

Environmental Justice Council

October 26, 2026 Meeting Materials

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Consejo de Justicia Ambiental (EJC)

26 de octubre de 2026

De 11:00 a. m. a 12:15 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

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

Objetivos de la reunión

1. Presentar a los miembros del Consejo recién nombrados y al nuevo gerente del Consejo
2. Presentar una posible recomendación presupuestaria adicional para que el Consejo la analice en diciembre.

Orden del día

Únase a las 10:50 a. m. para ver una presentación sobre cómo activar los subtítulos y conectarse al canal con interpretación al español o al Lenguaje de Señas Americano (por su sigla en inglés, ASL).

De 11:00 a. m. a 11:05 a. m.	I. Bienvenida	Tatiana Brown, copresidenta Jarred-Michael Erickson, copresidente Miembros del Consejo
De 11:05 a. m. a 11:10 a. m.	II. Aprobación del orden del día por parte del Consejo	Tatiana Brown, copresidenta Miembros del Consejo

De 11:10 a. m. a 11:20 a. m.	III. Comentarios del público	Tatiana Brown, copresidenta
De 11:20 a. m. a 12:05 p. m.	IV. Presentación del nuevo gerente y de los nuevos miembros del Consejo de Justicia Ambiental (por su sigla en inglés, EJC) ¿Qué le inspira a formar parte del EJC o a seguir formando parte de él?	Cristina González Torres, miembro del Consejo, Jonathan Chen, miembro del personal del Consejo Miembros del Consejo
De 12:05 p. m. a 12:10 p. m.	V. Anuncio: Posible recomendación presupuestaria Iniciativa para mejorar la calidad del aire en comunidades sobrecargadas Objetivo: Presentar una posible recomendación presupuestaria adicional relacionada con la iniciativa para mejorar la calidad del aire en comunidades sobrecargadas, para que sea analizada en la reunión del Consejo de diciembre.	Tatiana Brown, copresidenta Christy Hoff, personal del Consejo Miembros del Consejo

De 12:10 p. m. a 12:15 p. m.	VI. Agradecimientos y cierre	Tatiana Brown, copresidenta Jarred-Michael Erickson, copresidente
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Información importante

- El día de la reunión, el Consejo puede reordenar los puntos del orden del día.
- Para comunicarse con el personal durante la reunión, envíe un correo electrónico a:
envjustice@ejc.wa.gov.
- Para solicitar este documento en otro formato o en un idioma diferente, comuníquese con el Consejo en cualquier idioma a envjustice@ejc.wa.gov.

BOBBY

Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council)

October 26, 2026
11:00am – 12:15pm

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

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

Meeting Goals

1. Introduce newly appointed Council Members and new Council Manager
2. Introduce a possible additional budget recommendation for Council consideration in December.

Agenda

Please join us at 10:50am for a presentation on how to turn on closed captions and join the Spanish or ASL interpretation channel.

11:00 AM – 11:05 AM	I. Welcome	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown Co-Chair Jarred-Michael Erickson Council Members
11:05 AM – 11:10 AM	II. Approval of Agenda by Council	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown Council Members
11:10 AM – 11:20 AM	III. Public Comment	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown

11:20 AM – 12:05 PM	IV. New EJ Council Manager and Council Member Introductions Why are you inspired/continuing to serve on the EJ Council?	Council Member Cristina González Torres Jonathan Chen, Council Staff Council Members
12:05 PM – 12:10 PM	V. Announcement: Potential Budget Recommendation Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Initiative Goal: Introduce a possible additional budget recommendation related to the Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Initiative for consideration at the Council's December meeting.	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown Christy Hoff, Council Staff Council Members
12:10 PM – 12:15 PM	VI. Appreciation and Adjournment	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown Co-Chair Jarred Michael Erickson

Important Information

- The Council may move agenda items around on the day of the meeting.
- To contact staff during the meeting, please email: envjustice@ejc.wa.gov.
- To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact the Council, in any language, at envjustice@ejc.wa.gov.

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.

EMAIL SENT TO EJC INBOX ON SATURDAY, 09/26/2026

Sender included Attachment (see page 2-6)

Sender would like to share their message as a public comment and has asked to have their name redacted.

