

Environmental Justice Council

January 29, 2026 Meeting Materials

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Consejo de Justicia Ambiental

Jueves 29 de enero de 2026

De 3:30 p. m. a 6:30 p. m.

Para unirse al seminario web, haga clic en el siguiente enlace:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81747864781>

Id. del seminario web: 817 4786 4781

O únase por teléfono: +1 253 215 8782

Id. del seminario web: 817 4786 4781

Números internacionales disponibles: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6MqgTvTL>

Objetivos de la reunión

1. Aprender de un grupo de la comunidad sobre las preocupaciones, problemas, ideas, soluciones y victorias en materia de justicia ambiental en su comunidad.
2. Recibir un informe sobre la sesión legislativa de 2026 hasta el momento, incluidas actualizaciones sobre la propuesta presupuestaria del gobernador. Tomar medidas del Consejo en respuesta si es necesario.
3. Discutir y posiblemente adoptar una carta de presentación para los [Valores y principios presupuestarios](#) del Consejo.
4. Recibir una actualización del Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington sobre su trabajo para mejorar la calidad del aire debido a las emisiones de instalaciones ubicadas en comunidades de primera línea o cerca de ellas.
5. Revisar, debatir y considerar la posibilidad de adoptar la comunicación del Consejo ante el público, el gobernador y la Legislatura para 2025 de conformidad con la [sección 70A.02.110\(9\)\(d\) del RCW](#) (por su sigla en inglés, Código Revisado de Washington) (solo en inglés).
6. Discutir y posiblemente adoptar las fechas de las reuniones del Consejo para el primer y segundo trimestre, e identificar una ubicación para una reunión presencial de primavera.

Orden del día

A las 3:20 p. m., los invitamos a participar de una presentación sobre cómo activar los subtítulos descriptivos y cómo unirse al canal de interpretación en español o ASL (por su sigla en inglés, lengua de signos estadounidense).

De 3:30 p. m. a 3:35 p. m.	I. Bienvenida y pase de lista para verificar que haya cuórum	Copresidenta Tatiana Brown Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson Miembros del Consejo
De 3:35 p. m. a 3:40 p. m.	II. Aprobación del orden del día por parte del Consejo III. Aprobación de las notas de la reunión del 4 de diciembre de 2025 por parte del Consejo - Posibles medidas del Consejo	Maria Batayola, miembro del Consejo Miembros del Consejo
De 3:40 p. m. a 3:55 p. m.	IV. Comentarios del público	Copresidenta Tatiana Brown
De 3:55 p. m. a 4:05 p. m.	V. Conexión con la comunidad del EJC (por su sigla en inglés, Consejo de Justicia Ambiental) Objetivo: Aprender de un grupo de la comunidad sobre las preocupaciones, problemas, ideas, soluciones y victorias en materia de justicia ambiental en su comunidad.	Maria Batayola, miembro del Consejo Jonathan Chen, personal del Consejo Miembros del Consejo

De 4:05 p. m. a 4:15 p. m.	<p>VI. Novedades sobre la sesión legislativa de 2026 y posibles medidas asociadas del Consejo</p> <p>Objetivos: Recibir un informe sobre la sesión legislativa de 2026 hasta el momento, incluidas actualizaciones sobre la propuesta presupuestaria del gobernador. Tomar medidas del Consejo en respuesta si es necesario.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Maria Batayola, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Christy Hoff, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
Receso de 10 minutos		
De 4:25 p. m. a 5:00 p. m.	<p>VII. Continuación de los Valores y principios presupuestarios del Consejo: Carta de presentación</p> <p>Objetivo: Discutir y posiblemente adoptar una carta de presentación para los Valores y principios presupuestarios del Consejo.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Maria Batayola, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Christy Hoff, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
De 5:00 p. m. a 5:45 p. m.	<p>VIII. Informe sobre los proyectos de la CCA (por su sigla en inglés, Ley de Compromiso Climático)</p> <p>Objetivo: Recibir una actualización del Departamento de Ecología del Estado de</p>	<p>Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson</p> <p>Jonathan Chen, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Cooper Garbe, personal de Ecología</p>

	Washington sobre su trabajo para mejorar la calidad del aire debido a las emisiones de instalaciones ubicadas en comunidades de primera línea o cerca de ellas.	<p>Martha Hankins, personal de Ecología</p> <p>Adrian Young, personal de Ecología</p> <p>Stephanie Potts, personal de Ecología</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
Receso de 5 minutos		
De 5:50 p. m. a 6:05 p. m.	<p>IX. Debate: Actualización del EJC ante el público, el gobernador y la Legislatura</p> <p>Objetivo: Revisar y debatir la comunicación del Consejo ante el público, el gobernador y la Legislatura para 2025 de conformidad con la sección 70A.02.110(9)(d) del RCW (solo en inglés).</p>	<p>Copresidenta Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
De 6:05 p. m. a 6:15 p. m.	<p>X. Debate y posible adopción: Reuniones del Consejo del primer y segundo trimestre de 2026</p> <p>Objetivo: Discutir y posiblemente adoptar las fechas de las reuniones del Consejo para el primer y segundo trimestre, e identificar una ubicación para una reunión presencial de primavera.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Copresidenta Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>

