

## WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### *Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

#### *Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

#### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

#### A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**"Beyond Waste Plan 2009 Update." This is the title of the combined State Solid Waste and State Hazardous Waste Plans**

2. Name of applicant:

**Department of Ecology**

**Waste 2 Resources and Hazardous Waste & Toxic Reduction Programs**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**PO Box 47600**

**Olympia, WA 98504-7600**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**October 28, 2009**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**Department of Ecology**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

**The Department of Ecology will complete the plan update in December 2009. The plan will become effective at that time. Implementation will continue over many years.**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

**State law requires the state solid waste plan be reviewed regularly and updated as needed, and requires the state hazardous waste plan be updated every five years. This is the first update of the original 2004 plan. The next update is scheduled for 2014.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

**A DNS was issued for the original "Beyond Waste" plan in October 2004 by the Department of Ecology.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

**Does not apply**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**Department of Ecology approval of the "Beyond Waste Plan 2009 Update."**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**Waste generation in Washington continues to grow. Toxic substances are more prevalent than ever before. Washington needs to shift from managing wastes and toxics to preventing them. This change in direction will require partnerships with Ecology, local government, business, and the non-profit and education sectors to create new opportunities and markets to eliminate wastes and toxic substances.**

**Both the original plan and the "2009 Beyond Waste Plan Update" contain five initiatives, or areas of focus, to work on first in pursuing the long range vision of eliminating most wastes and toxic substances. The five initiatives are:**

- **Moving Toward Beyond Waste with Industries.**
- **Reducing Small Volume Hazardous Wastes and Materials.**
- **Increasing Recycling for Organic Materials.**
- **Making Green Building Practices Mainstream.**
- **Measuring Progress Towards Beyond Waste.**

**In addition to these five initiatives the Beyond Waste Plan (both the original and the update) includes recommendations on current solid waste and hazardous waste system issues. Each Initiative and Current Issue contains 30-year goals (for 2035), recommended actions, and 5-year milestones to measure progress. All of the recommendations are important to moving the Beyond Waste agenda forward.**

**The "Beyond Waste Plan 2009 Update" continues with the vision that was started in the original 2004 plan for the management of solid and hazardous waste in Washington for the next thirty years.**

**The intent of the five-year update was to:**

- **More closely align the plan with agency priorities on climate, toxics, and water.**
- **Increase the focus on waste prevention and product stewardship.**
- **Keep recommendations and milestones on track to meet 30-year goals.**

- Align milestones more closely with recommendations and make them more measurable.
- Provide more detail in the implementation section of the plan.
- Include lessons learned from the first five years.
- Meet legal update requirements.

Much stays the same with the update including: the Beyond Waste vision; the five initiatives and two issue areas; the 30-year goals for each initiative; and the overall plan structure. Many of the recommendations (63%) and milestones (43%) stay the same. In addition, the background papers written in 2004 during the creation of the original plan were not changed and remain as historical documents.

The 2004 plan contained 64 recommendations and 73 milestones (though the milestones for the solid and hazardous waste issues were added after the original publication). The 2009 Plan Update contains 71 recommendations and 94 milestones. These changes reflect 19 new recommendations (27%), 12 recommendations that were removed, and 6 that were altered significantly. Similarly, there are 39 new milestones (41%), 15 that were removed, and 15 that changed appreciably. In general, changes were made where previous work had been accomplished or new direction was needed. The additions to the milestones in particular make future work more directed and easier to track.

A summary of key changes for each initiative and issue area follows.

**Moving Toward Beyond Waste with Industries Initiative changes include:**

- A more comprehensive approach to reducing toxics, with less emphasis on sector campaigns and more emphasis on product stewardship.
- Increased focus on toxics in storm water and education on toxics in products.
- More alignment with the Small Volume Materials and Wastes initiative, as these two initiatives deal with many of the same substances from different sources.

**Reducing Small Volume Hazardous Wastes and Materials Initiative changes include:**

- A more comprehensive approach to reducing toxics, with less emphasis on a chemical-by-chemical reduction approach.
- More emphasis on product stewardship and education on toxics in products.
- Increased alignment with the Industries initiative as these two initiatives deal with many of the same substances from different sources.

**Increasing Recycling for Organic Materials Initiative changes include:**

- Only milestones were modified or added to this initiative; all the recommendations stayed the same.
- A greater tie-in with climate change and mitigation of greenhouse gases with more emphasis on biomass to fuel.
- A new milestone on establishing a hierarchy for management of organic materials.

**Making Green Building Practices Mainstream Initiative changes include:**

- Only milestones were modified or added to this initiative; all the recommendations stayed the same.
- New milestones on the Living Building Standard and low-impact development.
- Increased connection to climate change and energy use in buildings.
- A new focus on third-party certification for green building products.

**Measuring Progress Towards Beyond Waste Initiative changes include:**

- All new recommendations and milestones, as all the original ones were accomplished.
- Focus on increasing our data collection and use. Methods include waste characterization studies and tying the Beyond Waste progress report to staff work plans.

**Hazardous Waste System Issues changes include:**

- Encouraging pollution prevention planners to address issues of energy management, environmentally preferable purchasing, solid waste, and water reduction.
- New focus on safer management of Small Quantity Generator wastes.
- Calling for increased oversight of treatment, storage and disposal facilities permitted in part by local government.