*****BEGINNING of Email

Good Morning,

I have lived in Washington the majority of my life and have resided both on the Western and Eastern side of our state. I wanted to share a general concern which I am sure won't be the first nor last time you receive this comment. Data Center Development, with its current legislation, is in direct conflict with Washington's Climate Commitment Act Goals. Allowing such pollution of our air, industrialization of rural areas and potential PFAs contamination to our waterways will do nothing to help us achieve our Climate Goals. I have already emailed SEPA asking why there are not cumulative SEPA reports being done for each river, for example the Columbia River which has become inundated with demand from Data Center consumption to cool their servers. I have not received a response to this email.

A specific project I am worried about is located in Richland, WA. The Port of Benton along with the City of Richland want to build a complete industrial park near legacy contamination from Hanford . Thus far the Port of Benton has approved a Hydrogen Fertilizer Plant right next to two heat emitting data centers. Obviously a fire risk is posed by an experimental green hydrogen fertilizer plant. I notified the Port of Benton of these concerns in a document I provided them at their regular meeting in August 2026 (see attachment). I never received a response from the Port of Benton. Putting two Data Centers next [to](#) a fertilizer plant would only add to the risk of fire and was approved by The City of Richland's City Council to move forth in December 2025. To add to the concern, these areas are not all that far from legacy contamination due to Hanford that DOE is attempting to annex the firefighting responsibility to the City of Richland (links provided below).

As of yesterday, 9/25/2026, our neighboring cities of West Richland and Benton City had to evacuate and 1,000 homes were lost due to a fire. This summer we all watched 10,000 acres burn in Spokane. It is so disheartening to watch my local city ignore these factors and continue to add fire risks to an area that is already prone to wildfire and has the potential for a nuclear fire.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

NAME REDACTED

<https://www.richlandbusiness.com/land-for-sale/northwest-advanced-clean-energy-park>

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/hanford/article316330601.html>

<https://www.tricitiesbusinessnews.com/articles/deal-advances-atlas-agros-fertilizer-plant>

***END of Email

The proposed Pacific Green Fertilizer facility by Atlas Agro in Richland, Washington, involves industrial chemical processing on a massive scale, specifically utilizing green hydrogen, nitrogen, and producing nitrate-based products like ammonium nitrate solutions and calcium ammonium nitrate. When a corporate entity with limited prior asset delivery attempts a multi-billion-dollar greenfield chemical engineering project, the margin for error narrows. The silence or unresponsiveness from primary engineering and construction partners introduces substantial project management and safety oversight risks during both construction and operational phases.

Vulnerabilities and Dangers

Fertilizer manufacturing plants carry inherent, highly volatile risks due to the chemicals utilized, stored, and produced.

- * **Green Hydrogen Production and Storage:** This facility relies on large-scale water electrolysis to generate hydrogen. Hydrogen has a very wide flammable range, low ignition energy, and burns with an invisible flame. Storage and compression systems present severe leak, flash fire, and detonation risks if containment fails.

- * **Ammonium Nitrate and Intermediate Products:** The plant involves the production and handling of nitric acid and ammonium nitrate solutions. While solutions are safer than solid prills, contamination, unintended concentration spikes, or thermal runaway in process vessels can trigger violent decomposition or explosion.

- * **Ammonia Handling:** Green ammonia is typically used as a feedstock for downstream products. Ammonia is toxic, corrosive, and hazardous to human tissue upon inhalation or contact.

- * **Novel Technology Integration:** Integrating unproven at-scale green hydrogen loops with traditional nitric acid and nitrate synthesis creates complex process safety vulnerabilities. Unfamiliarity with the specific nuances of the scaled system by operating or engineering teams increases the likelihood of human error or overlooked failure modes.

Historical Incidents at Similar Facilities

Global industrial history underscores the catastrophic potential of fertilizer manufacturing and storage facilities:

- * **West, Texas (2013):** An ammonium nitrate storage and distribution facility caught fire, resulting in a detonation that killed 15 people, injured hundreds, and leveled a residential neighborhood. It highlighted the dangers of poor inventory tracking, lack of built-in fire suppression, and inadequate local zoning separation.

- * **Toulouse, France (2001):** An explosion occurred in a hangar storing off-spec ammonium nitrate granulate at a chemical plant, causing 31 deaths, thousands of injuries, and widespread structural devastation miles away.