De 6:15 p. m. a 6:25 p. m.	XI. Comentarios del público	Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
De 6:25 p. m. a 6:30 p. m.	XII. Agradecimientos y cierre	Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson Copresidenta Tatiana Brown

Información importante

- El Consejo puede reordenar los puntos del orden del día el día de la reunión.
- El número de contacto de emergencia durante la reunión es 360-584-4398.
- Para solicitar este documento en otro formato o en un idioma diferente, envíe un correo electrónico a Sierra Rotakhina en cualquier idioma a envjustice@ejc.wa.gov o llame al 360-584-4398.

Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council)

Thursday January 29, 2026

3:30pm – 6:30pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81747864781>

Webinar ID: 817 4786 4781

Or Join by Phone: +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 817 4786 4781

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6MqgTvTL>

Meeting Goals

1. Learn from a community partner about environmental justice concerns, issues, ideas, solutions, and victories in their community.
2. Receive a briefing on the 2026 Legislative session so far, including updates on the Governor's budget proposal. Take Council actions in response if needed.
3. Discussion and possible adoption of a cover letter for the Council's [Budget Values and Principles](#).
4. Receive an update from the Washington State Department of Ecology on their work on improving air quality from facility emissions located in or near frontline communities.
5. Review, discuss, and consider approach for 2025 Council communication to the public, Governor, and Legislature under [RCW 70A.02.110\(9\)\(d\)](#).
6. Discuss and possibly adopt Quarter 1 and 2 Council meeting dates and identify a location for a spring in-person meeting.

Agenda

Please join us at 3:20pm for a presentation on how to turn on closed captions and join the Spanish or ASL interpretation channel.

3:30 PM – 3:35 PM	I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson Council Members
3:35 PM – 3:40 PM Meeting notes on page 10 .	II. Approval of Agenda by Council III. Approval of December 4, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council -Possible Council Action	Council Member Maria Batayola Council Members
3:40 PM – 3:55 PM	IV. Public Comment	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown
3:55 PM – 4:05 PM Materials on page 21 .	V. EJ Council Community Connect Goal: Learn from a community partner about environmental justice concerns, issues, ideas, solutions, and victories in their community.	Council Member Maria Batayola Jonathan Chen, Council Staff Council Members
4:05 PM – 4:15 PM Materials on page 22 .	VI. 2026 Legislative Session Update and Possible Associated Council Actions Goals: Receive a briefing on the 2026 Legislative session so far, including updates on the Governor's budget proposal. Take Council actions in response if needed. -Possible Council Action	Council Member Maria Batayola Christy Hoff, Council Staff Council Members
10 Minute Break		

<p>4:25 PM – 5:00 PM</p> <p>Materials on page 23.</p>	<p>VII. Continuation of Council Budget Values and Principles: Cover Letter</p> <p>Goal: Discussion and possible adoption of a cover letter for the Council’s Budget Values and Principles.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	<p>Council Member Maria Batayola</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p> <p>Christy Hoff, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
<p>5:00 PM – 5:45 PM</p> <p>Materials on page 30.</p>	<p>VIII. Briefing on Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Projects</p> <p>Goal: Receive an update from the Washington State Department of Ecology on their work on improving air quality from facility emissions located in or near frontline communities.</p>	<p>The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson</p> <p>Jonathan Chen, Council Staff</p> <p>Cooper Garbe, Ecology Staff</p> <p>Martha Hankins, Ecology Staff</p> <p>Adrian Young, Ecology Staff</p> <p>Stephanie Potts, Ecology Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
<p>5 Minute Break</p>		
<p>5:50 PM – 6:05 PM</p> <p>Materials on page 34.</p>	<p>IX. Discussion: EJ Council Update to the Public, Governor, and Legislature</p> <p>Goal: Review, discuss, and consider approach for 2025 Council communication</p>	<p>Co-Chair Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>

	to the public, Governor, and Legislature under RCW 70A.02.110(9)(d) .	
6:05 PM – 6:15 PM Materials on page 35 .	X. Discussion and Possible Adoption: 2026 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Council Meetings Goal: Discuss and possibly adopt Quarter 1 and 2 Council meeting dates and identify a location for a spring in-person meeting. -Possible Council Action	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff Council Members
6:15 PM – 6:25 PM	XI. Public Comment	The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
6:25 PM – 6:30 PM	XII. Appreciation and Adjournment	The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson Co-Chair Tatiana Brown

