

Community Meeting Summary

Environmental Justice Council

DRAFT

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Overview

On May 2, 2024, the Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council) held a community meeting at Heritage University in Toppenish, WA to identify environmental concerns communities are experiencing across Central Washington.

On May 3, 2024, the EJ Council held a business meeting in Yakima, WA. At this meeting EJ Council staff shared some [preliminary findings](#) from the community meeting and recommended actions the Council could take.

Below is a comprehensive list of concerns our staff were able to document categorized by topic from A-Z. While the goal of the Council is to have enough staff and other resources to meaningfully follow-up and work toward change for every comment, the Council currently does not have enough resources to do this. We want to work with the community to prioritize possible Council actions (such as those proposed below) and focus the Council's resources on the community's highest priorities.

EJ Council Potential Actions

As an advisory body, the Council influences state agencies, the Governor, and the Legislature by providing guidance and recommendations.

The EJ Council can direct staff to:

- Learn more by following up with Tribes and communities, collaborating with state agencies, conducting research, requesting legal analysis, etc.
- Amplify Tribal and community concerns, ideas, and solutions to state agencies, the Governor, the Legislature, and/or other decision-makers.
- Refer an issue to the appropriate state agency and report back to the Council on agency actions.

The EJ Council has authority under RCW 70A.02.110 and RCW 70A.65.040 to make recommendations and issue guidance including, but not limited to:

- Guidance to agencies on implementation of the HEAL Act, RCW 70A.02.110(9b, 9c)

- Recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve agency compliance with the HEAL Act, RCW 70A.02.110(9c(v))
- Policy recommendations to promote and achieve the environmental justice goals of the state, RCW 70A.02.110(11b, 11c).
- Recommendations to agencies to submit environmental justice agency-request legislation, RCW 70A.02.110(11d).
- Recommendations for funding to build capacity in overburdened communities and vulnerable populations., RCW 70A.02.110(11f).
- Recommendations to the Legislature, agencies, and the Governor on the development and implementation of the cap and invest program, RCW 70A.65.040(1)
- Budget recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on the programs funded by the Climate Commitment Act accounts, RCW 70A.65.040(1).

Acronyms

AGO	Attorney General’s Office(https://www.atg.wa.gov/)
AGR	Department of Agriculture (https://agr.wa.gov/)
CBA	Community Benefit Agreement
COM	Department of Commerce(https://www.commerce.wa.gov/)
ECY	Department of Ecology (https://ecology.wa.gov/)
EFSEC	Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (https://www.efsec.wa.gov/)
EJC	Environmental Justice Council (https://waportal.org/partners/environmental-justice-council)
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (https://www.ferc.gov/)
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (See UNDRIP)
DOH	Department of Health (https://doh.wa.gov/)
HEAL	Healthy Environment for All Act (RCW 70A.02 Environmental Justice)

- IAWG** HEAL Interagency Working Group
- L&I** Department of Labor & Industries (<https://www.lni.wa.gov/>)
- SEPA** State Environmental Protection Act ([RCW 43.21C State Environmental Policy](#))
- NEPA** National Environmental Protection Act (<https://ceq.doe.gov/>)
- UNDRIP** United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([Resolution 61/295](#))
- WSDOT** Department of Transportation (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/>)

1. Community Engagement

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
1.1	EJ Council can do more of this, have listening sessions for every part of every community. Heritage University is a good start. But so many points in Yakima (Wapato, etc.). Big county with lots of voices unheard.		Direct EJ Council staff to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) hold additional community meetings across Central Washington, particularly in the Lower Yakima Valley. 2) provide engagement opportunities that are tailored to community needs (community forums, working with a specific state agency, education, etc.). 3) provide engagement opportunities for linguistically isolated populations to engage in their first language. 4) follow up with community to develop a more thorough engagement effort with priority meeting locations.
1.2	Make state legislators aware that horse-trading with real issues in		Direct EJ Council staff to prioritize outreach in rural areas to understand and amplify issues