- * **Beirut, Lebanon (2020):** Improperly stored ammonium nitrate cargo detonated at a port facility, producing a blast equivalent to a moderate earthquake, causing hundreds of deaths and obliterating port infrastructure.

- * **Various Hydrogen and Ammonia Incidents:** Industrial history is marked by numerous localized hydrogen explosions and ammonia releases caused by valve failures, seal degradation, and inadequate purge protocols during startup or maintenance phases.

Community Danger and Impact

Should a major containment failure, runaway chemical reaction, or detonation occur at the Richland site:

- * **Blast Overpressure:** An explosion involving high volumes of reactive chemicals or stored gases creates a severe shockwave capable of structural collapse, shattering windows, and causing lethal trauma miles from the epicenter.
- * **Toxic Plumes:** A catastrophic release of ammonia or nitrogen oxides (from nitric acid reactions) generates a dense, toxic vapor cloud. This cloud can travel downwind across populated areas or agricultural zones, causing severe respiratory damage, chemical burns, or fatalities.
- * **Water and Soil Contamination:** Fire suppression runoff mixed with heavy nitrogen solutions or process chemicals threatens local water tables and the Yakima or Columbia River basins if containment systems fail.

Emergency Response and Fire Division Requirements

Protecting a facility of this magnitude places immense demands on local emergency services, requiring stringent preparedness:

- * **Specialized Mitigation Infrastructure:** Local fire departments cannot fight major chemical or high-pressure hydrogen fires with standard water streams. Facilities require dedicated, built-in fixed suppression systems, automated gas-detection arrays, deluge systems, and remote-activation shutoffs.
- * **Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Expertise:** Responders must possess advanced certifications in high-pressure gas leaks, cryogenic liquids, and reactive chemical fires. Standard defensive positioning is often inadequate during a runaway reaction, requiring specialized tactical withdrawal and containment protocols.
- * **Community Evacuation and Warning Systems:** Municipal emergency management must maintain pre-scripted, rapid-deployment evacuation protocols, real-time plume-modeling software, and automated siren systems to warn surrounding Richland residents before a toxic cloud or blast wave reaches populated.
- * **Inter-Agency Coordination:** Because municipal departments lack the resources to independently manage a multi-thousand-ton chemical plant disaster, mandatory mutual aid pacts, industrial self-rescue brigades, and continuous joint training drills between plant operators and county emergency services are legally and operationally required.

Statement of Fact: The proposed location for the Atlas Agro facilities sits within a geographically fire-prone arid landscape in close proximity to legacy industrial and federal reservation boundaries, creating a compound wildfire risk that requires careful mitigation.

Actionable Request: Require an independent, comprehensive microclimate and thermodynamic analysis to prove that facility heat signatures will not accelerate local vegetative drying or increase ignition potential before any permits are advanced.

Statement of Fact: Heavy industrial fertilizer production introduces a high-consequence operational environment where standard municipal fire protection alone is insufficient.

Actionable Request: Mandate that the developers fund and construct wide, non-combustible building materials, automated thermal-imaging early-warning fire detection systems, and

dedicated high-capacity on-site water reserves prior to final approval.

Statement of Fact: Ground excavation and trenching for heavy industrial cooling and plant infrastructure near historic reservation boundaries risk disturbing and mobilizing subsurface soil conditions.

Actionable Request: Enforce strict vapor barrier and soil disturbance restrictions, requiring comprehensive third-party environmental containment protocols to ensure no construction activity loosens legacy contaminants into the air or water. All of these test results to be available to the public via an easily accessible website.

Statement of Fact: Soil disturbance from heavy industrial construction near historical nuclear and chemical reservation boundaries can mobilize buried legacy contaminants like hexavalent chromium or other historical residues via fugitive dust if not strictly managed.

Actionable Request: Enforce a specialized Subsurface Disturbance and Particulate Lock Permit that requires continuous real-time particulate monitoring around the active construction perimeter, with mandatory work stoppages whenever wind speeds or dust levels threaten to lift topsoil toward populated areas. All of these test results to be available to the public via an easily accessible website.

Statement of Fact: Facilities producing synthetic nitrogen, nitric acid, and ammonium nitrate release industrial air pollutants, including ammonia gas, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds, that directly impact local air quality and respiratory health.

