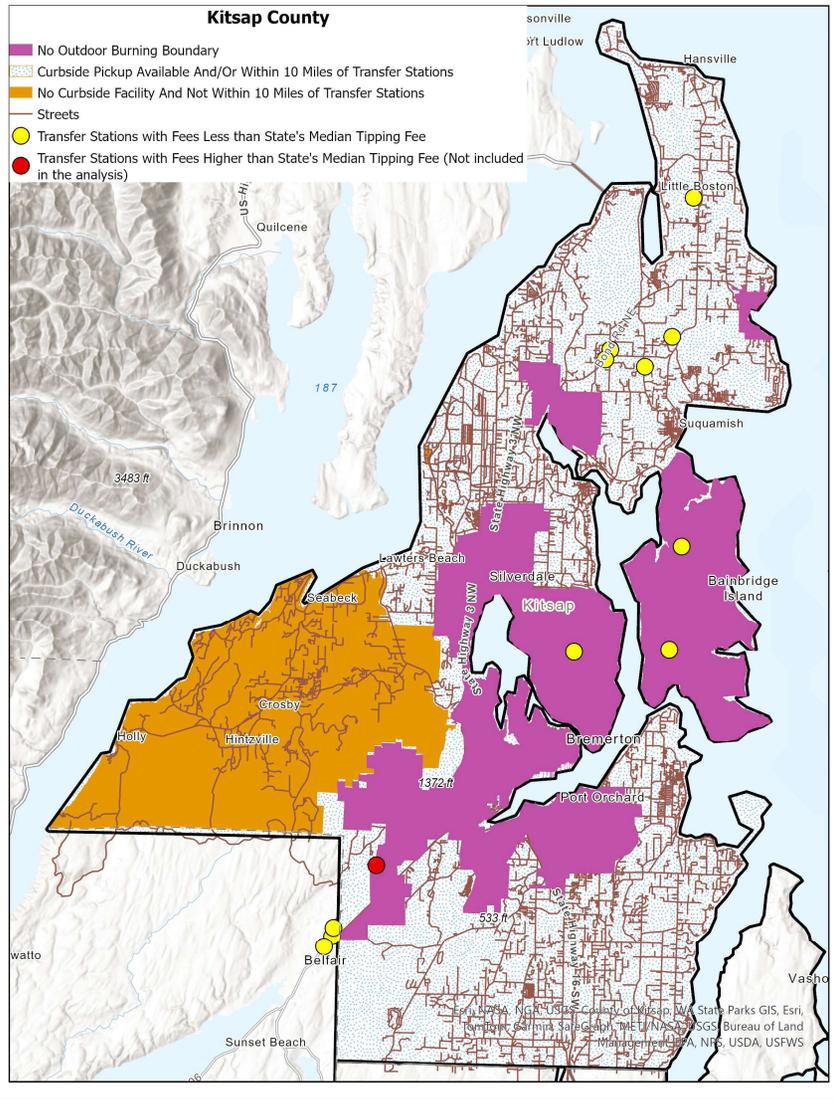
Total population 827,957

Total population outside UGAs 367,716

Population outside UGAs with curbside pickup available 367,625 (99.9%)

Population outside UGAs within 10 miles of transfer stations with fees less than state's median tipping fee 297,080 (81%)

Population outside UGAs not covered by either 91 (0.02%)



Kitsap County

Total population	275,611
Total population outside UGAs	179,719
Population outside UGAs with curbside pickup available	164,630 (92%)
Population outside UGAs within 10 miles of transfer stations with fees less than state's median tipping fee	133,264 (74%)
Population outside UGAs not covered by either	10,086 (6%*)

*By January 2026, all residents will have access to curbside pickup

WAC criteria, results of current review

Populations by County with Reasonable Alternatives Available in Non-urban Growth Areas

Numbers in parentheses represent the percentage of the population relative to the county's "non-UGA" population

	King	Pierce	Kitsap	Snohomish	Total
Total population	2,269,675	920,393	275,611	827,957	4,293,636
Total population outside UGAs	246,266	430,248	179,719	367,716	1,223,949
Population outside UGAs with curbside pickup available	245,138 (99.5%)	428,489 (99.6%)	164,630 (92%)	367,625 (99.9%)	1,205,882 (98.5%)
Population outside UGAs within 10 miles of transfer stations with fees less than state's median tipping fee	214,526 (87%)	397,520 (92%)	133,264 (74%)	297,080 (81%)	1,042,390 (85%)
Population outside UGAs not covered by either	908 (0.4%)	437 (0.1%)	10,086 (6%*)	91 (0.02%)	11,522 (0.9%)