	rural Washington should not be a thing. Talk to community members directly in those areas – NOT BUSINESS INTERESTS. If you want to hear about what effects you would have with your policies talk to the communities, and bypass legislators from the area that are willing to trade away community health.		impacting rural communities to Legislators, state agencies and other decision-makers.
1.3	Must provide food and childcare. That is essential for community events/outreach.		<p>EJ Council Community Engagement Values and Guidance center accessibility and reciprocity in the form of compensation, food, etc. This community guidance centers how important it is for the EJ Council to provide these resources in its own engagement.</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to meet with the HEAL Interagency Working Group (IAWG) Community Engagement Committee to identify and address barriers to providing food and childcare at state hosted events.</p>
1.4	Not thinking forward, just thinking status quo. Still thinking small. Heritage has an environmental science program. Those individuals would have insights on forum for this discussion. Good idea to invite youth to events.		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) connect with Heritage University’s Environmental Science Program. 2) continue developing the EJC Community Engagement Plan with a focus on long-term planning.

1.5	Subject affects Hispanic community. Go to the stores to talk to people at the stores. Invite them at the stores to come to these types of events and to let them know it's good for them to attend.		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to continue building relationships with community.</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to develop outreach methods with community to address barriers to engagement. This could look like holding outreach in a linguistically isolated population's first language, minimizing community risk to participate (e.g. ways to participate anonymously to reduce the risk of retaliation from an employer or other risks), and building trust with community.</p>
1.6	Dairy Federation is a part of the Ground Water Management Area in Lower Yakima Valley implementation team. Eight state and local agencies on this and the Dairy Federation has a seat at the table, and they are not a state agency, they are a special interest group.		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to research and understand this circumstance and reasoning so the EJ Council may consider course of action.</p>
1.7	Need ongoing learning process. Thrive with immigrant communities in our area, and don't just get one wave of immigrants, get continued immigrants which means need ongoing education.		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to work with community to better understand the need. Is it a lack of educational opportunities? Lack of language accessible materials? Something else?</p>
1.8	Need interpretation outside of Spanish. Getting immigrants [and refugees] from Haiti (for example).		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about state government processes and resources for language accessibility. Identify what is</p>

	Making sure government agencies aware of that. Need education piece always happening as new community members come in.		contributing to the lack of accessible materials for recent waves of immigrants like the Haitian community in Yakima.
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2. Dam Removal

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
2.1	Removal of the Lower Snake River Dam to bring back the salmon.		Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about dam removal efforts and ways the Environmental Justice Council could support Tribal and community-driven solutions for salmon restoration.

3. Energy

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
3.1	Community voiced concerns about an energy storing hydraulic station being built in upper Yakima and a biomethane plant being built in Sunnyside (concerns about fire and endangering children and always smelling of cattle).		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to identify the energy development.</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about the current status of these projects.</p>
3.2	For the Sunnyside Biogas digester there was insufficient community		Direct EJ Council staff to research Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

	<p>outreach. They reached out after the decision was already made. Population doesn't even know what's being affected. Education piece about rights and what your health should look like is important. The smell of the air in Sunnyside</p>	<p>(EFSEC) and other energy siting processes (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, etc.).</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to follow-up with community to identify energy siting processes and practices that need to change in order to meaningfully engage in the decision-making process.</p>
3.3	<p>Low Carbon Fuel standard. One fuel with negative carbon intensity—methane fuel (-150 carbon intensity). If someone selling natural gas, they only have to blend in 6% of methane gas to comply</p>	<p>Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.</p>
3.4	<p>Utilities no longer pay out for excess electricity generated by rooftop solar, now it goes to energy assistance program, but homeowner can't claim the tax write off. Intentionally not incentivizing rooftop solar because industry not interested in people moving to rooftop solar.</p>	<p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about this issue and which jurisdictions have decision-making power on this issue.</p>
3.5	<p>Power development also raises property taxes. Power being generated do not necessarily stay</p>	<p>Direct EJ Council staff to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Follow up with communities to learn more about these issues,

	within the communities where they are sited.		<p>their impacts, and potential solutions</p> <p>2) Identify and meet with relevant agencies to learn more about how impacts to property taxes and local economies are considered when siting energy developments</p>
3.6	Demand a community benefit agreement when industry proposes siting for a clean energy project.		Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about community benefit agreements and their effectiveness in addressing negative impacts to the local community, what current policies and processes exist around community benefit agreements, and what policy or process changes may be needed.
3.7	Concerns about solar panel farms taking over agricultural land.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.
3.8		Creation of an off the grid farm.	Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about this proposed idea.
3.9	Reason talking about big sites in central and Eastern WA for clean energy siting is because that is where the utilities are. One solution is doing smaller rooftop solar. In the current model it's against utilities vested interest so they stop community solar		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about community-scale rooftop solar development.