Actionable Request: Establish rigorous air quality standards that mandate continuous fenceline monitoring for specific operational emissions rather than relying solely on delayed self-reporting or minimum compliance thresholds. All of these test results to be available to the public via an easily accessible website.

Statement of Fact: Traditional industrial permits rely on periodic stack testing and delayed self-reporting where companies measure their own emissions only a few times a year, which can miss fugitive leaks and operational drift.

Actionable Request: Demand continuous real-time fenceline monitoring utilizing open-path optical methods and automated gas chromatography rather than periodic manual sampling. All of these test results to be available to the public via an easily accessible website.

Statement of Fact: Advanced gas chromatography systems are required to capture trace fugitive emissions, as standard monitoring requirements often average out dangerous spikes over long operational periods

Actionable Request: Require the installation of real-time gas chromatography-mass spectrometry units along the facility perimeter to instantly detect minute spikes in hazardous air pollutants, volatile organics, and chemical drift before they reach nearby populations. All of these test results to be available to the public via an easily accessible website.

Statement of Fact: Long-term ecological and public health protection requires continuous environmental verification rather than relying exclusively on initial baseline estimates.

Actionable Request: Mandate that the ownership establish and permanently endow an independent, third-party groundwater and soil vapor monitoring trust to oversee the perimeter

indefinitely. All of these test results to be available to the public via an easily accessible website.

Statement of Fact: In the event of an industrial accident or fire, public safety relies on immediate, transparent data regarding air quality and plume movement rather than delayed reports from plant operators.

Actionable Request: Require the company to fund an independent, community-controlled network of real-time perimeter air-monitoring sensors and automated public notification systems directly linked to emergency management. Inform the public of the notification system and emergency plan.

Statement of Fact: Regulatory oversight agencies often investigate compliance issues only after public health complaints arise or an accident occurs, placing the heavy burden of proof on the community.

Actionable Request: Mandate an independent, third-party oversight board funded entirely by Atlas Agro ownership, possessing the clear authority to enforce operational slowdowns or temporary halts immediately upon a fenceline threshold breach.

Statement of Fact: Securing a community against a compound industrial operation involving a high-load fertilizer plant and nearby legacy conditions requires specialized defense infrastructure that local municipal budgets cannot absorb.

Actionable Request: Require Atlas Agro ownership to fully fund, procure, and maintain all community-protection equipment as a strict, binding condition of the project permit, ensuring zero financial burden falls on local taxpayers.

Statement of Fact: Standard municipal emergency equipment is inadequate for handling complex chemical fires or specialized industrial chemical reactions.

Actionable Request: Mandate that the corporation purchase and deliver dedicated industrial safety technology to local emergency services, including specialized hazardous-materials response vehicles, high-volume foam and water suppression units, and self-contained breathing apparatus systems.

Statement of Fact: Municipal councils often rely on mutual aid agreements for worst-case industrial accidents rather than dedicated on-site infrastructure.

Actionable Request: Require the creation of an Industrial Safety District funded entirely by an annual per-ton chemical production fee paid by Atlas Agro, which directly contracts and equips a dedicated on-site hazardous materials response and medical stabilization unit housed at the facility grounds.

Statement of Fact: Developers often resist corporate parent guarantees or perpetual remediation bonds under standard commercial finance arguments, leaving potential long-term liabilities unaddressed.

Actionable Request: Mandate that the financial assurance be structured through a secured letter of credit or a captive environmental insurance policy specifically designed for high-risk chemical facilities, with the city named as the primary beneficiary to guarantee immediate funds for remediation without litigation.

Statement of Fact: Corporate developers and municipal councils routinely debate whether continuous fence-line monitoring, independent oversight funds, and advanced safety infrastructure are feasible to administer.

Actionable Request: Direct the planning department to establish a mandatory developer-funded escrow account, utilizing standard administrative trust structures, where Atlas Agro deposits an upfront financial security to fully fund independent technical oversight without drawing on city funds.

Statement of Fact: Standard municipal emergency response times and local medical facilities are unequipped to handle mass casualties or severe chemical incidents resulting from a major operational upset at a high-load fertilizer plant.

Actionable Request: Require Atlas Agro to fund, construct, and staff a dedicated on-site emergency medical stabilization and decontamination facility, permanently manned by trained hazmat medical personnel, as a binding prerequisite before any operational permits are issued.

