

Washington Environmental Justice Council

2023-2025 Budget Recommendations for the Legislature

Adopted by the Environmental Justice Council on February 28, 2023

Recommendation 1: Additional HEAL Agency Funding to implement the HEAL Act

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Council recommends that the House and Senate include in their 2023-2025 budgets the same level of **additional, ongoing** funding for Healthy Environment for All (HEAL Act) implementation as was included in the Governor's budget (see Appendix A). This includes additional funding for the:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Health
- Department of Natural Resources
- Puget Sound Partnership
- *Washington State Department of Transportation and Department of Ecology*¹

It is important that these are ongoing funds and not one-time funds as HEAL implementation is ongoing work. The Council also recommends including additional funding for community and Tribal participation for HEAL implementation as ongoing funding.

Recommendation 2: Capacity Grants for Environmental Health Disparities Map Updates

The EJ Council recommends that the House and Senate include additional funds for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop a specific fund for and administer capacity grants to Tribes and Tribal organizations and additional funds for DOH to develop a specific fund for and administer capacity grants to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations to provide guidance and input to DOH to update the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map.

Because the EHD map needs to be continually updated, these capacity grants need to be ongoing and not one-time funds. Capacity grant funding for DOH to update the EHD map would be in addition to funding for the Department of Health to implement the HEAL Act, as outlined in Recommendation 1.

¹ Staff Note: The Washington State Department of Transportation and the Department of Ecology did not request *additional* funding, but both have *ongoing carry forward* funding in the Governor's 2023-2025 proposed budget that should be included in the House and Senate budgets as well.

The EJ Council directs staff to work with Council Members and others as needed to develop budget estimates and budget proviso language that are commensurate with the tasks and meet the following principles:

- Funding is available for any Tribe that chooses to engage.
- Funding for Tribal capacity grants be sufficient for a Tribe to develop its own capacity to understand the EHD map and the Tribe's own data and environmental health priorities, as well as to fund the time needed to participate in DOH engagement opportunities.
- Funding for community capacity grants be sufficient for community organizations to develop their capacity to understand the EHD map, to develop local data, and understand the community's environmental health priorities, as well as to fund the time needed to participate in DOH engagement opportunities.
- Funding is available for DOH to develop the grant processes with meaningful input from Tribes, Tribal organizations, and communities and to administer the grant program.
- Funding is easily accessible to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and communities.

Proposed Proviso (drafted by staff): Funding for the Department of Health to Administer a Capacity Grant Program for Communities and Tribes to Provide Guidance on HEAL Act Implementation and Environmental Health Disparities Map Updates

\$13,177,500 for fiscal year 2024 and \$13,177,500 for fiscal year 2025 is provided solely for the department to administer capacity grants to tribes, tribal organizations, overburdened communities, and vulnerable populations to provide guidance and input to agencies and the environmental justice council on HEAL implementation and to the department to update the environmental health disparities map.

Note: funding estimate based on:

- \$4,350,000 for tribes and tribal organizations to hire staff or contract with consultants to engage with agencies and the Environmental Justice Council on HEAL implementation.
- \$4,650,000 for tribes and tribal organizations to hire staff or contract with consultants to engage in updating the environmental health disparities map.
- \$2,500,000 for community grants for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations to engage with agencies and the Council on HEAL implementation.
- \$500,000 for community grants for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations to engage in updating the environmental health disparities map.
- 7.85 FTE and \$1,177,500 for DOH to administer community/tribal capacity grant programs.

Recommendation 3: Funding a Portal that Tracks Progress on the Status and Outcomes of Washington's Climate Commitment Act Investments

The EJ Council recommends that the House and Senate fund a portal that tracks progress on the status and outcomes of Washington's Climate Commitment Act investments. Data shared on the website should include but not be limited to cumulative and annual outcomes including

fiscal information, estimates of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and co-benefits from project investments, statistics on benefits to overburdened and tribal communities and program accomplishments. Data visualization tools should be utilized in a variety of ways and be inclusive of investments that are tribal priorities identified by tribal governments, in overburdened communities and on tribal land in addition to other geographical ways to present where investments have been made.