	<p>products. Utilities argue that rates go up then high-income customers can afford rooftop solar and that drives up rates for low-income consumers. This is fake equity arguments from industry-- “fakequity.”</p>		
3.10	<p>Huge explosion on the east side of Toppenish. Sugar mill. Corporation came in to start gas transport. You could see visible gas in the air. Community-Based Organizations have a voice, but not as powerful as city or county to take action unless it becomes an emergency. This was located next to Tribal Housing. Putting things where there are communities who have already been historically harmed at risk again. Who is accountable, the company or city leaders?</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about laws/standards for liquid natural gas and other energy facilities’ proximity to housing, emergency procedures for hazards, and enforcement when those laws and standards are not followed.</p>
3.11	<p>Goldendale – this is about values, non-traditional values. Yakama Nation is impacted. Environmental project planned for Goldendale. Aluminum processing plant in Goldendale for many years. Superfund site. Low water flow at times. Plan to take water from river during periods of high flow and pump it up to the holding tank, and</p>		<p>On July 2, 2024, at its special meeting, the Council adopted a statement uplifting Tribal Sovereignty; Self Determination; and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to work with Tribes and communities to identify policy and process changes that affirms Tribal</p>

	<p>then let it flow back to the river during low flow to generate electricity. This is a sacred cite for Yakama people. Yakama is resisting Goldendale.</p> <p>Contact Columbia River Keeper to find out how to sign on to petitions to find a better location.</p> <p>Frustrating because developers get so set on a specific location.</p> <p>One approach being discussed is “least conflict siting”—finding areas that don’t impact Tribal sovereignty, endangered species. Tribal Gov’s are reluctant to identify those areas because don’t want people to know where sacred sites are.</p>		<p>sovereignty throughout the energy siting process.</p>
3.12	<p>Electrify tractors. Need willingness of the farmer to move forward with electrifying tractors.</p>		<p>Work with Department of Agriculture and Commerce to learn more about farm equipment electrification (initiatives, funding, etc.).</p>

4. Farmworker Rights & Safety

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
4.1	<p>Workers have immediate needs right now, housing and food.</p>		<p>Follow up with community to identify solutions and areas the EJ Council can amplify.</p>

4.2	There has not been a farmworker housing study since 2007.	Need to do a new one.	Direct EJ Council staff to work with the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce to learn more about the 2007 farmworker housing study conducted by the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development and opportunities to update the study (now known as the Department of Commerce).
4.3	Labor & Industries (L&I) does not care about the farmworkers, about workers comp, pay, or environmental exposures.		Direct EJ Council staff to investigate specific barriers and concerns and refine understanding to recommend course of action.
4.4	Cannabis growers are not included as farmworkers.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community and meet with the Department of Agriculture to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.
4.5	Create shade structures.		This is a Department of Labor and Industries rule. Agriculture, Chapter 296-307, WAC Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community and meet with the Department of Labor & Industries to learn more about how this rule is being met, enforced, permitted and what difference between rule and reality creates the concern.
4.6	Employers are not providing equipment when applying pesticides.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community and meeting with the Departments of Labor and Industries, Agriculture, and Health to learn more about

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the scale of the issue 2) limitations and barriers agencies are facing to enforce and improve workers' safety (e.g. insufficient funding, understaffing, insufficient education to workers and employers, etc.) 3) employer requirements and where those are not being followed or enforced and where those are insufficient.
4.7	Permitting of pesticides. No communication to workers.		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to collaborate with the Department of Labor and Industries, Department of Agriculture, and other appropriate state agencies to map state resources around worker's rights and safety and chart a path forward for sharing information with community around worker's rights and resources available (e.g. Know Your Rights workshops in partnership with community organizations).</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to meet with Departments of Agriculture, Labor and Industries, and Health to amplify this concern and learn about requirements and where those are not being followed or enforced or are not sufficient.</p>

