

ENERGY RECOVERY AND INCINERATION FACILITIES



UPDATING THE “350” RULE

Solid Waste Handling Standards, Chapter 173-350 of the Washington Administrative Code, is a regulation addressing waste management issues as diverse as used tires, surface impoundments, and incineration.

These rules govern how individuals, businesses and governments can manage solid waste, what materials can be recycled, when permits are required, and many other technical details.

Updating the rule allows Ecology to address emerging issues, look for ways to improve its effectiveness and get feedback from stakeholders.



Section 240 — Energy recovery and incineration facilities

Facilities that burn solid waste to produce energy can earn exemptions from some solid waste management regulations and are not required to apply for solid waste handling permits.

This section applies to all facilities designed to burn more than 12 tons of solid waste or refuse-derived fuel per day, but it does not apply to those that burn gases recovered at a landfill or solid waste digesters. Many of the facilities that earn the exemption are pulp and paper mills that burn wood waste generated onsite.

To earn the exemption, the facility must comply with performance standards, burn only fuels approved by local air quality regulators, allow for inspections by Ecology and local health departments, and only burn wastewater treatment sludge from pulp and paper mills at the facility that produced them.

In the update, Ecology has proposed two changes:

- Applying the standards to all facilities capable of burning more than 12 tons of solid waste or refuse-derived fuel per day
- Notifying the local health department prior to any significant deviation from the approved plan of operation.

Contacts

You can find documents, schedules and other information on our website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/rules/wac173350/1308ov.html

To be kept up to date on developments in the 350 rulemaking, please subscribe to our ListServ at the link above.

For questions on section 240, “Energy Recovery and Incineration Facilities,” contact Gary Bleeker, environmental specialist with Waste 2

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Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6900 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html>. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Public input

After releasing a draft version of the revised 350 rule, Ecology will hold informal workshops to educate interested persons about the proposed changes. Feedback during this informal process may result in changes to the draft rule.

In September 2016, Ecology plans to formally announce proposed revisions. This will begin a formal comment period, including hearings where stakeholders can comment on the changes and ask questions that will be answered in the official rulemaking documents. Ecology hopes to adopt changes to the rule in the spring of 2017.

350 rule update schedule (dates subject to change)

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| Now | Draft rule available |
| July 21 | Informal workshop—Lacey |
| July 26 | Informal workshop—Ellensburg |
| July 27 | Informal workshop—Spokane |
| Sept. 6 | Informal comments due |
| December | Proposed rule filed |
| January- March, 2017 | Public hearings on proposed rule |
| Spring, 2017 | Rule adopted |

