

# Environmental Justice Council

## April 10, 2026 Meeting Materials

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# Consejo de Justicia Ambiental (EJC)

10 de abril de 2026

De 1:00 p. m. a 4:00 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. Recibir una breve actualización sobre la sesión legislativa de 2026.
2. Recibir novedades sobre el trabajo, progreso y los próximos pasos de cada grupo de trabajo del Consejo.
3. Debatir sobre las prioridades actuales del Consejo adoptadas en mayo de 2025 y los cronogramas necesarios para completar esos proyectos. Los miembros del Consejo quizá compartan nuevas prioridades a considerar. Modificar, de ser necesario, y posiblemente adoptar el plan de trabajo para 2026-2027. Debatir sobre el calendario de reuniones del Consejo necesario para lograr la realización del plan de trabajo y posiblemente adoptar del calendario de reuniones del Consejo para 2026.

## Orden del día

A las 12:50 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 1:00 P. M. A 1:05 P. M.	I. Bienvenida y pase de lista para verificar que haya quórum	Tatiana Brown, copresidenta  Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson  Miembros del Consejo
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<p>DE 1:05 P. M. A 1:10 P. M.</p>	<p>II. Aprobación del orden del día por parte del Consejo</p> <p>III. Aprobación de las notas de la reunión del 29 de enero de 2026 por parte del Consejo</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>María Batayola, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
<p>DE 1:10 P. M. A 1:30 P. M.</p>	<p>IV. Comentarios del público</p> <p>Durante el periodo de comentarios, los miembros del público pueden dar su opinión sobre cualquier tema. En la reunión de hoy, el Consejo debatirá sobre sus prioridades actuales, posibles nuevas prioridades y su plan de trabajo para 2026-2027. El Consejo incentiva a los miembros de la comunidad a compartir sus prioridades y sus aportes sobre el borrador del plan de trabajo del Consejo durante este primer periodo de comentarios del público.</p>	<p>David Mendoza, miembro del Consejo</p>
<p>DE 1:30 P. M. A 1:50 P. M.</p>	<p>V. Recapitulación de la sesión legislativa de 2026</p> <p>Objetivos: Recibir una breve actualización sobre la sesión legislativa de 2026.</p>	<p>Cristina González Torres, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Christy Hoff, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
<p>Receso de 10 minutos</p>		
<p>DE 2:00 P. M. A 2:55 P. M.</p>	<p>VI. Novedades de los grupos de trabajo del Consejo</p> <p>a) Grupo de trabajo para la participación comunitaria y tribal</p>	<p>María Batayola, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros de los grupos de trabajo</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p>

	<p>b) Grupo de trabajo para recomendaciones presupuestarias sobre la CCA (por su sigla en inglés, Ley de Compromiso Ambiental)</p> <p>c) Grupo de trabajo para la EJA (por su sigla en inglés, Evaluación de Justicia Ambiental)</p> <p>d) Grupo de trabajo para las preocupaciones urgentes y emergentes</p> <p>Objetivo: Recibir novedades sobre el trabajo, progreso y los próximos pasos de cada grupo de trabajo del Consejo.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Christy Hoff, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Jonathan Chen, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
Receso de 10 minutos		
<p>DE 3:05 P. M. A 3:45 P. M.</p>	<p>VII. Debate y posible adopción del plan de trabajo del Consejo para 2026-2027 y del calendario de reuniones del Consejo para 2026</p> <p>Objetivo: Debatir sobre las prioridades actuales del Consejo adoptadas en mayo de 2025 y los cronogramas necesarios para completar esos proyectos. Los miembros del Consejo quizá compartan nuevas prioridades a considerar. Modificar, de ser necesario, y posiblemente adoptar el plan de trabajo para 2026-2027. Debatir sobre el calendario de reuniones del Consejo necesario para lograr la realización del</p>	<p>Tatiana Brown, copresidenta</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>

	<p>plan de trabajo y posiblemente adoptar del calendario de reuniones del Consejo para 2026.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	
<p>DE 3:45 P. M. A 3:55 P. M.</p>	VIII. Comentarios del público	David Mendoza, miembro del Consejo
<p>DE 3:55 P. M. A 4:00 P. M.</p>	IX. Agradecimientos y cierre	<p>Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson</p> <p>Tatiana Brown, copresidenta</p>

### 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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) o llame al 360-584-4398.

# **Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council)**

April 10, 2026  
1:00pm – 4:00pm

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. Receive a short update on the 2026 Legislative session.
2. Receive updates on the work, progress, and next steps for each of the Council's workgroups.
3. Discuss the Council's current priorities adopted by the Council in May of 2025 and the timelines needed to complete those projects. Council Members may share new priorities they would like the Council to consider. Amend, if needed, and possibly adopt the 2026-2027 workplan. Discuss the Council meeting schedule needed to complete the work in the workplan and possibly adopt a 2026 Council meeting schedule.

## **Agenda**

Please join us at 12:50pm for a presentation on how to turn on closed captions and join the Spanish or ASL interpretation channel.

<p>1:00 PM – 1:05 PM</p>	<p>I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum</p>	<p>Co-Chair Tatiana Brown  The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson  Council Members</p>
<p>1:05 PM – 1:10 PM</p> <p>Meeting notes on <a href="#">page 9.</a></p>	<p>II. Approval of Agenda by Council III. Approval of January 29, 2026 Meeting Notes by Council  -Possible Council Action</p>	<p>Council Member Maria Batayola  Council Members</p>
<p>1:10 PM – 1:30 PM</p> <p>Written public comments on <a href="#">page 56.</a></p>	<p>IV. Public Comment</p> <p>Members of the public can comment on any issue during the public comment periods. At today’s meeting the Council will be discussing their current priorities, possible new priorities, and their 2026-2027 workplan. The Council encourages community members to share your priorities and input on the Council’s 2026-2027 workplan during this first public comment period.</p>	<p>Council Member David Mendoza</p>
<p>1:30 PM – 1:50 PM</p> <p>Materials on <a href="#">page 18.</a></p>	<p>V. 2026 Legislative Session Recap</p> <p>Goals: Receive a short update on the 2026 Legislative session.</p>	<p>Council Member Cristina González Torres  Christy Hoff, Council Staff  Council Members</p>

10 Minute Break

<p>2:00 PM – 2:55 PM</p> <p>Materials on <a href="#">page 22.</a></p>	<p>VI. Council Workgroup Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Community &amp; Tribal Engagement Workgroup</li> <li>b) Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Budget Recommendations Workgroup</li> <li>c) Environmental Justice Assessment (EJA) Workgroup</li> <li>d) Urgent &amp; Emerging Concerns Workgroup</li> </ul> <p>Goal: Receive updates on the work, progress, and next steps for each of the Council’s workgroups.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	<p>Council Member Maria Batayola</p> <p>Council Workgroup Members</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p> <p>Christy Hoff, Council Staff</p> <p>Jonathan Chen, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
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10 Minute Break

<p>3:05 PM – 3:45 PM</p> <p>Materials on <a href="#">page 26.</a></p>	<p>VII. Discussion and Possible Adoption of 2026-2027 Council Workplan and 2026 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Goal: Discuss the Council’s current priorities adopted by the Council in May of 2025 and the timelines needed to complete those projects. Council Members may share new</p>	<p>Co-Chair Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
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	<p>priorities they would like the Council to consider. Amend, if needed, and possibly adopt the 2026-2027 workplan. Discuss the Council meeting schedule needed to complete the work in the workplan and possibly adopt a 2026 Council meeting schedule.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	
3:45 PM – 3:55 PM	VIII. Public Comment	Council Member David Mendoza
3:55 PM – 4:00 PM	IX. 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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or 360-584-4398.

# Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

January 29, 2026

## 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.environmentaljusticecouncil.org/Meetings). 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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or by calling 360-584-4398.

### Council Members present:

- Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)
- David Mendoza, joined at 4:26pm and left at 5:00pm
- Esther Min, joined at 3:47pm
- Todd Mitchell, left at 6:08pm
- Faaluaina Pritchard
- Running-Grass
- Maria Batayola, joined at 3:49pm

### Council Members absent:

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

### Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Rowena Pineda for 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

- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology

Council staff:

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

Guests and other participants:

- Cooper Garbe, Department of Ecology
- Martha Hankins, Department of Ecology
- Andy Hayes, Department of Ecology
- Tamara Jones, Department of Ecology
- Stephanie Potts, Department of Ecology
- Adrian Young, Department of Ecology

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Tatiana Brown, Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. She announced that Council Member Raeshawna Ware has resigned from the Council after serving past the end of her term in order to support the Council while vacancies were filled. Co-Chair Brown thanked Council Member Ware for her service. She said Member Ware had suggested holding a “Theo Moment” at each meeting where a Member could share how they have affected change, witnessed good, or done something light and beautiful in the name of environmental justice.

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).

<b>12 Members / 4 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7</b>		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Present
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Present
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Absent
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	Absent
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

Note: The Council moved to the Legislative Session Update while they waited for a quorum of Members to arrive.

### 2026 Legislative Session Update and Possible Associated Council Actions

Christy Curwick Hoff provided a briefing on legislative session to date. She shared information about Governor Ferguson's proposed supplemental operating budget, including a proposal to reduce funding for the Department of Health's HEAL funding (including funding for HEAL implementation, the Environmental Health Disparities Map, and the HEAL Interagency Workgroup) and the EJ Council's funding by \$500,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. She also highlighted a few policy bills for the Council's awareness.

### Public Comment

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Co-Chair Brown opened up the public comment period.

Maricela Santana-Walle, EJ Coordinator for ELLA, said they have been working with the Department of Health and have been using the Environmental Health Disparities Map for a lot of their outreach and as a tool to advocate for the community. There is a risk that funding for the project will be cut. They are hoping to increase the data used in the map to bring up the voices of farmworkers who face exposures from pesticides, chemicals, and environmental impacts from CAFOs. They are using the map in the documentary they are working on. Cuts in funding will pose a risk for communities. They asked the Council to advocate for the funding, so it is not cut in the budget.

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, said the Council has submitted letters to the House and Senate budget committees advocating for funding to be included in the final budget. She said hearing personal stories from the community is very important. Co-Chair Brown thanked Maricela for sharing how the map is being used in new ways.

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

Member Batayola, Council Member, said the Budget Workgroup drafted a cover letter (see [meeting materials](#), starting on page 23) in response to Governor Ferguson's proposed supplemental budget and the proposed use of Climate Commitment Act (CCA) revenue to fund the Working Families Tax Credit. Sierra Rotakhina shared the letter on screen and there were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Sierra Rotakhina said they have heard from Tribes and communities that the terms "overburdened communities" and "vulnerable populations" are not preferred terms. She said they will often use the term frontline communities. Millie Piazza, Ex Officio Liaison, said they are

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terms of art that are statutorily defined and from her own experience, they do not align with how she or her community identify. The terms overburdened and vulnerable do not call out community resiliency. Lua Pritchard, Council Member, said those terms are still being used in her community and she has not heard any concerns. Jerry Rivero, Ex Officio Liaison, said in his past work in California (where the term “disadvantaged communities” is used) they acknowledged terms used in statute, and they would use language that highlights the strengths of communities. He recommended using the term frontline communities. Emilie Litsinger, Ex Officio Liaison, agreed that when using the terms, they should provide clarity that they are using legal terminology and added that they welcome the opportunity for communities to identify the terms they prefer. Member Pritchard said sometimes agency staff are afraid to use terms and they overthink things. Member Batayola said words will always be evolving and added that they need to think this through and consult with Tribes and communities.

Members discussed and agreed to add language to the cover letter to reference statute for the terms “overburdened communities” and “vulnerable populations” and they edited the cover letter. They discussed how the letter was trying to articulate three points about the CCA funding and how they are in line with the Council’s adopted values and principles. Todd Mitchell, Council Member, said the cover letter gives context to the values and principles.

**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 combine the cover letter with the table of contents and the values and principles and submit to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2026 supplemental budget.

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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.

**Motion: Second:** Todd Mitchell/David Mendoza

**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.

<b>12 Members / 4 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7</b>		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	A
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

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Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
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### Approval of Agenda by Council

Co-Chair Brown, facilitated adoption of the [agenda](#).

**Motion:** The Council adopts the agenda.

No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

### Approval of December 4, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council

Co-Chair Brown facilitated adoption of the meeting notes (see [meeting materials](#) on page 10).

**Motion:** The Council adopts the December 4, 2025 meeting notes.

No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

### Discussion and Possible Adoption 2026 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Council Meetings

Co-Chair Brown said they hoped to adopt a March 2026 meeting date and to use that meeting to discuss the Council’s workplan and if adjustments are needed. She said the Council encourages Tribes, community members, and agencies to reach out to the Council with their priorities to inform the Council’s discussion in March. Members discussed different dates for the March meeting.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the following tentative meeting dates: March 13, 2026 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and March 10, 2026 from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm, with the final date to be determined based on member availability.

**Motion/Second:** Maria Batayola/David Mendoza

No objections noted. **Motion Passed**

Sierra Rotakhina shared considerations for possibly co-convening the Council’s in-person meeting with the Health Disparities Council and the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and

Accountability Committee. She asked the Council to share their goals and priorities for the in-person meeting.

Member Pritchard, offered the Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Tacoma as a meeting venue. She said she favored meeting solo to focus on EJ Council business. Member Batayola liked the idea of having shared time with the other Councils. She said it is important for community to understand how the Environmental Health Disparities Map is being used. Running-Grass, Council Member, said that in this political and fiscal environment, he encouraged opportunities to partner with natural allies. He supported having space to maximize sharing, even informally. Nicole Johnson, Ex Officio Liaison, said she also serves on the Health Disparities Council, and she supported cross-connection to identify communities that haven't been engaged across the work, and alignment of priorities. Millie Piazza, Ex Officio Liaison, suggested involvement with other partners like the Office of Equity and a need to focus on goals and metrics and how to hold agencies accountable to process as well as meaningful longer-term metrics. Co-Chair Brown said she wanted to know more about how to determine if we're yielding benefits for the communities we're serving. She said she'd like to have a conversation about how the Environmental Health Disparities Map could be used to track health disparities outcomes. She said they could focus a day on the map as a tool and another as a forum, along with having some dedicated EJ Council time. Sierra Rotakhina proposed working with Council Members who volunteer to be on a planning group.

### EJ Council Community Connect

Jonathan Chen, Council Staff, shared that the scheduled presenter was unable to make it.