5. Industrial Agriculture

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
5.1	<p>We need to mitigate for the problems of corporate agriculture. One example is the negative impact of heat islands.</p> <p>We also need to build local food production, a skilled workforce, and state resilience in times of crisis.</p>	<p>To address these issues, we need to create farmworker land trusts or co-ops so that farmworkers can co-own large pieces of land and envision together. There would need to be enough money for capital and improvements (infrastructure) for the land, not just the land.</p>	<p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about existing farmworker land cooperatives and what it costs. If none exist, learn about other land cooperatives as a model like the Farm to Farmer program.</p> <p>If none exist, consider a budget recommendation to fund the creation of farmworker land cooperatives in Washington State.</p>
5.2	<p>Yakima County does not fall into federal guidelines for agriculture</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council Staff to follow up with community to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.</p>
5.3	<p>Big Ag manages the land in Yakima County. Community is not included in decision-making.</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to research membership in advisory bodies and decision-making bodies in Yakima County and identify areas where community members should have membership to inform decision-making.</p>
5.4	<p>Oppose the EATS Act (Ending Ag Trade Suppression). It's a corporate-backed effort to strip local and state governments of ability to regulate the agricultural industry and would end thousands of existing state and local laws.</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about this issue and its impacts if passed.</p>

5.5	Agricultural industry should not be growing crops where they don't belong.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.
5.6	CCA – where does the money go? CO2 emissions in the area? Dairy facilities have been exempted from CCA. Who will the update on the water rights be for? Agricultural water rights. Look at whole component of food production. (demands and put a timeline). Who is supplying the community and what is being exported? What is being subsidized? Use community input to trigger mapping. Inequity of political power. All the HEAL agencies should be coordinating.		Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.
5.7	Clean fuel standards – ag is exempt.		Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about this issue.
5.8	Heat zones resulting from pesticides. Hop fields creating this because there's not grass and resulting in dry soil.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community and meet with the Department of Agriculture to learn about efforts to address heat zones from pesticide use and hop production and the barriers/limitations to address the problem.

5.9	We need to map the food systems in Washington State looking at the network of workforce, food production, food transportation, etc.		Direct EJ Council staff to research and work with community members who generated this idea to further detail this idea for the Council to consider possible guidance to the various agencies involved in Washington food systems to map out the systems (and to come together to develop a decision-package if agencies cannot complete this work with existing resources).
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6. Invasive Species

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
6.1	Epidemic of Japanese beetles in the area. Cut your lawn and haul the yard waste to Mabton. Solutions are not realistic. With climate change, infestation is going to happen more and more.		Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.

7. Lack of Enforcement

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
7.1	State agencies such as Department of Agriculture and Department of Ecology are not enforcing existing environmental	State agencies should enforce existing environmental protection laws.	Direct EJ Council staff to collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies with enforcement authority including the Attorney General's Office to understand the

	<p>protection laws, which is costing Yakima county residents their lives.</p>	<p>The Attorney General’s Office (AGO) should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) explore where violations are happening. 2) create opportunities for communities to better understand the role of the Attorney General’s Office (AGO), existing environmental protections, and enforcement options. 	<p>current effort to enforce environmental laws and the limitations/barriers various jurisdictions are facing to be effective.</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to understand what they consider to be effective enforcement and what metrics should be used to measure whether environmental protections are upheld.</p> <p>Direct Council staff to work with the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) and local, state, and federal agencies with enforcement authority to request these authorities work in coordination to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) map out the ecosystem of current laws and reporting systems, the gaps in current laws and systems, and what community education is currently being provided; and 2) Address any gaps
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8. Lack of Visibility

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
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8.1	Cannot think of movements that have been powerful enough to get us notice nationwide in this area. The small orgs that have knowledge -- their voice is not yet powerful enough to influence legislation or overall federal policy.		Direct EJ Council staff to work with small community organizations to raise their visibility and influence in state government. Provide continuing education opportunities to community (e.g. workshops covering how to advocate for change and navigate state government).
8.2	There is lack of visibility around environmental justice issues. The term environmental justice is often removed and instead discussed as an economic issue. Cesar Chavez never talked about EJ but the issues impacting farmworkers are EJ. The grape boycott was an EJ issue because it was a safety issue.		Direct EJ Council staff to work with community to develop ways the Environmental Justice Council could raise the visibility of Environmental Justice issues and their intersections with community.