Important Information

- The Council may move agenda items around on the day of the meeting.
- Emergency contact number during the meeting is 360-584-4398.
- To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@ejc.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

December 4, 2025

Virtual ZOOM Platform

Due to limited staff capacity, Environmental Justice Council (Council) staff are working to streamline the Council meeting notes. The notes now include only very high-level points and the final decisions made along with voting records. The full meeting recordings can be found on the Council's website: [Environmental Justice Council Meetings | WaPortal.org](https://www.waportal.org/EnvironmentalJusticeCouncilMeetings). However, it is important that meeting notes are useful to the Council Members and the public. Please share feedback with Council staff on how we can make these notes most useful to you by emailing envjustice@ejc.wa.gov or by calling 360-584-4398.

Council Members present:

- Maria Batayola
- Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)
- Cristina González Torres, joined at 3:40 pm
- David Mendoza, joined at 4:27pm
- Esther Min, joined at 4:00 pm
- Todd Mitchell
- Faaluaina Pritchard, joined at 3:37pm
- Running-Grass
- Raeshawna Ware, joined at 4:00 pm

Council Members absent:

- Nichole Banegas
- Maria Blancas
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Jennifer Grove, Department of Commerce
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Jerry Rivero, Department of Natural Resources
- Emilie Litsinger, Puget Sound Partnership

- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Courtney Cecal on behalf of Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology

Council staff:

- Jonathan Chen
- Angie Ellis
- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Dana Myers
- Sierra Red Bow
- Sierra Rotakhina

Guests and other participants:

- Allyson Brooks, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Tatiana Brown, Council Co-Chair, opened the meeting and thanked Monica Tonasket, who has resigned from the EJ Council. Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, facilitated roll call. At the time of the initial roll call, there were 4 voting members present, not meeting quorum (see table).

13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Council Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	Absent
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present

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Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

II. 2025 Reflections, Appreciation, and Celebration

Running-Grass, Council Member, thanked the interpreters for their work. He noted the hard work to organize the Council’s in-person meeting in September. He said the Council reorganized the way they do their work in 2025, in hopefully a more efficient way. He thanked the agencies for making the HEAL Act a reality. He noted the turnover among Council Members this year and thanked former members. Co-Chair Brown also extended gratitude to former member Aurora Martin. She said they were looking forward to advancing environmental justice in the state and asked community members to continue to use the public comment period to share what they are experiencing in their communities. Maria Batayola, Council Member, said she wants to give visibility to the community organizations who lead environmental justice at the local level. Cristina González, Council Member, said we have a lot of work ahead and thanked community for being resilient and trusting in the Council. Jerry Rivero, Ex Officio with the Department of Natural Resources, reflected on the recent in-person meeting. He said he felt motivated by the meeting, the feeling of unity, and the work ahead.

III. Honoring Theo Cielos’ Life and Work

Maria Batayola, Council Member, said this was an opportunity to remember and honor the life and work of former Council staff member, Theo Cielos. She said Theo was a scientist, a high thinker and a high feeler and she encouraged the EJ Council to role model courage, and to question if they were authentically engaging community and the level to which issues may be true emergencies or not. Member Running-Grass said we can continue to live in the honor of those whose work helped to build the Council, and Theo was one of those individuals. He played

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two pieces of music. Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, said that Raeshawna Ware, Council Member, proposed that in 2026 the Council take a couple minutes at each meeting to share a “Theo Moment”—how they have affected change, witnessed good, or done something light and beautiful in the name of environmental justice. Co-Chair Brown said that she didn’t have an opportunity to work with Theo, but still feels their presence and is grateful that they continue to hold space to honor Theo.

IV. Approval of Agenda by Council

Maria Batayola, Council Member, facilitated adoption of the agenda.

Motion: The Council adopts the [agenda](#).

Motion/Second: Todd Mitchell/ Cristina González Torres

No objections noted. **The motion passed.**

V. Approval of May 9, July 24, September 25, and October 10, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council

Member Batayola facilitated adoption of the meeting notes.

Motion: The Council adopts the May 9, July 24, September 25, and October 10, 2025 meeting notes (see [meeting materials](#), starting on page 11).

Motion/Second: Todd Mitchell/ Cristina González Torres

No objections noted. **The motion passed.**

VI. Public Comment

Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff, opened up and facilitated the public comment period.