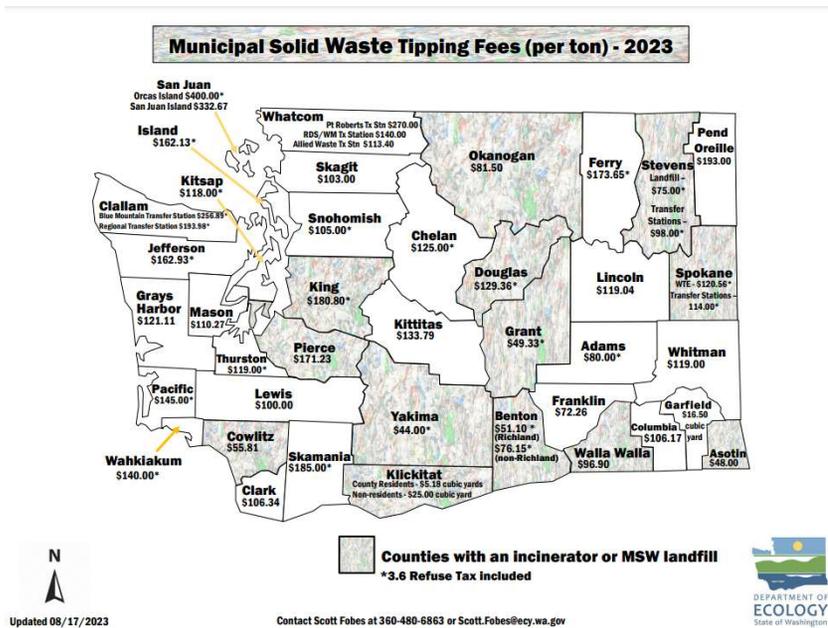
*By January 2026, all residents will have access to curbside pickup

<https://data.census.gov/profile/Washington?g=040XX00US53>

https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/121979/20240503_Population-Section_final-draft?bidId=

Curbside pickup rates vs median state tipping fee

We found all the curbside pickup costs for each county is less than the state median county tipping fees



Median of all counties = \$119.00 per ton
Median of our 4 counties = \$144.62 per ton

WAC 173-425-040

Any other method for disposing of the organic refuse (such as a public or private chipping or chipper rental service, an energy recovery or incineration facility, or a solid waste drop box, transfer station, or landfill) that is located within a reasonable distance and will accept the type and volume of organic refuse at a cost that is **less than or equivalent to the median of all county tipping fees in the state for disposal of municipal solid waste**

Curbside Rates for 96-gal cart converted per ton

Counties	Rates (per 96-gal)	Rates (per ton)
King	\$16.35 (\$12.44-\$24.63)	\$71.83 (\$32.50-\$123.15*)
Pierce	\$8.52 (\$6.81-\$11.11)	\$33.79 (\$26.93-\$44.44)
Kitsap	\$8.47	\$42.35
Snohomish	\$16.53 (\$13.00-\$16.53)	\$56.73 (\$32.50-\$80.65)

* Rate for yard and recycle every other week, no garbage service.

Initial Stakeholder Engagement – Solid Waste Divisions:



Curbside Pickup Adoption Rates

- Around 40-50% of residential customers have signed up for yard waste pickup; varies by county.



Factors Influencing Yard Waste Curbside Pickup Participation:

- Larger yards in unincorporated areas: Many residents prefer to compost their yard waste themselves
- Lower cost for self-haul: For larger volumes, self-hauling is often more cost-effective.
 - In Pierce County, up to 1 ton of yard waste is free of charge at transfer stations for county residents.



Expansion Plans & Organics Management Law

- Kitsap County: By Jan1, 2026: curbside service to be provided to all residential customers.
- Organics Management Law: By April 1, 2027 – organics curbside service must be provided to all residents with exemptions.



Educational and Outreach Programs:

- Counties are actively promoting alternatives to burning yard waste.
 - Educational material on the website, composting kits, ongoing composting classes and works with community gardens to increase awareness.