9. Limited Recycling

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
9.1	Don't have a place to recycle. Working on that in the program so we can have containers to recycle. Huge misconception I have heard in different spaces that community does not care about recycling. Not true. The community cares. The real piece is that they have not been allowed to feel a part of the community. How do you feel like you can advocate for this area if you aren't made to feel welcome or a part of the community? Lack of recycling center.		Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about existing efforts to develop recycling facilities and programs including the repeatedly proposed legislation around redemption of water bottles.

<p>Sunnyside is cardboard recycling only. People collect water bottles and take them to Oregon. Proposed legislation around redemption for water bottles and it has been stopped every year for five years. Community members who have immigrated from Mexico care about the environment and are used to using re-usable bags, etc. If had place to collect recycling could make revenue from this as well.</p>		
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10. Permitting

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
10.1	<p>Permitting update process to make sure they are up to SEPA/NEPA standards.</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about the NEPA/SEPA process.</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to understand what updates are needed.</p>
10.2	<p>In Yakima County, facilities have grown without EPA studies. Built underpass. Concentration of CO2 is legal. Inversion issue zone so when they emit it flows. None of the industries have done SEPA/NEPA reviews. Industrial exporting.</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.</p>

10.3	Yakima has annexed land that is known to have pollutants and still three schools were placed there. Huge swaths of land that are previously agricultural that's now being turned into housing developments without cleaning them up.		Direct EJ Council staff follow up with community to learn more about the issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.
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11. Shortfalls of the HEAL Act

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
11.1	Labor and Industries is not a covered agency under the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act		Continue engaging with the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) and consider an EJC policy recommendation to amend the HEAL Act to make Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) a covered agency.
11.2	Gender is not acknowledged in the definition of environmental justice under the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act.		Consider an EJC policy recommendation to amend the HEAL Act to include gender and consider other protected classes in the definition of environmental justice.

12. State Agency Funding Processes

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions

<p>12.1</p>	<p>Harm done to community-based organizations when grants have short timeline and then the government delays getting the money out.</p> <p>People in constant need of services in our community and never enough. Every org here is over capacity. Some orgs have focused their work so that the community can count on them. Community does not understand ins and outs of government funding. Community doesn't want to engage once they have been let down by state funders.</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to coordinate with state agencies to understand the current efforts to address systemic barriers (laws, policies, processes, etc.) community-based organizations face. Consider bringing grant staff from across HEAL agencies together to discuss current barriers and potential solutions.</p>
<p>12.2</p>	<p>Significant issues and extensive barriers to engage with state grant process that harm community-based organizations.</p> <p>This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) no pre-payment/reimbursement only options 2) high barrier applications and reporting requirements 3) short timelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) EJ Council has a responsibility to recommend agencies look collectively at these barriers. 2) Remove barriers for community-based organizations to access funds (like reimbursement, reporting and contracting requirements for the grants themselves, make something more uniform across the seven HEAL agencies at least). 3) Consider your grant timelines and also the seasonality of agricultural work when creating timelines 	<p>Direct EJ Council staff to coordinate with state agencies to understand the current efforts to address systemic barriers (laws, policies, processes, etc.) community-based organizations face. Consider bringing grant staff from across HEAL agencies together to discuss current barriers and potential solutions (staff-recommended EJC potential action for 13.1).</p>

