

Options for collaboration between the Council and Ecology

Ecology is committed to collaborating with the Environmental Justice Council so that the Council can help shape and have input on the Climate Commitment Act Program rule. Ecology is open to and interested in what may work best for the Council to support meaningful engagement in the current formal comment period and as Ecology prepares to issue the final rule. Because of the role the Climate Commitment Act gives to the Environmental Justice Council and how the Council functions, Ecology can engage with the Council, via a robust interagency consultation process. That engagement can continue throughout the duration of the rulemaking, not just during the formal comment period. Below are some options for the Council to consider for the current rulemaking process, but Ecology is open to other options as well.

Options for collaborating with the Environmental Justice Council on the Climate Commitment Act Program Rule

Interactive meetings as part of an interagency consultation process: The Environmental Justice Council (or a subcommittee) could hold meetings in which the Council discusses the proposed rule, asks clarifying questions, and provides recommendations to Ecology. During these meetings, Ecology could also provide detailed presentations on topics of particular interest to the Council.

Formal public hearing: Ecology could take formal steps to announce a joint meeting of the Environmental Justice Council and Ecology that would also serve as a formal public hearing on the Climate Commitment Act Program Rule. This would be in addition to the four public hearings that Ecology has already announced. All comments made by the Council or the public at such a joint meeting would be treated as public comments on the rule.

Options for documenting the Council's recommendations

- The Council could provide Ecology with a written list of its recommendations.
- Ecology and the Council could jointly develop a written list of the Council's recommendations.
- Ecology could take notes at the interagency meetings, share draft minutes that set forth the recommendations made by the Council at each meeting, and ask the Council to respond with edits or approval to the minutes by an agreed-upon deadline.
- Ecology could record or transcribe the interagency meetings. Ecology would place the recordings or transcription in its rulemaking file.

Regardless of the specific mechanism the Council chooses for collaborating with Ecology and providing recommendations on the proposed rule, its recommendations will become part of Ecology's rulemaking file. Ecology will analyze the Council's recommendations and consider the need for potential changes to the proposed rule language. Ecology will also respond in writing to these recommendations and describe any changes made to the final rule language as a result.