Statement of Fact: When corporate developers establish major industrial projects, residents bear the long-term safety vulnerabilities and health experiences while bearing no financial protection guarantees if the corporation dissolves or abandons the site.

Actionable Request: Mandate an enforceable corporate parent company guarantee and a dedicated perpetual maintenance trust fund paid into by Atlas Agro, legally guaranteeing that future taxpayers will never be left holding the financial or environmental liability for site remediation or long-term safety oversight.

Statement of Fact: Standard regulatory compliance relies on closed-door corporate reporting and infrequent state inspections that provide limited public visibility into whether safety thresholds and maintenance schedules are met.

Actionable Request: Mandate an independent, publicly accessible electronic oversight portal funded by Atlas Agro, requiring real-time, tamper-proof data feeds of all fenceline monitoring, chemical throughputs, and safety system audits to be made permanently open to independent technical experts and the community.

References: City of Richland Planning Department Records; Washington State Department of Ecology Industrial Permitting Guidelines; Hanford Site Environmental Decommissioning History, International Fire Code.

October 14, 2026

Washington State's Environmental Justice Council:

As a Skagit Valley-raised resident, I have concerns about the oil refineries (Marathon Petroleum/Teloso and HF Sinclair) in Anacortes, WA. The Puget Sound has been struggling with ocean acidification and heavy metal toxins for some time now, and it continues to get worse as global warming increases. The effects of ocean acidification and heavy metal toxins in the Puget Sound are evident in not only marine life, but in us as well long-term. If the wastewater from these refineries were met with some new guidelines and went through a more rigorous water treatment to refine the nitrates, mercury, benzene, sulfuric acids, selenium, etc; I think the Puget Sound's marine life, those who consume that marine life, and the Swinomish Nation residents to the refinery would greatly benefit from it.

Knowing the adverse health effects of benzene, selenium, and mercury in particular, it is concerning knowing about the sewage sludge leak from these refineries earlier this year, and particularly, the delay in containing and cleaning it for 11 months. It was said that that wastewater's pH level was the equivalent of battery acid. Knowing that these toxins have leaked into our environment, the consequences are going to be not only detrimental to the Puget Sound, but also to the Swinomish Nation residents as well. Even though Washington State's Department of Ecology has penalized these refineries, this should be a call of action to prevent future incidents and current exposures from the Anacortes refineries' wastewater. Just living in proximity to a refinery has the potential of developing blood disorders, cardiovascular damage, cancers, neurological disorders, and asthma.

We know that these refineries' wastewaters go through primary, secondary, and tertiary treatments; however, might we also consider furthering these water treatments to specifically target the toxins previously mentioned above? Could we consider bioremediation methods, microbial reduction, fluidized bed reactor techniques, nanoparticle technologies, nitrification & denitrification loops, ozone-based technologies, or biotransformation to further reduce, if not completely remove these toxins and nitrates from entering the Puget Sound?

I greatly appreciate and acknowledge all of the amazing work that the Environmental Justice Council does, especially for our tribal lands here in Washington. I'm not sure how much of these methods are already currently being used at these refineries, but if there was a way to find out, and discuss the possibilities of implementing them if not, I think that would significantly decrease the ocean acidification in our Puget Sound and the effects it could have on the Swinomish Nation's residents.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,

NAME REDACTED

Environmental Justice Council

Date: October 26, 2026

To: Environmental Justice Council

From: Jonathan Chen, Climate Justice Advisor

Subject: New EJ Council Manager and Council Member Introductions

Background

Council Members

RCW [70A.02.110](#) created the Environmental Justice Council (Council) to advise covered agencies under the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act on incorporating environmental justice into agency activities.

The Council consists of 16 members appointed by the Governor:

- Seven are community representatives, including one youth representative
- Four are representatives of tribal communities, one of which is from eastern Washington and one of which is from western Washington
- Two are representatives who are environmental justice practitioners or academics to serve as environmental justice experts, the nominations of which are based upon applied and demonstrated work and focus on environmental justice
- One is a representative who is a member or officer of a union representing workers in the building and construction trades

- One is a representative of a business that is regulated by a covered agency and whose ordinary business conditions are significantly affected by the actions of at least one other covered agency
- One is a member at large

The Governor appointed three new community representatives to the Council on September 24, 2026.