<p>4) one time funding</p> <p>5) slow payments from agencies that often mean organizations can't pay staff and may lose staff</p> <p>6) grant stipulations that don't allow the funds to be used for staff salaries and benefits, for providing food or childcare at community events, for interest payments on loans required to cover up-front costs needed because of the reimbursement only system, or other costs essential to do the work.</p>	<p>Accessibility of services. If event during harvest season it is not accessible.</p> <p>4) Communities engage with community-based organizations because they meet a need. Grant dollars need to be able to be spent on food, childcare, basic needs. community-based organizations need their funding to allow them to provide childcare at events.</p> <p>5) Remove barriers for community-based organizations to access funds (like reimbursement, reporting and contracting requirements for the grants themselves, make something more uniform across the seven HEAL agencies at least).</p> <p>6) When think of funding think of small orgs—include staff time as allowable expense.</p> <p>7) Meeting basic needs in community as capacity building for communities to engage with state processes Need to include money for staff, benefits, and supplies.</p>	
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12.3	<p>One other tension at play is the two-year budget cycle and the legislature. Legislators expressing frustration that money not going out the door. Build flexibility in the budget language so know there is a path not a sharp cliff at the end of the session.</p> <p>Funding trends, what's in fashion today. EJ (environmental justice) is in fashion for funding. To not have that continuity to be able to look at and fund these issues. That gets cut so fast.</p>	<p>Ensure that the projects can be sustained when we start it. Don't just give grant for a year but be able to sustain it whether it's a grant or giving air filters, because community-based organization loses trust with community because of agency actions not the community-based organizations.</p>	<p>Consider an EJ Council recommendation to the Governor and Legislature about the harms or one-time funding and the need for more long-term, reliable funding.</p>
12.4	<p>State grant programs don't provide pre-payment to organizations, and will only reimburse community-based organizations. Many organizations, particularly small organizations, can not afford up-front-costs and waiting for reimbursement. This is an equity issue.</p>	<p>1) Trust or Revolving Fund—think about trust or revolving fund so that it goes quicker. Yakima Valley Community Fund is doing revolving fund holding Commerce funds (25M). Two problems, how to quickly build the money into the org so can quickly hire staff, and also to prevent reimbursement only. Senator Hasegawa wanted to do public bank. Two models: a) One lends money out for specific things (like utility trucks in rural areas)</p>	<p>Direct EJ Council staff to investigate a trust, revolving fund, and other solutions that could address barriers listed in this section.</p>

		<p>b) In King County able to do what is called front pay for % of grant to start hiring staff.</p> <p>One possibility would be to put CCA money allocated into a hold account that can gain interest. Then community-based organizations has debit dollars that you can regrant out/allocate out/purchase capital</p> <p>2) Allow grant application to include interest rates on loans so that interest does not come out of the community-based organizations' pocket.</p>	
12.5	Regarding the Department of Health's Workers Safety Grant: Communities need these resources now.	Community-based organizations know what are needed for worker safety grants—don't need to keep asking communities to take their time to share that info.	The Department of Health's Worker Safety Grants staff was present at the May 2 community meeting to receive this feedback.
12.6	IRS rule that they can't give you grant that is more than 1/3 of operating budget.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to understand how this IRS rule impacts small community-based organizations.
12.7	Small community-based organizations don't have grant writing staff and the reporting is too arduous. Need more accessible forms for grant applications.	Focus on ease for community-based organizations throughout the grant application and reporting process.	Direct EJ Council staff to coordinate with state agencies to understand the current efforts to address systemic barriers (laws,

			<p>policies, processes, etc.) community-based organizations face. Consider bringing grant staff from across HEAL agencies together to discuss current barriers and potential solutions (staff-recommended EJC potential action for 13.1).</p>
12.8	<p>Water filters as example of a good attempt but not well thought out. Our community moves, they are going from one home or area to another, not necessarily knowing they don't have good drinking water. We worked to get filters into homes, then folks moved or needed those filters updated and NO follow-up dollars. But since we were the convener/interpreter community was coming to our community-based organization for info. Who is accountable? Should landlords be required to make sure the home has updated filter?</p> <p>If not thinking through providing money for one-time services, then it creates more trash in communities and undermines the trust if the community-based organization can't answer questions back to community (don't</p>		<p>Consider an EJ Council recommendation to the Governor and Legislature about the harms or one-time funding and the need for more long-term, reliable funding. (staff-recommended EJC potential action for 13.3).</p>