**Solid Waste System Issues changes include:**

- More emphasis on waste reduction, recycling and the technical nutrient cycle.
- New recommendations on education and packaging.
- The addition of 30-year goals (for year 2035) as these were not in the 2004 plan.

**Summary of the plan update process:**

We started with an assessment of progress so far. Changes were proposed where we had accomplished the original work, where new directions were needed, or where little or no progress was made. Staff, management, and the state Solid Waste Advisory Committee provided input at multiple stages.

Public input was solicited in March of 2009. 20 commenter's from local government, state governments, and environmental organizations provided input. Comments were mostly supportive. Additional focus on prevention and product stewardship was requested, as was more measurements and clarity in timelines and roles. Staff made changes based on these comments.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

**The proposed "Beyond Waste Plan 2009 Update" applies to the entire state of Washington. The plan is not required, but sets direction for:**

- Ecology and other appropriate state agency staff.
- Local governments, as they update and implement their local solid and hazardous waste plans.
- Businesses, especially regulated hazardous waste generators.
- Pertinent non-government organizations.
- Other interested parties.

**The implementation section of the "2009 Beyond Waste Plan Update" has more details on actions and activities for Ecology, local governments, and others.**

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . N/A
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? N/A
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. N/A
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. N/A
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. N/A
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. N/A
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? N/A
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: N/A

2. **Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. N/A
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. N/A
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: N/A

3. **Water**

- a. Surface:
  - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. N/A
  - 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. N/A

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. N/A

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. N/A

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. N/A

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. N/A

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. N/A

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. N/A

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. N/A

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. N/A

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: N/A

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site: N/A

\_\_\_\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

\_\_\_\_\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

\_\_\_\_\_ shrubs

\_\_\_\_\_ grass

\_\_\_\_\_ pasture

\_\_\_\_\_ crop or grain

\_\_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

\_\_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

\_\_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? N/A

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. N/A
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: N/A

**5. Animals**

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:
  - birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
  - mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
  - fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: N/A
- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. N/A
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. N/A
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: N/A

**6. Energy and natural resources**

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. N/A
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. N/A
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: N/A

**7. Environmental health**

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. N/A
  - 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. N/A
  - 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: N/A
- b. **Noise**
  - 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? N/A

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. N/A

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: N/A

## 8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? N/A

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. N/A

c. Describe any structures on the site. N/A

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? N/A

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? N/A

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? N/A

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? N/A

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. N/A

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? N/A

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? N/A

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: N/A

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: N/A

## 9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. N/A

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: N/A

**10. Aesthetics**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? N/A
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? N/A
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: N/A

**11. Light and glare**

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? N/A
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? N/A
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? N/A
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: N/A

**12. Recreation**

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? N/A
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. N/A
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: N/A

**13. Historic and cultural preservation**

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. N/A
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. N/A
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: N/A

**14. Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. N/A
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? N/A

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? N/A
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). N/A
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. N/A
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. N/A
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: N/A

**15. Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. N/A
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. N/A

**16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. N/A
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. N/A

**C. SIGNATURE**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: .....

Date Submitted: .....

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

**The plan update will not increase discharges to water, emissions to air, production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances, or production of noise to the environment. The “Beyond Waste Plan 2009 Update” is a blueprint for a statewide strategy for reducing the use of toxic substances, decreasing waste generation, and properly managing any wastes that remain. Successful implementation of the plan update is intended to decrease discharges and emissions.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**The ‘Beyond Waste Plan 2009 Update’ contains five initiatives, or areas of focus, to work on first in pursuing the long range vision of eliminating most wastes and toxic substances. The five initiatives are:**

- **Eliminate most wastes and the use of toxic substances in Washington’s industries.**
- **Reduce and eliminate small-volume hazardous wastes from businesses and households.**
- **Recycle organic wastes such as food wastes, yard waste, and crop residues.**
- **Increase building design and construction practices that reduce toxic components and eliminate negative impacts on the environment and people.**
- **Develop a system to measure our progress achieving our goals.**

**Moving Beyond Waste toward resource reuse and toxic substance reduction will take many years. In the meantime, we must maintain or improve our current waste-handling systems. The updated state plan includes recommendations on current solid waste and hazardous waste system issues, in addition to the future-directed initiatives.**

**Implementing the Plan will require partnerships with Ecology, local government, businesses, and non-profit organizations to create new opportunities and markets to eliminate wastes and toxic substances.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

**Refer to response number 1. This plan will help to conserve natural resources and reduce toxics, which will be beneficial to plants, animals, fish, and marine life.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

**Refer to response number 1. This plan will help to conserve natural resources and reduce the use of energy.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

**Refer to response number 1. This plan will help to conserve natural resources and reduce toxics, which will be beneficial to environmentally sensitive areas.**

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

**Refer to response number 1. This plan should have no effect on shoreline use. It does encourage land use for appropriate solid waste infrastructure, such as composting and recycling facilities, that are consistent and compatible with existing plans.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

**Refer to response number 1. This plan should have no effect on transportation and public services and utilities.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

**Refer to response number 1. This plan does not conflict with any environmental protection laws, and helps to further many of them.**