

Clean Water Act

Agency	Department of Ecology
Year Established	1972
Relevant Statute	1972 Clean Water Act; RCW 90.48
Program Goal	To protect and restore state waters to sustain healthy watersheds and communities and to ensure that state waters support beneficial uses including recreational and business activities, supplies for clean drinking water, and the protection of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and public health.
Agency Summary	<p>The Clean Water Act gives states the primary responsibility for protecting and restoring water quality, including monitoring and assessing the nation's waters and reporting on their quality. The Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program has the jurisdiction to control and prevent the pollution of streams, lakes, rivers, ponds, inland waters, salt waters, water courses, and other surface and underground waters of the state.</p> <p>Ecology protects and restores water quality through permits, financial and technical assistance, water quality standards, and monitoring. The Clean Water Act requires monitoring and reporting on water quality.</p> <p>The Water Quality Program carries out its mission through a number of strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides grants and loans for projects that protect and improve the health of state waters. • Issues permits for treatment plants, point-source discharges, stormwater • Sets water quality standards for ground and surface water. • Conducts water quality monitoring
Existing Outcome Measures	<p>Ecology's website maintains links to over 1,300 publications related to water quality, including annual reports, proposed rule changes, monitoring reports, guidance, and other documents. Ecology's 2005 Clean Water Act Monitoring Strategy fulfills an EPA requirement for a long-term, state-specific strategy for monitoring, compiling, and analyzing data about the quality of the state's navigable and ground waters.</p> <p>Ecology implements a Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy (CMS) consistent with the goals and objectives of the CWA, plus additional monitoring elements related to salmon recovery. Ecology produces annual water quality monitoring reports with 12 standard water quality parameters are: total ammonia, conductivity, fecal coliform bacteria, total nitrates/nitrogen, dissolved O, pH, soluble reactive phosphorous, total phosphorous, total suspended solids, temperature, and turbidity.</p> <p>As part of its municipal stormwater permits, Ecology requires some local jurisdictions to participate in the Stormwater Action Monitoring to collect and analyze stormwater discharge quality and quantity data.</p>

	Ecology's wetland compliance program collects data on the success of compensatory mitigation sites.
Other benefits identified by agencies	Community: community resources for projects Economy: job creation, financial assistance Environment: habitat restoration, floodplain connectivity