### Briefing on Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Projects

Co-Chair Brown introduced the agenda item. Jonathan Chen encouraged Members to think about how these CCA projects could be included in upcoming work planning. He introduced staff from the Department of Ecology: Cooper Garbe, Martha Hankins, Adrian Young, Stephanie Potts,

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Andy Hayes, and Tamara Jones, who shared a [presentation on CCA projects](#). The presentation covered the Air Quality in Overburdened Communities rulemaking, the Emissions-Intensive, Trade-Exposed Industries (EITE) report that was recently submitted to the Legislature, and the future of Cap and Invest program linkage.

Sierra Rotakhina said it was helpful to see the areas where they would be looking for EJ Council input in 2026 and asked if they could share timelines so the Council knows when their engagement would be needed. Member Running-Grass asked if there was research to estimate impacts on health that could be gained from reductions in air pollutants. Martha Hankins talked about the well-established link in the scientific research and said they would be able to analyze the cost-benefit of their proposal as a part of the regulatory analysis. Council Members discussed and shared suggestions for how this information should be shared with communities in plain language to encourage critical thought and meaningful engagement so communities can best advocate for their needs. Tamara Jones said they now had a dedicated position for community engagement.

#### IX. Discussion: EJ Council Update to the Public, Governor, and Legislature

The Council did not have time to discuss this item.

#### XI. Public Comment

No comments were shared during this agenda item.

#### XI. Appreciation and Adjournment

Co-Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.

# Environmental Justice Council

**Date:** April 10, 2026

**To:** Environmental Justice Council

**From:** Christy Curwick Hoff, Policy Advisor

**Subject:** 2026 Legislative Session Recap

## Background and Summary

During this agenda item, the Council will receive a brief recap of the 2026 Legislative Session, including: 1) an overview of the 2026 supplemental budget and funding for HEAL Act implementation, and 2) important policy discussions and changes relevant to the Council's work.

### EJ Council Policy Actions

Over the course of the session, the EJ Council tracked a number of bills that would have impacted the Council directly or that may have aligned with the Council's [2026 policy positions](#). Most of those bills ultimately did not pass.

The Council submitted a letter of support for [SHB 2496](#), which requires the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to conduct government-to-government consultation with Tribes during site certification with as many EFSEC members as possible and creates requirements that give Tribes time to review and provide corrections to the consultation summary before it is submitted to the Governor. This bill aligns with the Council's [statement](#) uplifting Tribal Sovereignty; Self Determination; and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and [2026 policy position #2.4](#). The bill passed the Legislature and was signed into [law](#) by the Governor. It goes into effect on June 11, 2026.

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## **EJ Council Budget Actions**

Much of the EJ Council's efforts were focused on protecting funding to implement the HEAL Act. Budget proposals from the Governor and the Senate would have made substantial cuts to the Department of Health and the EJ Council for HEAL implementation, EJ Council operations, the Environmental Health Disparities Map, and the HEAL Interagency Workgroup. The budget proposal from the House would have made devastating reductions to HEAL implementation for the Department of Health, the EJ Council, and the Department of Commerce, and would have completely eliminated the HEAL program funding at the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Community organizations, led by Front and Centered, worked hard to advocate for the maintenance of HEAL funding. The EJ Council did its own advocacy by sharing concerns with legislative budget committees, other Legislators, the Governor's Office, and the Office of Financial Management on each of the proposals. State agencies shared concerns as well. In the end, there were no cuts to HEAL funding in the 2026 supplemental budget.

In addition, the Council adopted a [cover letter](#) for its budget values that expressed concern with the Governor's proposal to use \$569 million of Climate Commitment Act (CCA) revenue to maintain the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC). The final adopted supplemental operating budget did not use any of the CCA revenue for the WFTC—instead it was funded with State General Fund dollars.

## **CCA Accounts Legislation**

An important piece of legislation that passed this year is [E2SHB 2251](#), Concerning Climate Commitment Act Accounts. A broad purpose of the bill was to provide clarity around the distribution of CCA revenue across the transportation, capital, and operating budgets, as well as allowable expenditures within each of those budgets. Another primary goal of the bill was to address what should happen when auction proceeds dip below the specified amounts that were to be deposited into the previous CCA Accounts in statute. The final version of the bill

that passed the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Ferguson creates the following new requirements for CCA revenue distribution:

- The first \$25 million is to be deposited into the CCA Operating Account to be used by the Department of Ecology to administer the Cap and Invest Program.
- After that, 73% is deposited into the CCA Transportation Account, up to a maximum of \$359,117,000. Once that maximum amount is reached, any remaining dollars in that portion of the revenue is deposited into the CCA Capital Account.
- 12% is deposited into the CCA Operating Account, up to a maximum of \$80 million. Once that maximum amount is reached, any remaining in that portion of the revenue is deposited into the CCA Capital Account.
- 15% is deposited into the CCA Capital Account.
- The Air Quality and Health Disparities Account (AQHDIA) still exists and can be used for the operating, capital, and transportation budgets; however, there is no specified distribution to AQHDIA.

### **HEAL Work Session**

On February 20, 2026 the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources held a work session on HEAL Act Implementation. EJ Council Member, David Mendoza, along with Ex Officio Liaisons, Nicole Johnson and Jerry Rivero, and Interagency Workgroup Member from the Department of Natural Resources, Corina Allen, presented during the work session.

Themes and concerns raised by Legislators during the work session included the following:

- Environmental Justice Council
  - Questions about EJ Council membership, and specifically if membership needs to be balanced with greater business representation or broadened to include Legislators or forest landowners.
  - Suggestion that the EJ Council could be duplicative or obsolete with the Office of Equity.
- Environmental Justice Assessments
  - How agencies are defining “overburdened communities” and “vulnerable populations” (terms used in the HEAL Act) when conducting EJAs, and

specifically whether rural communities and economically challenged communities are included.

- Questions about if HEAL agencies serve on other Boards that have adopted rules, if the HEAL agencies are obligated to conduct EJAs for those rules.
- Suggestion that Legislators should not advance agency request legislation if the EJA is still in process and not yet completed.
- Suggestion that EJAs look at impacts on employment and economic impacts.
- Suggestion that an audit of the HEAL Act is due

### **Council Staff Recommended Actions**

No recommended action for this meeting.

### **Staff Contact**

Christy Hoff, Policy Advisor, [christy.hoff@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:christy.hoff@ejc.wa.gov), 360-688-4699

# Environmental Justice Council

**Date:** April 10, 2026

**To:** Environmental Justice Council Members

**From:** Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager

**Subject:** Council Workgroup Updates

## Background and Summary

At its May 2026 meeting the Council created a 2025 - 2026 workplan (see [page 26](#) for more information). The Council chose six projects to focus on for 2025-2026 and convened four workgroups to lead this work. At today's meeting each workgroup will have an opportunity to provide an update on the work they have done to date. Here are brief written updates on each workgroup:

### a) Community & Tribal Engagement Workgroup

This workgroup is focused on developing processes and procedures to support the Council's Tribal and community engagement (e.g. communications plan, Council Tribal Engagement Plan and/or Collaboration/Consultation Policy, Council Community Engagement Plan, etc.). See [page 33](#) for a full list of projects this workgroup will address. The first project that this workgroup has been focusing on is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council and the Department of Health (DOH). The goal is to have a mutually beneficial agreement documenting the administrative support DOH will provide for the Council, and when and how DOH and the Council will work in partnership and independently. This Workgroup is writing this draft MOU because many of the areas that would benefit from having Council independence in decision-making from DOH relate to how the EJC and its staff

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conduct community and Tribal engagement. This workgroup has been meeting regularly with Department of Health staff to draft and discuss various sections of the MOU.