Environmental Justice Council Manager

According to [RCW 70A.02.110](#), the Department of Health must hire a manager who is responsible for overseeing all staffing and administrative duties in support of the Council.

The Council Manager position has been vacant since September 19, 2026. The Department hired a new Council Manager and their first day was on October 16, 2026.

Activity

Appointed and Ex-officio Council Members and the new Council Manager will introduce themselves by answering the following prompts:

- **Everyone:** Name and pronouns
- **Current Members:** What communit(ies) are you here to represent? Why do you continue to serve on the Council?
- **New Members:** What communit(ies) are you here to represent? What inspired you to join the Council?
- **Council Manager:** What inspired you to become the new Council Manager?

Staff Contact

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

Environmental Justice Council

Date: October 26, 2026

To: Environmental Justice Council

From: Christy Curwick Hoff, Policy Advisor

Subject: Potential Additional Budget Recommendation

Background

Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement Account (AQHDIA)

In 2021, [Senate Bill 5126](#) (SB 5126), which established the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), included legislative intent to dedicate not less than \$20 million per biennium to the Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement Account (AQHDIA). Dedicated funding in the AQHDIA account was intended to reduce criteria air pollutants, establish emissions data, monitor and improve air quality in overburdened communities, address environmental harms while promoting environmental benefits, and improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities.

In 2026, the passage of [House Bill 2251](#) (HB 2251) made significant changes to the CCA accounts and the amount of revenue deposited into each, including removing the legislative intent to dedicate funding to the AQHDIA account.

Improving Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Initiative (AQ OBC Initiative)

The [AQ OBC Initiative](#) works to improve air quality in 16 Washington communities and participating Tribes that are highly impacted by criteria air pollution and are overburdened with health, social, and environmental inequities. The multi-faceted Initiative aims to achieve

this goal by expanding air monitoring, implementing programs and projects that reduce criteria air pollutants, issuing grants, and conducting CCA rulemaking. Ecology has administered grants to engage community members to design and implement locally-led projects that reduce criteria air pollution. This grant program, which was funded through AQHDIA, was funded at \$11.4 million during the 2023-2025 biennium. All the funding was awarded to 24 projects located in 12 communities and 2 Tribes—projects will be complete by June 2027. As examples, some projects have focused on reducing emissions from transportation, burning, and dust. Ecology has noted the following examples of accomplishments to date:

- 568 bikes and e-bikes distributed
- 38 electric tools purchased
- 7 vehicles/large equipment items purchased
- 762 portable air cleaners distributed
- 25 public transportation passes distributed

The AQ OBC Initiative received a reappropriation of \$20,646,000 for the 2025-2027 biennium through AQHDIA.

Department of Ecology’s 2027-2029 Capital Budget Decision Package (Budget Request)

The Department of Ecology has submitted a 2027-2029 capital [budget request](#) (see project #40000776 starting on page 247) to implement a second round of funding for the AQ OBC Initiative grant program. Ecology is requesting \$14 million for the 2027-2029 biennium. The agency is requesting that \$14 million be transferred from the CCA Capital Account into the AQHDIA account to support the budget request and ensure the AQHDIA account maintains a positive cash and fund balance through the 2027-2029 biennium. Ecology’s proposal indicates the agency plans to request \$14 million each biennium through 2035-2037.

Additionally, Ecology has submitted a 2027-2029 capital [budget request](#) (see project #40000606 starting on page 997) to the Governor to reappropriate \$13,354,000 from the AQHDIA account to establish and implement a new grant program to reduce emissions from mobile and other sources, such as dust, outdoor burning, solvent use, and non-road vehicles. Ecology plans to design the requested grant program and projects in coordination with overburdened communities.

Council Authority

Under [RCW 70A.65.040](#), the Environmental Justice Council (Council) has the authority and responsibility to provide recommendations on which program should be funded by CCA revenue.

Potential Budget Recommendation

The Council's Executive Committee has discussed and voiced concerns about the removal of legislative intent to automatically deposit CCA revenue into AQHDIA. Executive Committee members want to raise this issue with the full Council at today's meeting and request that the Budget Workgroup meet to discuss and consider bringing a budget recommendation to the Legislature for the full Council to consider at the December meeting.

Staff Contact

Christy Curwick Hoff, christy.hoff@ejc.wa.gov