Simon Knapfus, Beacon Hill Council, said they are bringing the voices of 40,000+ neighbors asking for the EJ Council to advocate for the state to mitigate the harms that have resulted from

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the recent reversal of federal environmental regulations and programs. Simon said they are an aviation impacted community living under flight paths. They shared information from an airport operations health report. Simon said the community has been organizing the Fix the Harm campaign that is seeking to address damage to health, environment, and climate caused by aviation. The number of flights at the SeaTac airport is increasing and they are sending a message that the airport needs to ensure the increase does not result in added harm. They have concerns about air quality and health impacts for vulnerable populations. The Federal Aviation Administration said the additional 80,000 flights would have no significant impacts. Simon said this is a result of changed federal policy and asks the EJ Council to advocate for the mitigation of the loss of federal environmental protection laws, rules, and programs.

Anonymous Public Commenter said they work in education and outreach and have taught wildfire and community preparedness to adults and children. They want to bring awareness to the impacts our environment creates on farmworkers, both H2A and H2B. They shared the experience of two H2A workers who were dropped off near a Red Cross evacuation center but were not allowed to enter for several days and spent two nights sleeping outside. The workers did not understand the evacuation orders. They had very little food and did not have the proper personal protective equipment and were later hospitalized from the smoke exposure. They said the workers feared retaliation and being blacklisted if they disclosed the name of their employer. The workers' manager attempted to prevent interaction with the workers. They shared another story of an employer who removed the heater and AC from company vehicles because they thought workers were spending extra time in the vehicles to get out of the weather. The workers were left dehydrated and near heat exhaustion. Two workers fainted and still had to work the next day. They said these are only two stories of many that they have heard.

VII. Addressing the Loss of Federal Environmental and Cultural Resource Protections and the Potential Risk to Tribal and Community Data

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Member Batayola introduced the item. Dr. Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director at the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, shared her slide presentation, which provided information about federal budget cuts, policy changes, and rollbacks to regulations.

Member Batayola asked what the Council's actions should be given the loss of federal protections. She said her idea was to request an assessment of all the changes, which could result in recommendations. Co-Chair Brown asked if there's been an analysis of what is to come as a result of incoming data centers. Dr. Brooks responded that it would depend on the federal agency that has jurisdiction. Member Batayola suggested subject matter experts could do an assessment and identify gaps. Co-Chair Brown suggested the Urgent and Emergent Issues Workgroup discusses until they have a better sense of a path forward. David Mendoza, Council Member, said it is untrue when some point to Tribes and the protection of cultural resources and overburdened communities as the reason for slowing down processes. Member Batayola agreed that the Urgent and Emergent Issues Workgroup should discuss further.

IX. Discussion and Possible Adoption: 2026 Legislative Policy Statement

Co-Chair Brown introduced the agenda item and Christy Hoff referred Council Members to the draft 2026 Legislative Policy Statement. Members discussed the edits to Section 2.8. Sierra Rotakhina said the bylaws allow for the Council to postpone taking action on items if there are absences among the community and Tribal Representatives. She discussed this item with Co-Chair Erickson earlier in the day, and despite the Tribal vacancies, he was supportive of the Council discussing and considering action on this item. Member González Torres said the Executive Committee discussed the language in 2.8 in detail.

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Motion: The Council adopts the 2026 Legislative Policy Statement (see [meeting materials](#), starting on page 42) as presented on December 4, 2025 with the changes agreed to by the full Council.

Motion/Second: Todd Mitchell/Maria Batayola

Motion Passed

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

C: Not voting until we have further discussions.

D: I don't approve, but I won't block.

E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Council Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

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X. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Additional Council Budget Values and Principles

Co-Chair Brown introduced the agenda item. Christy Hoff reviewed the Additional Council Budget Values and Principles. Member Mitchell said they need to be realistic in asking for full Council consultation in budget decisions. Member Mendoza said they are not issuing a directive but encouraging better practices. Members offered edits to the proposed motion.

Motion: The Council adopts the three Budget Values and Principles (see [meeting materials](#) starting on page 48) as presented at the December 4, 2025 Council meeting and directs staff to combine all of the Council Budget Values and Principles adopted in 2025 into one document. The document will include a statement that the values and principles are not in priority order.

The Council directs staff to submit the values and principles to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2026 supplemental budget.

The Council will follow its procedure for “Advocating for the Council’s Budget Recommendations” adopted by the full Council on November 21, 2024 when advocating for these budget values and principles.

Motion: Second: Tatiana Brown/Raeshawna Ware

Motion Passed

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

C: Not voting until we have further discussions.

D: I don't approve, but I won't block.