## b) Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Budget Recommendations Workgroup

The CCA Budget Recommendation Workgroup convened with four goals:

- 1) Develop budget values and principles for the 2026 legislative session

The Workgroup drafted budget values and principles for the Council to discuss. The Council edited and adopted these at the October and December 2025 Council meetings. Following the release of Governor Ferguson's proposed budgets in December, this workgroup drafted a cover letter for the budget values and principles that was adopted by the Council at the January 2026 Council meeting. The Council submitted the [cover letter and budget values and principles](#) to the Governor, Office of Financial Management, and Legislative Budget Committees.

- 2) Identify any technical corrections needed to programs funded in the 25-27 biennial budget that the EJ Council has recommended be funded in the past

Council staff reached out to agencies and did not identify any needed technical corrections.

- 3) Create a process for developing biennial budget recommendations moving forward

Council staff drafted a preliminary process that the Workgroup has discussed but not finalized. The news about the budget shortfall and subsequent changes to how the CCA funds are distributed across the operating, capital, and transportation budgets will likely require the Workgroup and the Council to re-evaluate previous discussions about how to approach developing budget recommendations moving forward.

- 4) Identify metrics for budget recommendations

The Workgroup has held preliminary discussions on metrics but has not finalized a draft.

The Workgroup will meet in mid-April to continue this work and to determine next steps for budget recommendations for the 2027 legislative session.

### c) Environmental Justice Assessment (EJA) Workgroup

The Environmental Justice Assessment Workgroup is working on draft guidance for the community engagement requirement of the EJAs. The Workgroup convened a Task Team of HEAL agency staff with experience conducting EJAs to create a first draft of this guidance. The EJA Task Team has completed the initial draft of the EJA Community Engagement Guidance. Council staff are now gathering feedback on the draft from agency staff through meetings and a survey. The initial draft will likely be ready for Council review in September. After incorporating Council feedback, staff will gather feedback from community members and organizations. The EJA Task Team will use that feedback to revise the draft.

### d) Urgent & Emerging Concerns Workgroup

The Urgent and Emerging Concerns workgroup is developing a draft process for how the Council will be responsive to emerging issues and concerns raised by Tribes and communities. This workgroup has met three times and is building from draft processes previously developed by the Council's Community Engagement Committee. This group had discussed piloting a draft process with a specific issue raised by a Tribe or community. This group is also interested in adding more Ex Officio and Appointed Council Members.

## Governance Committee

The Council's Governance Committee will need to reconvene this spring as well. The [Council's Bylaws](#) require the Committee to review the bylaws every two years and the bylaws were adopted in March of 2024. Staff have been tracking areas where the bylaws could be improved to inform the Committee's discussions.

## **Council Staff Recommended Actions**

No recommended action for this meeting.

## **Staff Contact**

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, [sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov), 360-584-4398

# Environmental Justice Council

**Date:** April 10, 2026

**To:** Environmental Justice Council Members

**From:** Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager

**Subject:** 2026-2027 Council Workplan and 2026 Meeting Schedule

## Background and Summary

At its March and May 2026 meetings, the Council reviewed a list of projects it already had underway (see [page 35](#)) as well as a list of statutory duties and other projects the Council had not yet started working on (see [page 41](#)). From these lists the Council identified the projects it wanted to focus on next and created a 2025 - 2026 workplan (see [page 31](#)). In January of 2024 the Council also adopted Workload Planning and Management Principles (see [page 47](#)) that may also inform today's conversation. The Council chose the following projects (see [page 22](#) for updates on the work done to date for each project):

1. ONGOING: Tribal and Community Priorities (Ongoing and responsive work).
  - The Council convened the Urgent and Emerging Concerns Workgroup to develop a process to be responsive to issues and ideas Tribes and communities bring to the Council.
2. ONGOING: Tribal and Community Engagement (Ongoing to address tasks in [Appendix A](#) in the 2025-2026 workplan and for continued improvement and accountability)
  - From this list in [Appendix A](#) the Council is focusing first on developing an MOU between the Council and the Department of Health. The Council convened a workgroup to lead this work.
3. PROJECT 1: HEAL Performance Metrics.

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- The Council’s goal was to weave this work into the front-end of each of the Workgroups to create metrics tied to each project, so a separate workgroup was not created for metrics. This approach has been challenging due to the workload it created for each workgroup.
4. PROJECT 2: HEAL Environmental Justice Assessment (EJA) Guidance.
    - The Council convened an EJA workgroup and an EJA Task Team of HEAL agency staff and Council Members to focus on guidance on community engagement for EJAs.
  5. PROJECT 3: HEAL Budgeting and Funding Guidance.
    - In the Council’s 2025-2026 workplan ([page 31](#)) the Council sequenced this to start in October of 2025. Due to decreases in staff capacity this work has not yet been started.
  6. PROJECT 4: CCA Budget Recommendations.
    - A workgroup was convened to focus on this priority area.

Earlier in this meeting the Council will hear updates from the Council’s project workgroups to help inform the discussion for this agenda item (see written updates for each workgroup on [page 22](#)). During this agenda item the Council will have an opportunity to discuss the projects it prioritized last May, if any new projects or issues need to be prioritized, and (if so) what existing projects would be paused to create capacity for the new work. Tribal members and community members are encouraged to share the priorities they want the Council to focus on during the public comment period and Council Members are encouraged to share their priority projects during the discussion.

Additionally, the Council will have time to talk about how their approach to the work since May has been working, what has been going well, and what changes are needed. Council staff have heard the following ideas from Council Members and HEAL agency staff that may help inform the Council’s discussion today and how it chooses to approach its work in 2026 and 2027:

- The Council needs to have mechanisms in place and meeting time held to be able to be more responsive to issues and ideas raised to Tribes and communities. This should inform how the Council structures in 2026 meeting schedule.
- HEAL agencies are interested in being able to get more real-time feedback, guidance, and thought partnership with the Council on specific issues they are working through as they implement the HEAL Act.
- One proposal is that the Emerging Issues Workgroup would develop a transparent and nimble process for the Council to review public testimony and community-identified environmental justice concerns. This process would result in identifying which issues the Council will elevate and what actions the Council will take. This would help the Council focus on a manageable number of issues at a time, while maintaining transparency about how and why priorities are selected.

Following this conversation about how the Council is approaching its work and any changes that may be needed, the Council will need to adopt a 2026 meeting schedule. [Page 49](#) includes three options for a 2026 meeting schedule for the Council to discuss:

- [Option A](#): Meeting six times in 2026 with two holds to meet only if needed. This is the way the Council has scheduled meetings for the past few years. This is 26 hours of total meeting time (five hours of that total are for an in-person gathering and six hours of that total are held to meet only if needed).
- [Option B](#): Meeting every other month for three hours, with half of each meeting used to hold a forum for emerging and urgent issues and half of each meeting used to address routine Council business (e.g. Executive Committee elections, adoption of meeting schedules, adoption of anticipated documents like budget recommendations and legislative positions, etc.). Additionally, Option B includes 90-minute holds to meet only if needed on the off months to discuss emerging issues. This is 29 hours of total meeting time (five hours of that total are for an in-person gathering and nine hours of that total are held to meet only if needed).