Initial Stakeholder Engagement – Fire Districts

- Easier to navigate with a county-wide ban instead of UGAs
- Some expressed a need for better, current maps
- One expressed concern of lost revenue without fire permits
- Still engaging – have not yet received strong response/interest

FAQs

May 2025

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1) I'm concerned this will be expensive to take on – solid waste in my area charges additional for yard waste pickup.
- 2) I'm concerned that I can't fit all my yard waste into the provided bin
- 3) I'm concerned about how a ban on residential yard waste burning would impact individuals who live on islands within the Agency's region.
- 4) I'm concerned that small, remote communities don't have the resources for things like composting that could help here. Curbside wouldn't be offered in small communities if everyone won't participate.
- 5) Will this help local jurisdictions with managing and messaging health impacts around recreational fires (like bonfires)?
- 6) I'm concerned that fire districts in small rural communities will not support this.
- 7) Are blackberry bushes / noxious weeds accepted at transfer stations/composting facilities?
- 8) Does this impact large forest landowners?

Next steps, Questions and Discussion

May 2025

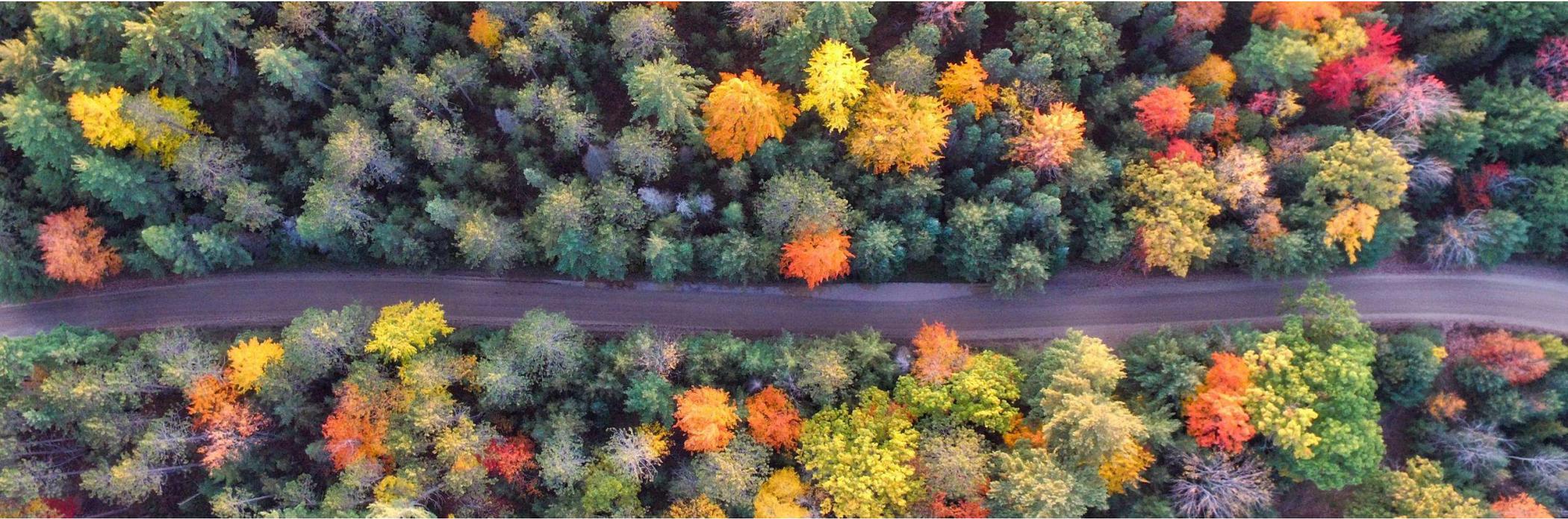
Next steps

- Will update our Board on current evaluation at May Board meeting
- Will continue outreach this summer with initial stakeholders to both raise awareness and to inform how potential changes to burning boundaries could be paced, communicated, and implemented
- Staff will return to our Board in the fall with recommendation options for their consideration

Discussion Questions for Advisory Council (from beginning of presentation)

- 1) Are there areas of this topic or presentation that are unclear, that we can improve for future discussions?
- 2) Are there key considerations or stakeholders on this topic that we have not covered in this presentation?
- 3) Do you have any additions to the “FAQs”?

Thank you for your attention and discussion



May 2025



PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency

DATE April 24, 2025

TO Board of Directors
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

SUBJECT Staff Report

Honorable Board Members:

Below is a list of timely and important updates of progress towards the objectives in our Strategic Plan, organized by objectives.