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E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Council Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	B
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

XI. Discussion and Possible Adoption: 2026 Council Meeting Schedule

Sierra Rotakhina said the Council is required to develop a meeting schedule and file it with the Office of the Code Revisor. She said the Executive Committee has recommended that they adopt a January meeting date to discuss how the new way of approaching the work is going and then develop a full 2026 meeting schedule to meet the needs of the work. She added that they have previously identified a February date to meet only if needed for legislative purposes. She reviewed the proposed meeting dates: January 29, 2026 from 3:30 – 6:30pm and February 12, 2026 from 3:30 – 6:30pm (hold to meet only if needed for legislative purposes).

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Motion: The Council adopts the 2026 meeting schedule (see [meeting materials](#), starting on page 56) as presented on December 4, 2025.

Motion: Second: Esther Min/Todd Mitchell

Motion Passed

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

C: Not voting until we have further discussions.

D: I don't approve, but I won't block.

E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Council Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

XII. Presentation: Environmental Health Disparities Map Updates

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@ejc.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

Sierra Rotakhina and Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff, gave a staff briefing on the Council's obligations under the HEAL Act related to the Environmental Health Disparities Map.

Sierra Red Bow said the EJ Council responsibilities include consultation to the Department of Health on development and maintenance of the map and to work with the Interagency Workgroup to provide guidance on how to use the map to identify overburdened communities (noting that many individuals prefer the term frontline communities). She encouraged members to think about what further information they want to learn about the map.

Co-Chair Brown asked when they hope to have the map team come to present the latest version of the map. Sierra Red Bow said staff follow up with the team. Co-Chair Brown said they want to think about the tools they have to advance environmental justice work and how they track successes. The map is one of those tools. She invited Members to think about and propose other ideas when they come together in January.

XI. Appreciation and Adjournment

Co-Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@ejc.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

Environmental Justice Council

Date: January 29, 2026

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Sierra Rotakhina, Environmental Justice Council Manager

Subject: Community Connection

Background:

Each Council meeting includes time on the agenda for “Community Connections.” The goals of this agenda item are for the Council to learn from Tribes and community groups about environmental justice issues, ideas, and solutions in their communities.

Staff Contact:

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, Sierra.Rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov, 360-584-4398

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Environmental Justice Council

Date: January 29, 2026

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Christy Hoff, Policy Advisor

Subject: 2026 Legislative Session Update

Background and Summary

The 2026 Washington State Legislative Session began on Monday January 12. Today Council staff will provide a briefing on proposed cuts to HEAL funding, including for the EJ Council's own budget, in the Governor's proposed supplemental budget.

If a bill has been introduced that the Council may want to take action on that is outside of the clear scope of the Council's adopted policy positions, Council Members may choose to discuss that bill at today's meeting and determine, through consensus, if they want to take a position.

Staff Contact

Christy Hoff, Policy Advisor, christy.hoff@ejc.wa.gov, 360-688-4699

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Environmental Justice Council

Date: January 29, 2026

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager

Subject: Continuation of Council Budget Values and Principles: Cover Letter

Background and Summary

The EJ Council has [authority](#) to recommend how Climate Commitment Act funding is spent. Because the state continues to face extreme budget challenges, the EJ Council chose not to make recommendations for new funding for the current legislative session. Instead, at the October 10 and December 4, 2025 Council meetings, the Council adopted [budget values and principles \(PDF\)](#) for the Governor and Legislature to consider as they develop the budget.

Last month Governor Ferguson released his [proposed 2026 supplemental budgets](#). The Council's Budget Workgroup has been discussing the Governor's proposed budgets and has asked for time on today's agenda for a broader discussion and possible Council adoption of a cover letter for the Council's Budget Values and Principles (see [page 25](#) for the draft cover letter).

Council Staff Recommended Actions

After review and discussion, the Council may consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

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Proposed Motion: The Council adopts the cover letter for its Budget Values and Principles as submitted on January 29, 2026, with any changes agreed to by the full Council.

The Council directs staff to submit the cover letter to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2026 supplemental budget.

The Council will follow its procedure for “Advocating for the Council’s Budget Recommendations” adopted by the full Council on November 21, 2024 when advocating for positions outlined in the adopted cover letter.

Staff Contact

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, Sierra.Rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov, 360-584-4398

Dear Governor Ferguson and Members of the Legislature,

The Environmental Justice Council is writing to elevate concerns. We believe in a balanced approach that uses Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funds to meet its core obligations: climate resiliency, clean energy + transportation, and meeting the direct needs of overburdened communities and Tribes across the state. The Governor's Proposed Budget does not live up to these core obligations.