- [Option C](#): Meeting every month for 90 minutes, and focusing on only one agenda item for each meeting (plus public comment). August and December meetings would be held to meet only if needed (for example to discuss emerging issues raised by Tribes, communities, and HEAL agencies) to give Members a rest from meetings in those two months. Simplifying the agenda, meeting materials, and planning would make it feasible for staff to organize a meeting every month. This is 24.5 hours of total meeting time (five hours of that total are for an in-person gathering and six hours of that total are held to meet only if needed).

## **Council Staff Recommended Actions**

The Council will have time today to discuss how the current approach to the work is going and what changes, if any, are needed. The following discussion questions may help guide this conversation:

- 1) Are there projects that the Council did not build into its 2025-2026 workplan that it should be focusing on in the 2026-2027 workplan? If yes, can that new work start after current work is completed? If not, what current work can be paused to create capacity for new work?
- 2) What is working well and what changes are needed to the Council's approach to the work?
- 3) Is there a 2026 meeting schedule and approach to how the Council holds its meetings that would better support the Council being responsive to issues and ideas raised by Tribes, communities, and HEAL agencies? Do any of the meeting schedules outlined on [page 49](#) best meet this need?

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

### **Proposed Motion:**

The Council adopts [Option A/Option B/Option C) from the proposed 2026 Council schedule with any changes agreed upon by the full Council at the April 10, 2026 meeting.

**Staff Contact**

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, [sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov), 360-584-4398

Environmental Justice Council 2025-2026 Workplan: Adopted May 9, 2025

Adopted Council Workplan: May 2025-December 2026																					
Project	Description	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026
<b>Council Meeting Dates</b>		5/9		7/24		9/25	10/23		12/4	2026 Council Meetings Not Yet Scheduled											
<b>ONGOING:</b> Tribal and Community Priorities (Ongoing and responsive work)	Reserving capacity to focus on Tribal and community priorities and emerging issues.																				
<b>ONGOING:</b> Tribal and Community Engagement (Ongoing to address tasks in <a href="#">Appendix A</a> and for continued improvement and accountability)	This project includes the tasks listed in <a href="#">Appendix A</a> that the project workgroup will scope, sequence, and build into a timeline.																				
<b>PROJECT 1:</b> HEAL Performance Metrics	Develop performance metrics for the Council and HEAL. This project includes the tasks listed in <a href="#">Appendix B</a> .																				
<b>PROJECT 2:</b> HEAL EJ Assessment Guidance	Develop guidance for HEAL agencies for implementation of Environmental Justice Assessments.																				
<b>PROJECT 3:</b> HEAL Budgeting and Funding Guidance	Develop guidance for EJ implementation into budgeting and funding decisions.																				
<b>PROJECT 4:</b> CCA Budget Recommendations	Advocate for and track budget recommendations during Legislative session. Work with partners in the interim to adopt budget recommendations as they are ready.	Identify and Develop								Advocate and Track				Identify and Develop							
Council Meeting Agenda Items																					
Council Meeting Agenda Items																					
<b>Council Meeting Dates</b>		5/9		7/24		9/25	10/23		12/4	2026 Council Meetings Not Yet Scheduled											
Updates and Presentations from Tribes and Communities	Identify time throughout the year to hear Tribes and communities, including HEAL Capacity Grantees.								Hold to meet if needed												
Discussion/Adoption: CCA Budget Recommendations (Year- Round Process)	CCA Budget Recommendations will be on Council agendas for discussion and adoption as they are ready year-round.																				
Briefing: CCA Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant Program (date for briefing to be determined)	Learn about Ecology's Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant recipients and their specific project details. Provide feedback if needed.																				

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Environmental Justice Council 2025-2026 Workplan: Adopted May 9, 2025

Adopted Council Workplan: May 2025-December 2026																					
Project	Description	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026
<b>Council Meeting Dates</b>		5/9		7/24		9/25	10/23		12/4	2026 Council Meetings Not Yet Scheduled											
Briefing: Expanding Air Monitoring (date for briefing to be determined)	Learn about Ecology’s work to add air monitors in overburdened communities.																				
Adoption: Council 2025-2026 Workplan	Amendments to this draft workplan as needed and adoption.																				
Adoption: Ethics Procedure and Form	Adoption of ethics procedure and form (needed to implement Ethics Article of the Council’s Bylaws).																				
Briefing: CCA Rulemaking for Improving Air Quality for Overburdened Communities.	Briefing from Ecology on Rulemaking for Improving Air Quality for Overburdened Communities.																				
Discussion: Periodic Review of the Pilot Approach to Work Planning	Discuss how the new pilot approach to work planning is going three months in to the pilot.																				
Discussion: Council Legislative Statement/Positions	Discuss Council’s legislative positions in preparation for the 2026 Legislative session.																				
Briefing: CCA Linkage	Briefing from Ecology: Linking Washington’s Cap and Invest program to California & Quebec programs.																				
Discussion: Periodic review of Pilot Approach to Work Planning and 2026 Council Meeting Schedule and Workplan	Discuss how the new pilot approach to work planning is going and changes needed for the Council’s 2026 meeting schedule/workplan.																				
Adoption: Council Legislative Statement/Positions	Adopt Council’s legislative positions for the 2026 Legislative session.																				
Adoption: EJ Council Legislative Update Metrics Developed to Date	Adopt legislatively required update to the public, Legislature, and Governor. Due December 1, 2025.																				
Adoption: 2026 Council Meeting Schedule and Workplan	Adopt the Council’s 2026 meeting schedule and workplan (with any needed changes to pilot approach).																				
Project Workgroups Agenda Item	Agenda items will be added based on the timelines developed by project workgroups for projects outlined in workplan above.																				

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Environmental Justice Council 2025-2026 Workplan: Adopted May 9, 2025

Adopted Council Workplan: May 2025-December 2026																					
Project	Description	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026
Council Meeting Dates		5/9		7/24		9/25	10/23		12/4	2026 Council Meetings Not Yet Scheduled											
Executive Committee Elections	The current Executive Committee terms end on January 29, 2027. Elections will need to be held at the end of 2026.																				Hold elections on last scheduled 2026 meeting.
Discussion and Adoption: 2027 Council Meeting Schedule and Workplan	Discuss and adopt 2027 meeting schedule and updated or new workplan for 2027-2028.																				Adopt 2027 schedule and workplan at end of 2026.

Appendix A: Tasks for Tribal and Community Engagement Project Workgroup

Task	Description of Task
MOU between the EJ Council and Department of Health	Develop an MOU between Dept. of Health and the EJ Council to cover data ownership, IT & HR support, etc.
Data Protections Policy & Procedure	Develop Council policy/procedure to protect information collected through public comment, etc.
EJ Council Communications Plan	Develop Council communications goals, process, and outcomes. This is a precursor to the full engagement plans.
Confidential & Anonymous Public Comments	Develop protocol or policy for if and how the Council will accept confidential and anonymous public comments.
Public Comment Process	Develop formalized process for collecting, analyzing, and being responsive to public comments.
Public Comment Database	Develop database for public comment intake, tracking, and analysis.
Council Tribal Engagement Plan and/or Collaboration/Consultation Policy	Develop plan/policy for how we will engage Tribes when the Council takes actions/makes recommendations that impact Tribes.
Council Community Engagement Plan	Develop plan for how the Council will engage and work with communities.
Public Comment Dashboard	Develop a way to display public comments, EJC actions taken to be responsive, status, etc.
May 2024 Community Meeting Follow Up	Continue to work with community members on next steps from the May 2024 community meeting in Toppenish.
Community Engagement Values and Guidance Appendix	Finalize appendix to support interpretation of Council's Community Engagement Values and Guidance.