SECTION ONE – PROTECT AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH, REDUCE AIR POLLUTION DISPARITIES, AND PROTECT OUR CLIMATE

Objective 1.1 – Meet and Surpass the Health-Based National Ambient Air Quality Standards

We posted our [web version](#) of the annual data summary for 2024 last month, which compares our monitored levels to EPA’s health-based national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). In 2024, we had generally cleaner air than in recent years, largely because we did not experience significant wildfire smoke.



Transparency and
Information Sharing

Objective 1.2 – Measure, Analyze, and Communicate Air Quality Risk

Last month, we participated in a YMCA Earth Service Corps workshop at the University of Washington. Staff presented on air quality topics and then transitioned to a hand-held air monitoring exercise, where youth went around the neighborhood with air sensors and circled back to discuss what they observed and learned.

We completed installation of our new air monitoring site at SeaTac Sunset Park. The location for this new site was based on community surveys; community members prioritized being near SeaTac airport and under the flight path. This new site includes a monitor for ultrafine particles, funded by a Legislative proviso. This ultrafine particle

monitoring equipment is also located at the 10th and Weller near-freeway site in the Seattle Chinatown-International District, which will be helpful for data comparisons.



Community Science
and Education



Transparency and
Information Sharing



Objective 1.3 – Reduce Inequities in Air Pollution and Effectively Engage on Air Quality Topics

In alignment with the strategic plan target to create or utilize an existing external environmental justice council or advisory committee, progress was made during the March retreat. Advisory council members actively engaged in a series of prompts focused on enhancing feedback loops between the Agency and the Advisory Council. Their input yielded several concrete recommendations on how to better integrate core principles of environmental justice into the structure and operations of the existing council. These insights are now informing next steps to ensure the council is more inclusive, responsive, and aligned with the Agency’s EJ goals.

Objective 1.4 – Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions to Reduce Our Region’s Contribution to Climate Change

Agency staff continue to develop the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Phase I planning grant. We are working with partners across the region and state to refine and quantify a comprehensive list of greenhouse gas reduction actions for inclusion in the CCAP. Staff also met with the CPRG Steering Committee on April 21. The purpose of this meeting was to gather the Steering Committee’s feedback to further refine the CCAP’s structure, messaging, and content to make it as useful as possible for decision-makers across the region. We look forward to providing updates from that discussion at your May Board meeting.

Staff hosted a series of four public workshops in March and April to solicit community input on how draft actions can best be implemented. Staff worked with jurisdictional partners to build on previous climate planning work in each county, and to incorporate local context into the workshop content. We look forward to presenting a summary of these workshops at your May Board meeting.



Additionally, the Agency will be represented at the 2025 Clean and Prosperous Institute Study Mission on carbon pricing programs – namely the European Trading System (ETS).

Objective 1.5 – Prevent, Reduce, and Control Emissions and Exposure from Stationary Sources and Other Regulated Activities

Engineering staff have been tracking and engaged with a project that is intended to collect broad and representative emission information for composting operations. This project began in July 2023 and is to be completed by June 2025. The work is being completed through a grant authorized by the 2023 legislature to be managed by the Department of Ecology. That work is approaching completion with the western Washington waste study portion of the work presently underway at the Washington State University (WSU) research facility in Puyallup. The lead researcher for the study is Dr. Tom Jobson at WSU, who is overseeing the operations, sampling and analysis work that is the heart of the study. The research program needed to

build a compost processing test facility in Puyallup in order to process the types of waste streams found in the Puget Sound area and western Washington, in general. Earlier work had been completed at WSU in Pullman, running waste streams typical for eastern Washington. The field sampling work in Puyallup is underway now and staff will be visiting the site later this month to observe the procedures and discuss the anticipated wrap up of the technical report with Dr. Jobson. It is anticipated that this work will be a vital new source of emission information for compost production that air regulators in Washington state will draw upon for their work.

Objective 1.6 – Reduce Harmful Wood Smoke Emissions and Exposure

For our analysis of Reasonable Alternatives to Outdoor Burning, we are making progress with our data collection. We compiled maps for all four counties to illustrate the availability of alternatives for residents, including curbside pickup and self-hauling of yard waste to transfer stations within a reasonable driving distance. Additionally, we are engaging with solid waste divisions and fire districts to better understand the challenges that residents face. We continue to collaborate with fire districts and plan to present our findings to you at the May Board meeting.



Compliance Engagement
and Assistance

Under the Wood Stove Recycling Program (WSRP), 1,090 households have recycled their wood stoves and received \$500 incentive payments as of April 11th. We exceeded the original grant target to recycle 905 stoves by June, and also exhausted additional grant funds provided by WA Department of Ecology by the first week of April. In January, the Board approved a budget amendment to use Civil Penalties funds to continue the incentive program through the end of this fiscal year.