	<p>know if there is more state funds, or when their will be).</p> <p>Community-based organizations lost doners because acknowledging the fact that the there was an EJ issues.</p>		
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13. Transportation

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
13.1	<p>Will the highway project stay the same, or will it be diverted/changed? How are those costs justified for environmental mitigation?</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about the issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.</p>
13.2	<p>Yakima’s public transportation system is disconnected, and almost nonexistent in the rural communities.</p>		<p>If the CCA is not repealed, on January 1, 2025, the Department of Transportation will receive \$900,000 to conduct additional analysis into disparities in access to transit.</p> <p>Direct EJ Council staff to meet with Department of Transportation to amplify this concern and learn about how they will engage with communities in Yakima County in conducting these analyses.</p>
13.3	<p>Transportation issue – investment is non-existent. Trucks go by and dust comes up.</p>		<p>Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.</p>

13.4	Lack of mitigation on road pollutants, so weather/rain puts it into the rivers and waterways and into farmlands. That pollutes the orchards unless farmer has adequate filtration.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about this issue, its impacts, and potential solutions.
13.5	Pollutants coming off the road (6PPD - Department of Ecology and Department of Transportation working on it). Ecology is finishing up their 6PPD plan which has 36 recommendations. Miles traveled is correlated to reduction of 6PPD. Truck traffic running through downtown Yakima and the weight limits not being enforced.		Direct EJ Council staff to meet with Departments of Transportation and Ecology to learn more about the 6PPD plan, weight limit laws, and enforcement, specifically in downtown Yakima.

14. Water

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
14.1	Getting input for rebuilding the irrigation system. Visioning a new irrigation system.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community to learn more about this project, its impacts, and potential solutions.
14.2	Is anybody looking at water quality statewide? We need to be doing this.		Direct EJ Council staff to work with Departments of Ecology and Health to learn more about state-wide water quality management.
14.3	Moxee, WA – discoloration and smelling in water		Direct EJ Council staff to engage the Moxee community on water quality issues.

			Direct EJ Council staff to work with the Departments of Health and Ecology to learn more about this issue.
14.4	Outlook, WA water still not drinkable. Dairies required to put filtration system in. They truck in drinking water.		Direct EJ Council staff to engage the Outlook community on water quality issues. Direct EJ Council staff to work with the Departments of Health and Ecology to learn more about this issue.
14.5	Decrease use of water for irrigation. Slow water down in the irrigation system. Farmers need to know how much water their plants use. Look into the CA system for water usage.	Water distribution/water rights distribution – something the EJC could map	Direct EJ Council staff to work with Departments of Ecology and Agriculture to learn more about agricultural water usage and planning and state government's ability to map water distribution.
14.6	Huge issue in the Selah area, water outside training center completely contaminated. PFAS chemicals in the water system. 100s of useless wells. Getting water from the military but does not fix contamination. No guarantee it stays contained to this area because underwater aquifers.		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with the Selah community, as well as the Departments of Health and Ecology to learn more about ongoing efforts to address the problem and how the Environmental Justice Council could support both immediate and long-term solutions.
14.7	There is no way to prevent fire retardants flowing into the river. No drain system		Direct EJ Council staff to follow up with community and meet with the

	that's functioning. Using irrigation system which is an evaporation system.		Departments of Ecology and Transportation to learn more about fire retardant procedures, current drain systems in place and if there are existing laws in place to prevent fire retardants from flowing into the river.
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15. Wildfire

#	Community-Identified Concerns and Issues	Community-Identified Ideas and Solutions	EJC Potential Actions
15.1	Prepare before, during, and after wildfires come. Smoke is affecting us, and agricultural workers are breathing that smoke. Local org is taking precautions to prepare for the wildfire smoke. Focusing on pregnant women and elders so prepared for smoke. Making sure our community knows how to sign up for air quality reports and read them. And know when they should not be working outdoors. Don't know that they have the right to not be working in those conditions. Give them those resources, help them sign up for those alerts. Sign-up process for alerts not available in Spanish. Responsible agency would be the Emergency Response (city level)		Direct EJ Council staff to research air quality/smoke alert systems and the responsible agency/party and elevate the language access barriers created by an English-only sign-up systems.