To request this document in a printable format or translated into another language email [envjustice@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov).

## Appendix B: Tasks Related to HEAL Performance Metrics

Task	Description of Task
HEAL EJ Assessment Metrics	Develop metrics for EJ Assessments (EJA). Timeline aligns with development of EJA Guidance below.
Tribal Engagement Metrics	Develop metrics for Tribal engagement.
Community Engagement Metrics	Develop metrics for community engagement.
CCA Budget Recommendations Metrics	Develop metrics for CCA Budget Recommendations.
Adoption of Council Legislative Update - Summary of Metrics Developed to Date	Adopt legislatively required update to the public, Legislature, and Governor. Due December 1, 2025
HEAL Budgeting and Funding Metrics	Develop metrics for HEAL Budgeting and Funding. Timeline aligns with development of guidance below.
Remaining Metrics	Identify and develop additional metrics needed.

This was a document used by the Council in March of 2025 to inform their May 2025 work planning. This is no longer an updated list and is included here only to show the history of the Council's work planning decisions.

## Environmental Justice Council Project List

### Projects Underway by the Council

Last Updated March 14, 2025

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Budget Recommendation Development	CCA (Climate Commitment Act)	Work with Council and partners to adopt budget recommendations in anticipation of Governor's release of budget proposals each December	Underway: Ongoing	Yes 70A.65.040(1) 70A.65.040(2aii)	Annually, typically in Spring/Fall. Submit in September. Could be moved to a year-round activity.
Linkage	CCA	Develop a position statement on a linkage agreement and/or rule changes to facilitate linkage. May include potential policy recommendations that address the potential negative impacts of linkage from an analysis by Resources for the Future	Underway: Significant time invested (Working on for 2 years)	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	March 2025 and ongoing (provide input before 2027)
Recommendations on Ecology's CCA community engagement plan	CCA	Guidance to Ecology on meaningful engagement for Ecology's community engagement plan	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	Yes 70A.65.040	
Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant Program	CCA	Learn about grant recipients and their specific project details. Provide feedback if needed.	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	Yes 70A.65.040 (2e)	April/May for presentation

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Rulemaking for Air Quality	CCA	Processes and strategies for emission reductions to achieve air quality targets. Develop recommendations to ensure the reduction of health harming emissions.	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	October
Expanding Air Monitoring	CCA	Adding air monitors in overburdened communities that had existing air monitors prior to the CCA	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	Ongoing through 2025
Air Quality Program Community and Tribal Engagement	CCA	Ecology developing an MOU with 7 Tribes most impacted by air pollution	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	Ongoing through 2026
Guidance for HEAL/CCA Investments (and/or HEAL Interagency Workgroup Tip Sheets)	CCA and HEAL	Provide a guidance document outlining what investments qualify as environmental benefits and direct and meaningful benefits	Underway: Significant time dedicated	Maybe 70A.65.040(2)(c) 70A.65.040(2e) 70A.65.040(2f) 70A.65.02.110	6/1/2025 for guidance and 4/22/25 for tip sheet
Public Comment Process	Governance/ Operations	Formalized process for collecting, analyzing, and being responsive to public comments	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
Data protections policy/ procedure	Governance/ Operations	Develop Council policy/procedure to protect information collected through public comment, etc.	Underway: Brainstorming stage	No	
Public Comment Database	Governance/ Operations	Public comment intake, tracking, analysis	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
EJ Council Communications Plans (precursor to full engagement plan)	Governance/ Operations	Communications goals, process, and outcomes	Underway: Brainstorming stage	No	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
MOU between EJC and Department of Health (DOH)	Governance/ Operations	Develop an MOU between DOH and the EJC to cover things like data ownership, IT support, etc.	Underway: Staff draft only	No	
Public Comment Dashboard	Governance/ Operations	Develop a way to display public comments, EJC actions taken to be responsive, status, etc.	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
Council Tribal Engagement Plan and/or Collaboration/Consultation Policy	Governance/ Operations	Plan or policy for how we will engage Tribes when the Council takes actions/makes recommendations that impact Tribes	Underway: Brainstorming stage	No	
Council Community Engagement Plan	Governance/ Operations	Plan for how the Council will engage and work with communities	Underway: Brainstorming stage	no	
MOU with Ecology	Governance/ Operations	An MOU would set expectations for how Ecology responds	Underway: CCA Committee worked on draft with Ecology's Deputy Director	no	
Ethics Procedure	Governance/ Operations	Development of a procedure to implement the Ethics Article of the Bylaws	Underway: Significant time dedicated	no	
EJ Council Website Update/ Development	Governance/ Operations	Transition of EJC website to new platform with more functionality.	Underway: Early	no	
EJ Council Branding	Governance/ Operations	The EJC hasn't adopted colors, branding, etc.	Underway: early	no	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Youth Advisory Council	Governance/ Operations	Former EJ Council youth representative brought this idea to the full EJC and it was endorsed. We have not had the capacity to stand this up.	Underway: Timeline (outdated) and process proposed to Council	no	
EJ Council guidance on Environmental Justice Assessments (EJAs)	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into EJAs	Underway: Significant time dedicated	Yes	expect a year or more
EJ Council HEAL Budgeting and Funding Guidance	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into budgeting and funding criteria/decisions	Could be connected to Guidance for HEAL/CCA Investments work underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9b)	
Standards for disaggregating data	HEAL	DOH is lead in statute Work with DOH/others to create standards for data collection, analysis, reporting of disaggregated data for Washington	Underway: Primarily staff work (join cross-enterprise convenings); have related budget recommendation	Yes 70A.02.110(6a)	
Performance measures / Metrics	HEAL	DOH is lead in statute; Work with DOH/others to create statewide and agency specific process and outcome measures to show performance	Underway: HEAL Interagency Workgroup had a subcommittee that began drafting metrics; agency strategic plans have metrics	Yes 70A.02.110(6b)	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Follow up steps for 2024 Central Washington Community Meeting	HEAL	The Council has a statutory duty to serve as a forum. The May 2024 community meeting was one forum created through a community meeting.	Underway: Community forum and summary completed. Needs follow-up steps	No	
Non-HEAL community engagement plans	HEAL	guidance to agencies on meaningful engagement and community engagement plans	Underway: Staff only work so far -- provide technical support for non-HEAL agencies	Yes 70A.65.040	
Council Policy Positions	Other	Work with Council to adopt policy positions in anticipation of legislative session	Underway: Ongoing	No	Annually, typically in the Fall. Could be moved to a year-round activity.
State government prepayment on grants and contracts	Other	Started as budget recommendation in 2024 but Budget Committee members asked for information from Assistant Attorney General as starting point	Underway: Staff work, gathered info when this was a budget recommendation	No	none
Environmental Justice Fund	Other	Creating an EJ Fund started as budget rec but Council deferred this to possible policy position at 11/2024 EJC meeting	Underway: Staff work, gathered info when this was a budget rec	No	none

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Community Engagement Guidance and Values Appendix	Other	This appendix is in draft form and was created alongside the Council’s Community Engagement Values and Guidance but was not adopted with that document	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
Clean Energy Siting Council	Other	Council staff have a seat on this Council to bring an environmental justice perspective to interagency discussions and decision-making processes related to siting and permitting of clean energy projects in Washington	Underway: Ongoing	Yes 43.394.010(1)(k) 43.394.020	April-October is timeline for drafting annual report

This was a document used by the Council in March of 2025 to inform their May 2025 work planning. This is no longer an updated list and is included here only to show the history of the Council's work planning decisions.

