



FOCUS *on groundwater cleanup grants*

Area-wide Groundwater Remediation Grants

The purpose of the area-wide groundwater remediation grant is to enable local governments to assist the cleanup and redevelopment of property within their jurisdictions where ground water has been contaminated by hazardous substances from multiple sources. The goal is to develop area-wide solutions, including investigation work plans, model remedies or area-wide determinations on whether ground water is drinkable.

What is the definition of area-wide groundwater contamination?

Chapter 173-322-020 in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) defines area-wide groundwater contamination as “multiple adjacent properties with different ownerships affected by hazardous substances from multiple sources that have resulted in commingled plumes of contaminated ground water that are not practicable to address separately.”

Who can apply for these grants?

Only a local government eligible for financial assistance may apply for the area-wide groundwater remediation grants. “Local government” means any political subdivision, regional-government unit, district, municipal or public corporation, including cities, towns and counties. The local government may be a potentially liable party at a site, may own a site but is not liable for contamination, or does not own a site but applies for a grant to facilitate the cleanup of contaminated ground water at a site in its jurisdiction.

What is the match requirement?

Requirements for a local government to financially match grant amounts can range between 0 and 50 percent. Local governments may apply contributions and reimbursements obtained from property owners to the match amount.

Do grant funds have to be repaid?

Grants given to local governments to clean up area-wide groundwater contamination must be partially repaid to Ecology when private parties own the affected properties. Ecology expects local governments to maximize grant use by obtaining some reimbursement from potentially liable persons. Ecology will determine the pay-back amount on a case-by-case basis and repayment terms will be included in the grant agreement between Ecology and the local government.

When will Ecology accept applications?

Ecology is currently accepting applications for area-wide groundwater contamination cleanup funding under the Remedial Action Grant Program.

What are the eligibility requirements?

The local government must agree to administer or manage the grant and to act as the project lead or sponsor. Ecology will negotiate with local government on a scope of work to include in the grant agreement.

What kinds of remediation activities are eligible for financial assistance?

Eligible remedial activities are those that identify, eliminate, or minimize a threat or potential threat posed by hazardous substances to human health or the environment.

What project costs do these grants cover?

Eligible expenses include reasonable costs incurred in performing:

- Remedial investigations
- Feasibility studies
- Remedial designs
- Pilot studies
- Interim actions
- Cleanup action plans
- Landfill closures as required by WAC chapters 173-304 and 173-351, if included in an order or decree for remedial action
- Other remedial actions included in the order or decree for contamination cleanup
- Capital costs of long-term monitoring systems
- Operation and maintenance costs incurred during the first year of accomplishing the cleanup action after facilities and equipment have been installed or constructed

What costs are not eligible?

Ineligible costs include:

- Legal fees and penalties
- Oversight costs
- Operation and maintenance costs after the first year of accomplishing the remedial action and costs of long-term monitoring
- Retroactive costs, except as limited by WAC 173-322-100
- Costs incurred to meet departmental requirements for source control and prevention

For more information

If you have questions or would like further information, contact Diane R. Singer, grant manager, Area-wide Groundwater Remediation Grants

Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program, Department of Ecology

Phone: 360-407-6062, FAX: 360-407-7157, or e-mail at dire461@ecy.wa.gov

The Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity agency and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled veteran's status, Vietnam Era veteran's status, or sexual orientation.

If you have special accommodation needs, contact Michelle Payne at 360-407-6129 (Voice), 711 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY), or email mdav461@ecy.wa.gov