We urge the Governor and Legislature to consider and focus on these three integrated actions:

1. **Utilize the opportunity to make large-scale investments in Washington's Climate goals.** As a declining source of revenue, CCA funds have a limited window for greatest impact. Per CCA, \$359.1 million earned each year must go into the Carbon Emission Reduction Account (CERA). Ecology predicts Washington will fall short of this required amount starting in 2030. Additional revenue from the auctions should focus on delivering time sensitive climate-oriented and community-resiliency projects while the CCA can still support it.
2. **Deliver the environmental and resiliency benefits for Tribes and communities in Washington, as legislated.** The CCA dollars have real human impacts – in air quality assessments, wildfire resiliency, coastal adaptation, home hardening, and direct benefits to Washingtonians. There is a statutory commitment to use CCA dollars to improve both the environment and the health of overburdened communities and vulnerable populations. Washingtonians reaffirmed in 2024 to uphold the CCA and its promises.
3. **Find alternate funding for the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC).** There is no precedent for utilizing such a large proportion of CCA funds for any one program. Allocating 75% of unallocated CCA funds for the WFTC does not meet the goals of either the CCA or the WFTC. It prevents the CCA from meeting its legislated goals, and it does not create sustainable funding for the WFTC. Working families in Washington will be left vulnerable in the long-term and overburdened communities exposed to worsening climate impacts.

These actions guide the Council's 2026 Budget Values and Principles included below. It is crucial you revise the proposed 2026 supplemental budget to uphold the legislated commitments the CCA has made to Washington and the environment. Thank you for your leadership in these extremely challenging times. We are available to answer any questions.

In service of our community and Washington's CCA and HEAL goals,

Washington State Environmental Justice Council

Environmental Justice Council

Legislative Session Procedure

Adopted November 21, 2024

1. Purpose and Background

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to guide Environmental Justice Council (Council) Members and Council staff in their communications with the Governor's Office, Legislature, and others regarding: (1) advocating for inclusion of the Council's budget recommendations in the final adopted budget and (2) communicating the Council's policy positions during legislative session.

Background:

The Healthy Environmental for All (HEAL) Act, [RCW 70A.02.110](#), and the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), [RCW 70A.65.040](#), give the Council statutory authority and direction to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in several areas:

- The Council may, in consultation with the HEAL Interagency Work Group, make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve agency compliance with the HEAL Act;
- The Council may make recommendations for amendments to the HEAL Act, proposed laws, or other existing laws to promote environmental justice;
- The Council may recommend funding strategies and allocations to build capacity in vulnerable populations and overburdened communities to address environmental injustices;

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- The Council must provide recommendations to the Legislature, agencies, and the Governor on the development and implementation of the cap and invest program established in the CCA (RCW 70A.65.060 through 70A.65.210); and
- The Council must provide recommendations to the Legislature, agencies, and the Governor on the programs funded by the CCA accounts.

2. Procedure

2.1 Advocating for the Council's Budget Recommendations:

- The Council directs staff to advocate for the Council's budget recommendations to the Governor's Office, the Office of Financial Management, and the Legislature.
- Any Council Member who wishes to advocate for the Council's budget recommendations **on behalf of** the Council must inform and coordinate with the Council Executive Committee first. Council Members must clearly disclose that they are representing the Council (consistent with Article V of the Council's bylaws), and they must be familiar with and stick to sharing the information in the Council's formally adopted recommendations.
- Council Members may also represent their own or any other organization or affiliation in support of the Council's budget recommendations. In these cases, Council Members must clearly disclose to legislators, the Governor's Office, and agency staff that they are not representing the Council but rather their own or any other organization or affiliation (consistent with Article V of the Council's bylaws). Council Members should inform the Council Executive Committee of their intent to advocate for Council priorities.
- Any Council Member who receives questions from the Governor's Office, Office of Financial Management, legislators, or legislative staff about the Council's budget recommendations may respond, using the information in the Council's formally adopted 2025 budget recommendations and adopted Policy Statement and Procedure as a guide. Council Members who do provide responses to questions should inform Council staff for

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tracking and coordination purposes. Council Members may also refer the inquiry to staff for a response. Where there is no clear response, the Council Member must refer the question to the staff who will share it with the Council Executive Committee for a solution.

- Council staff will set up meetings with legislators serving on relevant policy and budget committees to share the Council's budget recommendations. In doing so, staff will coordinate and include Council Members in those meetings as Member interest, expertise, and availability permits. Council Members and staff who participate in meetings with legislators must file required lobbying reports with the Public Disclosure Commission.

2.2 Sharing the Council's Formally Adopted Policy Positions:

- As Council staff identify bills that have a specific impact to any of the Council's formally adopted policy positions, they will add them to the tracking list and analyze the bill to determine if Council action is warranted.
- The Council directs members of the Executive Committee to relay the Council's positions in letters to legislative committees, through written or verbal testimony during public hearings, and/or through meetings with legislators or the Governor's Office. As needed, Members of the Executive Committee may delegate to other Council Members the responsibility to relay the Council's positions. Council staff will support the Executive Committee and Council Members in relaying the Council's positions as needed.