## Environmental Justice Council Project List

### Projects Not Underway for the Council

Note that projects may be in progress but the status column is focused on EJ Council involvement in the project.

Updated as of March 14, 2025

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Offsets – US Forestry	CCA (Climate Commitment Act)	Provide input on revisions to U.S. Forestry Protocol	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	May-25
Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed Industries (EITEs) Legislative Report	CCA	Develop a position statement on Ecology's approach to giving EITEs no-cost allowances for 2035-2050	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	July or August 2025
Offsets– Ozone Depleting Substances	CCA	Provide input on rule proposal to update Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Protocol	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	Mar-25
Air Quality grant review	CCA	Learn about Ecology's Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant receipts and their specific project details. Provide feedback if needed.	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2e) 70A.65.040 (2g)	Mar-25
Review CCA Spending Report	CCA	Evaluate CCA expenditures from the previous fiscal year and provide input	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040(2e)	
Cap and Invest program evaluation	CCA	Share information with EJC about the administration of allowances	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	none

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Recommendations for environmental justice and environmental health goals	CCA	Develop recommendations for goals for programs funded with CCA funds and review agency annual reports on outcomes and progress toward meeting goals	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Biennial Air Quality Assessment in Overburdened Communities	CCA	Report of changes in criteria air pollutants, green house gas emissions, and impacts on human health in overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040(2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	August and/or December2025 or Jan2026
Analyze CCA policies for impacts on communities	CCA	Provide a forum to analyze policies adopted under CCA to see if they lead to improvements with overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Recommend procedures and criteria for evaluating programs, activities, projects	CCA	Recommend procedures and criteria for evaluating programs, activities, projects	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Evaluate funding levels	CCA	Evaluate the level of funding provided to vulnerable populations and the funding of projects and activities in overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Recommendations for co-pollutant emission reduction goals	CCA	Recommendations for co-pollutant emission reduction goals in overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Recommendations to support public participation through capacity grants	CCA	Recommendations for how to support public participation through capacity grants	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Offset credit limits	CCA	Consult with Ecology on whether offsets are likely to contribute substantively to air pollution burden in an overburdened community to inform offset credit limits	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Confidential & Anonymous public comment	Governance/Operations	Develop protocol/process for the Council if receiving confidential and anonymous public comment	Not underway	No	none
Bylaws regular review	Governance/Operations	Bylaws require review by Governance Committee every 2 years starting at 3/28/24	Not underway	No (required by bylaws)	3/28/2026
Council Expectations	Governance/Operations	At the January 2025 meeting, Members requested that the Governance Committee discuss attendance requirements for Executive Committee Members and Co-Chairs. Members have also raised questions about expectations of Members during the public comment period, etc.	Not underway	No	

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Short Description of Project or Other Notes</b>	<b>Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)</b>	<b>Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)</b>	<b>External due date or timeline?</b>
EJ Council Logo	Governance/Operations	The Council does not have a logo or branding	Not underway	No	
EJ Council Strategic Plan	Governance/Operations	The Council has not developed its own strategic plan to guide and ground its work	Not underway	No	
Legislative report	HEAL	Biennial report to the Legislature and Governor and to the public evaluating agency progress in applying Council guidance and communicating each agency's progress and the state's progress in meeting state EJ goals and summarizing the work of the Council in meeting its HEAL statutory obligations.	Not underway	Yes	Dec 1, 2025 and biennially
EJ Council input/consultation on V3 of the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map	HEAL	HEAL requires the Department of Health to, in consultation with the Council, to develop and maintain the EHD map.	Not underway	Yes (sort of) 43.70.815	Draft planned for publication July 2025 followed by public comment period before finalization
EJ Council guidance on agency strategic plans	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into agency strategic plans	Not underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9b)	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
EJ Council guidance on community engagement plans (updated /iterative)	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into community engagement plans	Not underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9b)	
Performance Dashboard	HEAL	<p>Work with DOH/others to create an online performance dashboard of measures and outcomes for the state and each agency</p> <p>DOH is lead in statute. Staff believe this statutory obligation can likely be met with Office of Financial Management (OFM) dashboard required by RCW 70A.02.090(2)(b)</p>	Not Underway (EJC has only given high level individual feedback on the OFM dashboard)	Yes 70A.02.110(6c)	
Recommendations on additional Significant Agency Actions	HEAL	The HEAL Act asks agencies to identify significant agency actions that should require an Environmental Justice Assessment in addition to those listed in the law.	Not underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9cii)	
Clean Vehicles Rulemaking	Other	Provide input on adoption of California emissions standards for new motor vehicles & engines	Not underway	No	June

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Department of Health Participatory Budgeting Proviso	Other	Sec 222(124) directs the EJ Council to partner with the Department of Health in engaging in participatory budgeting with five communities	Not underway	Yes Operating Budget Proviso	
Department of Health Worker Safety Grants	Other	Sec 222(26) directs the Department of Health to consult with the EJ Council and others to evaluate mechanisms to provide workers with financial assistance to cover lost wages or other hardships caused by extreme weather & climate threats.	Not underway	Yes Operating Budget Proviso	

# Environmental Justice Council

## Workload Planning and Management Principles

Adopted by the Council on January 25, 2024

In its workload planning and management, the Environmental Justice Council (Council):

- Strives to meet the requirements of the HEAL Act and Climate Commitments Act.
- Strives to balance community and Tribal priorities the Council is aware of; the EJ Council's priorities; the HEAL Interagency Workgroup's and agencies' priorities, workplans, and timelines; the Council's duties and due dates in HEAL, the CCA, the state budgets, and other legislative timelines; and inflexible timelines within how state government operates (e.g. legislative session, release of the Governor's budgets, etc.).
- Recognizes the Council's priorities and timelines will not always align with the agencies' timelines. Conversely, the Council understands that agency's workplans and implementation processes and decisions may not allow them to immediately update tools, processes, and documents that are already in operation when the EJ Council adopts guidance on a HEAL deliverable. This may result in the agencies incorporating EJ Council guidance on the next iteration of that tool, process, document, etc. in co-governance with the Council.
- Recognizes that the Council, as a forum for community and Tribal voices, will prioritize and center time for Tribes and communities both outside of Council meetings and within Council meeting agendas through public comment periods, community connection agenda items, and other ways for authentic community connection and dialogue. Council staff shall provide regular report-backs to the Council and the respective Tribe and/or community on how the Council is being responsive and accountable to said input, feedback, and/or guidance.
- Strives to meet the Council's own needs to dedicate time to attend to its own governance and processes in order to successfully meet its statutory duties.