There will need to be initial funding to develop the portal in the 2023-2025 biennium and then ongoing funding to maintain and update the portal in future biennia. The EJ Council directs staff to work with Council Members and others as needed to develop budget estimates that meet the following principles:

- Funding is available to ensure the portal is developed with meaningful input from Tribes and communities.
- Funding is sufficient to ensure access.

Proposed Proviso (drafted by staff): Funding a Portal at the Office of Financial Management that Tracks Progress on the Status and Outcomes of Washington's Climate Commitment Act Investments

\$508,000 of the Climate Investment Account is provided solely for the office to develop a web-based portal that tracks Washington's Climate Commitment Act investments and their outcomes.

- a) Information shared on the portal should include but is not limited to:
 - (i) Cumulative and annual investments;
 - (ii) The geographic location of funding to be invested;
 - (iii) Benefits to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities;
 - (iv) Co-benefits, accomplishments and measurable outcomes of investments including greenhouse gas emissions reductions where appropriate; and
 - (v) Investments that are tribal priorities supported by a resolution of an Indian tribe per RCW 70a.65.230, on both tribal and non-tribal land.
- b) In addition to traditional mapping, the office should utilize a variety of data visualization tools to present this information.

Note: funding estimate based on 2.5 FTE and \$477,000 for portal development and community outreach and \$31,000 for the cost of community/tribal engagement meetings to inform the portal beginning July 1, 2024 (FY25) with ongoing costs of \$483,000 a year.

Appendix A:

1. Department of Agriculture² HEAL and PEAR funding included in the Governor's Budget:

- a. \$406,000/biennium in addition to carryforward HEAL funds from last biennium
- b. Environmental Justice and Pro-Equity Anti-Racism PEAR: Ongoing funding to sustain community engagement in support of integrating requirements of the HEAL Act. By compensating members of part-time boards and commissions, the Department of Agriculture can strengthen its antiracist and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts so the state's agricultural industry serves all Washingtonians.

2. Department of Commerce HEAL funding included in the Governor's Budget:

- a. \$3,096,000/biennium
- b. Funding is provided for the Department of Commerce to continue implementing the HEAL Act. Funds will support staffing to meet agency requirements including creating a framework for incorporating environmental justice principles and assessments into the agency's work in a broad portfolio of programs.

3. Department of Health³ HEAL funding included in the Governor's Budget:

- a. \$9,156,000/biennium in addition to carryforward HEAL funds from last biennium
- b. Department of Health has four areas of implementation work under the HEAL Act and this additional funding will support the Department in meeting its broad obligations. These four areas are:
 - i. Staffing and resources the Environmental Justice Council.
 - ii. Maintaining and updating the Environmental Health Disparities map with input and guidance from Tribes, overburdened communities, vulnerable populations, and other partners.
 - iii. Continuing to pass through funds for the HEAL Community Participation grant.
 - iv. Meeting the HEAL obligations for covered agencies.

4. Department of Natural Resources⁴ HEAL funding included in the Governor's Budget:

- a. \$1,467,000/biennium in addition to carryforward HEAL funds from last biennium
- b. Funding is to add capacity to meet the obligations in HEAL Act by building staff capacity, providing contracted services, and developing the community relationships for the agency's body of work focused on environmental justice. Additionally, funding allows for centralization of environmental justice work at the agency to allow for better evaluation of progress towards meeting HEAL Act obligations and to increase agency transparency and public participation.

² Department of Agriculture Decision Package: [DP-PL-05-Advancing EJ and PEAR.pdf](#)

³ Department of Health Decision-Package: [DP-PL-EB-Healthy Environmental for All Act \(2\).pdf](#). The amount for Department of Health included in the Governor's Budget was higher than the agency's decision-package. This was a result of adding additional FTE and resources to support Tribal engagement and Consultation and updates on the Environmental Health Disparities map.