2.3 Routine Staff Activities During Session:

- Council staff will monitor pre-filed bills and bill introductions to identify bills that affect the Council's membership, responsibilities, or authority or that are directly related to any of the Council's adopted policy positions.

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- Council staff will review budget bills as they are introduced and amended and identify where Council recommendations are included and where gaps remain.
- Council staff will track the progress of any relevant bills as they move through session.
- Council staff will maintain a log of any legislative inquiries to ensure timely response is provided.
- Council staff will complete fiscal notes when assigned. Staff will center environmental justice and equity when estimating costs (e.g., costs for interpretation and translation, Tribal and community engagement and co-creation, community stipends, etc.).
- Council staff will share regular legislative updates to the full Council throughout session by email and during Council meetings, and the legislative updates will include information on when Council Members coordinate with the Executive Committee to advocate for the Council's budget recommendations and/or policy positions as outlined above.

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Environmental Justice Council

Date: January 29, 2025

To: Environmental Justice Council

From: Jonathan Chen, Climate Justice Advisor

Subject: 2026 Ecology Update: Reducing Air Pollution from Facilities in and Near Frontline Communities

Background and Summary

According to the [Climate Commitment Act \(CCA\)](#), the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting businesses are required to purchase allowances equal to the amount of GHG they release. The more GHG a business emits, the more they must pay, which encourages businesses to reduce their emissions. The total amount of GHG emissions allowed in the state is capped and declines over time.

As part of the CCA, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is working on three major projects in 2026 that will affect air quality for frontline communities living closest to large polluting facilities. These projects include a carbon market linkage agreement, a new rule for improving air quality in overburdened communities, and future allowance allocations for Emissions-Intensive, Trade-Exposed industries (EITEs).

At today's meeting Ecology staff will provide an update on these three projects and present them as different strategies for reducing air pollution from facilities in or near frontline communities. Below are brief summaries of each project and their relation to environmental justice (EJ):

1. Rulemaking for Air Quality in Overburdened Communities

Ecology is writing a new rule specifically to help the 16 communities they identified as the most impacted by air pollution. This rulemaking will include an [Environmental Justice Assessment](#) (EJA).

- **2026 Update:** Ecology will close an informal public comment period for the preliminary [draft rule language](#) on February 15, 2026. They are planning for a formal proposal for the rule to be ready in late Summer or Fall 2026.
- **EJ Intersection:** This rule will set the process for determining "Air Quality Targets" for criteria air pollutants like fine particles (PM), ozone (O₃) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Ecology will identify "High Priority Significant Emitters"—the businesses causing the most harm to communities—and track their emissions. Starting in 2030, Ecology will require stricter emission limits if air quality targets are not met and air quality is not improving.
- **Focus on Facility Emissions:** The rule will require that facilities must limit the amount of air pollution released in identified communities. New EITEs will also be required to reduce the amount of air pollution they release in a community.

2. Emissions-Intensive, Trade-Exposed industries

EITEs are industrial facilities producing goods or materials that experience strong national or international competition. They currently receive “no-cost” or free allowances to keep them from shutting down or moving out of state to avoid increased costs (also known as “leakage”).

- **2026 Update:** Ecology submitted a [report](#) to the Legislature that reviewed different ways to reduce “leakage” and how to approach “no-cost” allowances from 2035 to 2050.

- **EJ Intersection:** Ecology sees the need for further evaluation of environmental justice outcomes associated with EITEs. This includes potentially conducting community-level engagement opportunities in regions near EITEs to understand how EITEs impact the frontline communities and Tribes living near or working most closely with the facilities. Their early analysis showed:
 - Out of the 40 EITEs, 30 are either located in or near federally recognized Tribal reservations, “overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution”, and/or vulnerable populations Ecology identified using the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map.
 - A 6% reduction in criteria air pollutants by EITEs in 2034 could reduce total asthma cases by 1,050 statewide and save between \$34.4 to \$50.2 million in 2034 on healthcare costs.
 - EITEs contribute 20.9% of statewide sulfur dioxide and 8.6% of nitrous oxide emissions.
- **Focus on Facility Emissions:** Ecology recommended future “no-cost” allowances for EITEs align with the CCA’s declining emissions cap. Ecology also recommended an allowance consignment policy, which would require EITEs to use some of the value of their allowances to fund projects that reduce their emissions.

3. Linkage Agreement with the California and Québec Carbon Market

Ecology is moving forward with plans to combine Washington’s carbon market with the California-and-Québec carbon market in a process called linkage.

- **2026 Update:** Linking requires certain Cap-and-Invest rules—such as auction and registration rules—to be consistent with the other market. Ecology plans to adopt official [rule changes](#) in summer 2026 to make all markets compatible with each other. They expect to finish an EJA for linkage in [2026](#).

