

# Focus on SEPA Resources

From Ecology's Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

## Background

The **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)** is Washington's most comprehensive environmental law. It requires that a broad range of environmental values be considered during decision-making by local and state agencies. In many cases it opens the process to involvement and comments from the public and other agencies. SEPA also gives agencies the ability to condition or deny a proposal when the proposal is likely to cause environmental harm.

Information about SEPA is available at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa) or go to the Department of Ecology's home page at [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov) then select "Shorelands" from the Programs list on the left and then under "Regulatory Assistance," select "SEPA." Information available on the website is briefly described below:

## Website Features

The SEPA website includes information on the following topics:

### SEPA Listserv

Join the SEPA Listserv to get training and other SEPA news from Ecology.

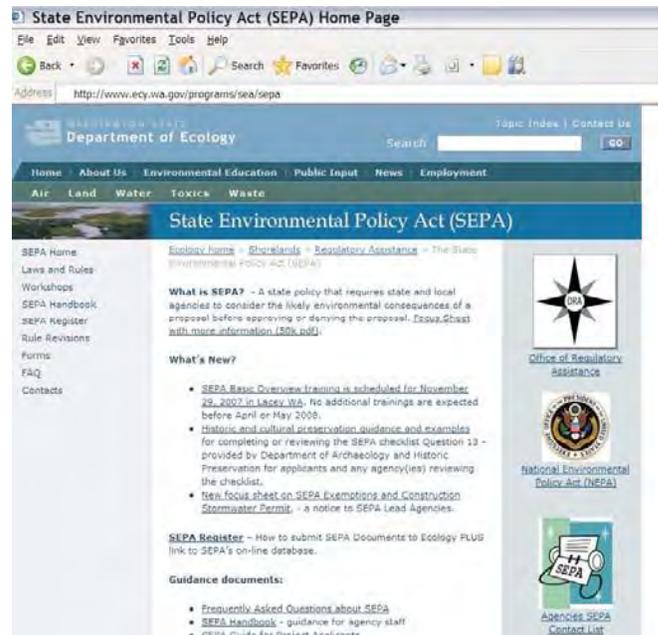
### SEPA Register

**Online SEPA Register** - This is a list of all SEPA documents filed with the Department of Ecology during the previous two weeks, plus any documents with open comment periods such as Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). The Register is updated each business day.

**Sending Electronic SEPA Documents** - This guidance document discusses using email and CDs to distribute SEPA documents. It also outlines the requirements for submitting electronic documents to the Department of Ecology. **Submit documents to [sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov)**

### Guidance Documents

- **SEPA Handbook** - The SEPA Handbook provides guidance on implementing SEPA. You can view it on-line or download a version for printing.
- **SEPA Guide for Project Applicants** - Designed for applicants whose projects will undergo SEPA environmental review, this guide includes information on completing the environmental checklist.
- **Citizen's Guide to SEPA Review and Commenting** - This guide briefly describes SEPA and how citizens can become involved in the environmental review process.
- **Index of Topics** - with links to SEPA rules, statute and handbook



## Website Features (continued)

**New Legislation and Guidance** - recent developments with SEPA Statute, Rules and general guidance

**SEPA and Climate Change Impacts** - information about the SEPA's role in addressing climate change in our state

**SEPA Law, SEPA Rules, and Related Information** -This includes links to SEPA (Chapter 43.21C RCW), the SEPA Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC), and the SEPA Model Ordinance (Chapter 173-806 WAC).

**SEPA Workshops** -Ecology periodically provides training on SEPA. This site identifies upcoming SEPA training and provides registration information.

**SEPA Forms** -Forms from the SEPA Rules and the SEPA Handbook are provided in both pdf and Word formats. The optional nonproject review form and optional salmon checklist are also provided.

**Other Information** -The website also includes a **Focus Sheet** that briefly outlines the SEPA process, a series of **frequently asked questions**, a **list of agencies' SEPA contacts**, and a link for the **National Environmental Policy Act**.

## Contacting Ecology's SEPA Staff

If you have a question about SEPA, please send us an email at [sepahelp@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sepahelp@ecy.wa.gov). You may also contact one of the following SEPA staff directly.

SEPA Staff	Information Topics	Phone	Email
Annie Szvetecz Headquarters	General SEPA Technical Assistance, Training, Policy and Rule development	360-407-6925	aszv461@ecy.wa.gov
Peg Plummer Headquarters	SEPA Data Entry	360-407-6924	pplu461@ecy.wa.gov
Sonia Mendoza Southwest Region	Distribution & tracking of documents for staff review & comment	360 407-6313	Smen461@ecy.wa.gov
Terri Costello Eastern Region	General SEPA Technical Assistance, Review of SEPA documents	509-329-3550	temi461@ecy.wa.gov
Gwen Clear Central Region	General SEPA Technical Assistance, Review of SEPA documents	509-575-2012	gcle461@ecy.wa.gov
Tammy Sacayanan Northwest Region	Distribution of documents for staff review & comment	425 649-7229	tsac461@ecy.wa.gov

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call Ecology's Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at (360) 407-6096. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.*