A WSRP promotional postcard was mailed to 1,525 households throughout our four-county region on March 26th, which has resulted in additional program enrollments. Paid search advertising runs through the end of this month, and we have restarted seasonal promotion on Agency social media.

A new Wood Smoke Program e-newsletter was shared with partners in mid-April. Future quarterly newsletters will keep individuals and organizations informed about Agency efforts related to residential wood smoke reduction, so they can participate and promote our work.

Objective 1.7 – Reduce Harmful Diesel Pollution Emissions and Exposure

The transition to zero-emission drayage vehicles serving ports in the Puget Sound region is a key step to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce environmental health disparities in communities living near port terminals and along major freight corridors. The Puget Sound Zero-Emission Truck Collaborative, of which the Agency is a part, developed the *Decarbonizing Drayage Roadmap* to help chart a just and equitable path through the many opportunities and challenges created by the transition to zero-emission drayage. Projects funded under a federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant are progressing. Staff members are currently working with two external partners, BNSF and Lineage Logistics, to replace diesel yard trucks with electric trucks. We have received quarterly progress reports, and are coordinating review of scrapping plans for partners’ existing diesel vehicles. These projects are on track to have four new trucks delivered by June or July. We are working closely with our EPA project officer to ensure all project work continues to meet federal funding requirements as updates are implemented.



SECTION TWO – VALUES IN ACTION

Objective 2.1 – Attract, Develop, and Inspire Talented Staff That Reflect the Diversity of the Region and Develop a Culture of Belonging

We do not have open recruitments at this time and continue focusing efforts on professional development opportunities for staff.

We brought trainers to the Staff Retreat to offer an introduction to Emotional Intelligence and Communication training. The training was well received by staff and received very positive feedback. We are partnering with the trainers to offer “next steps” training opportunities to staff at monthly Lunch and Learn sessions.

Objective 2.2 – Develop and Sustain a Culture that Embeds Equity Principles in Our Day-to-Day Work and Decisions

The Agency held its third annual full day staff retreat in Bremerton on April 9th. There were 3 desired outcomes of the retreat:

- **Strengthen Work Culture:** Create intentional spaces to foster our values, cultivate trust, and build stronger team connections.
- **Develop Skills:** Enhance the skills that are useful Agency-wide to ensure we continue to deliver on our Strategic Plan commitments.
- **Engage with the Community:** Gain a fuller understanding of Bremerton, deepening our connection to a community that reflects the heart of our mission: to preserve, protect, and enhance air quality and public health, enforce the Clean Air Act, support policies that reduce climate change, and *partner with communities to do this work equitably.*



The Agency is currently soliciting feedback from staff and it will be available to share at the April Board meeting.

Objective 2.3 – Build and Maintain the Agency’s Long-Term Financial Strength and Ensure Accountability

Agency staff are developing the draft fiscal year 2026 budget, to be presented to the Board in the May meeting.

The Operations and Personnel Subcommittee of the Board received a briefing on the upcoming office space lease expiration, as well as progress on researching office space after January of 2027.

Objective 2.4 – Develop and Implement Technology To Succeed

No update this month.

Objective 2.5 – Model Environmental Sustainability

No update this month.

NEWS WORTH SHARING

The Puget Sound Zero Emission Truck Collaborative just released the Decarbonizing Drayage Roadmap to) – a shared vision and strategy to guide the transition to zero-emission drayage trucks in the Puget Sound region. Read all about it, and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency’s role here.

[Puget Sound Zero-Emission Truck Collaborative](#)

Climate Action Art Contest in all four counties: Share your passion for art and the environment! Enter the Creative Climate Action art contest for a chance to have your artwork featured in the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency’s Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Learn more and enter at [Creative Climate Action Art Contest | Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, WA](#)

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency posted a [web version](#) of the annual data summary for 2024 last month, which compares our monitored levels to EPA’s health-based national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). In 2024, the region had generally cleaner air than recent years, largely due to the lower incidence of wildfire smoke.

2025 BOARD MEETING DATES

January 23

February 27

March 27

April 24

May 22

June 18- Adjusted for holiday

July 24

September 25

October 23 -In person Board retreat

November 20– Board-Advisory-Council Joint Hybrid Meeting

December 18

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine S. Cooley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Christine S. Cooley
Executive Director