⁴ Department of Natural Resources Decision Package: [DP-PL-EJ-Environmental Justice - HEAL Act.pdf](#)

5. **Puget Sound Partnership⁵ HEAL funding included in the Governor’s Budget:**
 - a. \$778,000/biennium in addition to carryforward HEAL funds from last biennium
 - b. Puget Sound Partnership's equity and environmental justice program leads and supports community-based Puget Sound restoration and protection efforts across the region. This funding will create sustained capacity for the agency to implement and promote equity and environmental justice for all Puget Sound residents, as required the HEAL Act.
 6. **Washington State Department of Transportation and Department of Ecology:**
 - a. WSDOT received \$1,026,000 to implement HEAL in the 2021-2023 biennium and received an additional \$1,049,000 in the carry-forward step, for a total of \$2,075,000 ongoing funding in the Governor’s 2023-2025 biennial budget.⁶
 - b. The Governor’s 2023-2025 biennial budget includes \$1,608,000 ongoing funding for the Department of Ecology to implement HEAL.⁷
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Recipients:

Members of the following Legislative Committees and committee staff:

- Senate Ways and Means
- Senate Transportation
- Senate Environment, Energy & Technology
- Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks
- House Appropriations
- House Capital Budget
- House Transportation
- House Environment & Energy
- House Agriculture & Natural Resources

Governor Jay Inslee and Governor’s Office and Office of Financial Management staff:

- Jamila Thomas, Governor’s Chief of Staff
- Drew Shirk, Governor’s Executive Director of Legislative Affairs
- Nick Streuli, Governor’s Executive Director of Policy & Outreach
- Becky Kelley, Governor’s Senior Policy Advisor on Climate
- Carrie Sessions, Governor’s Senior Policy Advisor on Environment & Water
- Anna Lising, Governor’s Senior Policy Advisor on Energy
- Debbie Driver, Governor’s Senior Policy Advisor on Transportation
- David Schumacher, Director, Office of Financial Management

⁵ Puget Sound Partnership Decision Package: [DP-PL-EJ-Advancement of Equity and EJ.pdf](#)

⁶ Office of Financial Management, personal communication, March 8, 2023.

⁷ Department of Ecology, personal communication, March 8, 2023.

- Jim Cahill, Senior Budget Assistant for Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management
- Erik Hansen, Senior Budget Assistant for Transportation, Office of Financial Management
- Jen Masterson, Senior Budget Assistant for Capital, Office of Financial Management
- Robyn Williams, Senior Budget Assistant for Human Services, Office of Financial Management

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Appointed Environmental Justice Council Members:

- Co-Chair Patrick DePoe
- Co-Chair Maria Batayola
- Council Member Nichole Banegas
- Council Member Maria Blancas
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- Council Member Aurora Martin
- Council Member David Mendoza
- Council Member Esther Min
- Council Member Todd Mitchell
- The Honorable Misty Napeahi
- Honorable Sylvia Miller
- The Honorable Annette M. Bryan, Delegate for the Honorable Sylvia Miller
- Council Member NiRae Petty
- Council Member Lua Pritchard
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware

Environmental Justice Council Ex Officio Agency Liaisons:

- Ex Officio Liaison for Puget Sound Partnership Laura Blackmore
- Ex Officio Liaison for Department of Commerce Michael Furze
- Ex Officio Liaison for Department of Agriculture Nicole Johnson
- Ex Officio Liaison for Department of Ecology Millie Piazza
- Ex Officio Liaison for Department of Health Lauren Jenks
- Ex Officio Liaison for Department of Natural Resources Eliseo (EJ) Juárez
- Ex Officio Liaison for Department of Transportation Ahmer Nizam