In full consideration of the above and previous 2023 Council workload planning experience, the Council will adopt the following workload planning and management principles:

1. Council attention will be equally given to HEAL and CCA matters.

2. The Council acknowledges and will integrate into its workload planning the observation that it often takes two Council meetings for the Council to come to consensus: At the first meeting, introduce an issue/topic for action in the first meeting; after the first meeting provide one-on-one meetings or small workshop(s) to give opportunity for discussion and clarification questions for possible further refinement; and at the second meeting discuss, refine as needed, and adopt or not by consensus policy positions and/or other documents.
3. The Council will prioritize funding to bring in expertise (community experts, experts on highly technical issues, economic experts, etc.) to support and supplement the Council's limited bandwidth and/or limited expertise to properly address its workload.
4. The Council can modify the agenda(s) and adopted work plan to be responsive to emerging issues such as external initiatives, new legislation, etc. as needed.
5. The Council does not have the capacity to engage in every rulemaking given its limited bandwidth. For any rulemaking public comment process, HEAL agencies are expected to follow and document the four principles below:
  - a. Tribal Consultation as required by law.
  - b. Council Community Engagement Values and Guidance.
  - c. The principle of not creating new or additional burden for the communit(y)ies by stopping the action when the agency already knows that the action will cause and/or increase harm to said communit(y)ies.
  - d. Comply and be consistent with HEAL, CCA, and existing Council guidance.

# 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>

## Option A for Council Discussion

Option A: Meeting six times in 2026 with two holds to meet only if needed. This is the way the Council has scheduled meetings for the past few years. This is 26 hours of total meeting time (five hours of that total are for an in-person

gathering and six hours of that total are held to meet only if needed).

Meeting Date	Location
Thursday January 29, 2026 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Virtual Only
Thursday February 12, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for legislative purposes	
Friday April 10, 2026 1:00pm – 4:00pm	Virtual Only
Wednesday May 13, 2026 10:00 - 3:00 pm	Council Gathering Asia Pacific Cultural Center 4851 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409
Thursday July 23, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm	Virtual Only
Thursday September 24, 2026 3:30pm—6:30pm	Virtual Only
Thursday October 22, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed.	
Thursday November 19, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm	Virtual Only

# Option B for Council Discussion

Option B: Meeting every other month for three hours, with half of each meeting used to hold a forum for emerging and urgent issues and half of each meeting used to address routine Council business (e.g. Executive Committee elections, adoption of meeting schedules, adoption of anticipated documents like budget recommendations and legislative positions, etc.). Additionally, Option B includes 90-minute holds to meet only if needed on the off months to discuss emerging issues. This is 29 hours of total meeting time (five hours of that total are for an in-person gathering and nine hours of that total are held to meet only if needed).

Meeting Date	Location
Thursday January 29, 2026 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Virtual Only
Thursday February 12, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for legislative purposes	
Friday April 10, 2026 1:00pm – 4:00pm	Virtual Only
Wednesday May 13, 2026 10:00 - 3:00 pm	Council Gathering Asia Pacific Cultural Center 4851 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409
Thursday June 25, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for emerging issues	

<p>Thursday July 23, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm</p> <p>(half of the meeting used to hold a forum for emerging and urgent issues and half of the meeting used to address routine Council business)</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>
<p>Thursday August 13, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for emerging issues</p>	
<p>Thursday September 24, 2026 3:30pm—6:30pm</p> <p>(half of the meeting used to hold a forum for emerging and urgent issues and half of the meeting used to address routine Council business)</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>
<p>Thursday October 22, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for emerging issues or to prepare for the 2027 legislative session</p>	
<p>Thursday November 19, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm</p> <p>(half of the meeting used to hold a forum for emerging</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>

and urgent issues and half of the meeting used to address routine Council business)	
Thursday December 17, 2026 5:00pm-6:30pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for emerging issues	

## Option C for Council Discussion

Option B: Meeting every month for 90 minutes, and focusing on only **one** agenda item for each meeting (plus public comment). August and December meetings would be held to meet only if needed (for example to discuss emerging issues raised by Tribes, communities, and HEAL agencies) to give Members a rest from meetings in those two months. Simplifying the agenda, meeting materials, and planning would make it feasible for staff to organize a meeting every month. This is 24.5 hours of total meeting time (five hours of that total are for an in-person gathering and six hours of that total are held to meet only if needed).

Meeting Date	Location
Thursday January 29, 2026 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Virtual Only
Thursday February 12, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for legislative purposes	

<p>Friday April 10, 2026 1:00pm – 4:00pm</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>
<p>Wednesday May 13, 2026 10:00 - 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Council Gathering Asia Pacific Cultural Center 4851 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409</p>
<p>Thursday June 25, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm  (90 minute meeting with public comment and only one agenda item)</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>
<p>Thursday July 23, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm  (90 minute meeting with public comment and only one agenda item)</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>
<p>Thursday August 13, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed</p>	
<p>Thursday September 24, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm  (90 minute meeting with public comment and only one agenda item)</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>

<p>October 22, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm</p> <p>(90 minute meeting with public comment and only one agenda item)</p>	
<p>Thursday November 19, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm</p> <p>(90 minute meeting with public comment and only one agenda item)</p>	<p>Virtual Only</p>
<p>Thursday December 17, 2026 4:30pm-6:00pm Virtual Only Hold to meet only if needed for emerging issues</p>	

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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or 360-584-4398.

Last updated: April 10, 2026

## Written Public Comments

The following section of the meeting packet includes written public comments submitted to the Council that do not necessarily reflect the positions or values of the Environmental Justice Council.

No one but each Tribe can speak for the Tribe and the Council is committed to their Tribal sovereignty.

**From:** Jean Mendoza

**Sent:** Sunday, March 22, 2026 1:56 PM

**To:** Chen, Jonathan T (EJC) <[Jonathan.Chen@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Chen@ejc.wa.gov)>; Hoff, Christy Curwick (EJC) <[Christy.Hoff@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:Christy.Hoff@ejc.wa.gov)>; Red Bow, Sierra J (EJC) <[Sierra.RedBow@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:Sierra.RedBow@ejc.wa.gov)>; Rotakhina, Sierra D (EJC) <[Sierra.Rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:Sierra.Rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov)>

**Subject:** EJ in Yakima County

Hello WA Environmental Justice Council,

Most people think of a factory with dirty smokestacks in the middle of shacks where children play in the streets when we picture environmental injustice. We picture carpet baggers coming into a small town and selling country folks on a get rich quick scheme. This only happens in Louisiana's cancer alley, right?

Think again. Look at the progressive state of Washington. Think of a rural town where farmers truck the manure from 80,000 milk cows into the city limits and deposit it into tanks that are seven stories high, where it will digest for three weeks to produce natural gas. Think of promoters telling residents that this project will make the air smell better.

This is playing out in Yakima County this week when the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency will hold a public hearing over the agency's decision to draft approval of an air permit for a manure methane biodigester, possibly the largest in the nation, planned for Sunnyside, WA.

The Sunnyside population is 80% Latino with an average household income that is \$8,400 below the average household income in the City of Yakima and \$46,000 below the average household income in Washington State. 25% of the people in Sunnyside do not speak English well. The YRCAA translated the meeting announcement into Spanish. The YRCAA did not translate the meeting materials – the air permitting application, supporting documents or draft permit – into Spanish. The hearing will be held forty miles from Sunnyside, in the more affluent community of Terrace Heights.

EJ advocates have asked YRCAA to make the hearing available on-line. If that option becomes available we will let you know.

Thanks

Jean Mendoza

Friends of Toppenish Creek