- **EJ Intersection:** According to a [March 2025 report](#) by Resources for the Future, linking could make the allowance auctions in the CCA more stable and affordable for businesses and would lead to greater global GHG reductions. However, it can also slow the rate of GHG reductions in the state and reduce revenues as compared to if Washington did not link.
- **Focus on Facility Emissions:** On October 26, 2023, the Council had adopted a [recommendation](#) not to link carbon markets at this time. As part of that recommendation, the Council offered several examples of precautionary protections Ecology could adopt to address some of their concerns. Ecology is working on a policy analysis of some of the precautionary protections, including a white paper on facility-specific greenhouse gas emissions caps.

Staff Contact

Jonathan Chen, Climate Justice Advisor, Jonathan.Chen@ejc.wa.gov, 564.669.3837

Environmental Justice Council

Date: January 29, 2026

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager

Subject: Council Update to Public, Governor, Legislature

Background and Summary

The Council's authorizing statute ([RCW 70A.02.110](#)) requires the Council to, by December 1st of 2023 and then every other year, to:

1. Evaluate the progress of each agency in applying Council guidance, and update guidance as needed.
2. Communicate to the Public, the Governor, and the Legislature:
 - The progress of the state and its agencies in meeting the state's environmental justice goals in compliance with the HEAL Act; and
 - A summary of the Council's work.

As outlined in the HEAL Act, "This communication [#2 above] is not required to be a report and may take the form of a presentation or other format." The Council adopted its first [update](#) in November of 2023 in the form of a report. At today's meeting the Council will have an opportunity to discuss how it wants to approach this requirement this year.

Staff Contact

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, Sierra.Rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov, 360-584-4398

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Environmental Justice Council

Date: January 29, 2026

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager

Subject: Council Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Meeting Schedule

Background and Summary

[RCW 70A.02.110](#) specifies that meetings of the Environmental Justice Council (Council) are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act ([chapter 42.30 RCW](#)). [RCW 42.30.075](#) requires the Council to file a schedule of regular meetings with the Code Revisor to be published in the Washington State Register. At the December 2025 Council meeting the Council adopted January and February 2026 meeting dates and staff filed these dates with the Code Revisor.

The Council's plan was to adopt the full 2026 meeting schedule at today's meeting when there would be more time to discuss the Council's goals and approach to the work in 2026 and to identify a meeting cadence and schedule that aligns with the needs of the work. Due to the need to be responsive to legislative session topics (including the state budget) at today's meeting, the Council has deferred this more comprehensive discussion of the 2026 meeting schedule to their next meeting, and today will focus only on adopting meeting dates through Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2026.

Once meeting dates are adopted, the Council can make changes to the meeting schedule, but the changes must be published in the State Register for distribution at least twenty days prior to the rescheduled meeting date. The Council can also call special meetings under [RCW 42.30.080](#) as long as the public is notified at least 24 hours before the meeting.

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A proposed Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Council meeting schedule for 2026 are on [page 37](#).

Council Staff Recommended Actions

The Council may wish to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

The Council adopts the proposed 2026 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Council meeting dates with any changes agreed upon by the full Council at the January 29, 2026 meeting.

Staff Contact

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov, 360-584-4398

Environmental Justice Council

Draft 2026 Meeting Schedule

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), the following is the schedule of regular meetings for the Washington State Environmental Justice Council (Council) for 2026. The Council's meetings are open to the public. Community access to the meetings and language justice are priorities for the Council. Members of the public can contact staff (see below) to request language interpreters at meetings, translated meeting materials, or accommodations to improve the accessibility of Council meetings and materials.

Agendas for the meetings listed below are made available in advance via listserv and the Council's website (see below). Every attempt is made to ensure that the agenda is up-to-date. However, the Council reserves the right to change or amend agendas at the meeting. Meeting links, call-in, information and locations (as applicable) are posted here:

<https://waportal.org/partners/home/environmental-justice-council/environmental-justice-council-meetings>

Meeting Date	Location
Thursday January 29, 2026 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Virtual Only
Thursday February 12, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm Hold to meet only if needed for legislative purposes	
Thursday March 26, 2026 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Virtual Only
Friday May 8, 2026 10:00 - 5:00 pm	In-person: Location to be discussed at the January 29, 2026 Council Meeting
Additional 2026 Council meeting dates to be determined.	

Draft for Council discussion at the January 29, 2026 Council meeting.

Time and locations subject to change as needed. See [Environmental Justice Council | WaPortal.org](#) for the most current information. Contact Council staff at envjustice@ejc.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

Last updated: January 29, 2026

DRAFT