Rule Implementation Plan
Chapter 173-167 WAC
Emergency Drought Funding

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Publication and Contact Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology’s website at: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1911071.html

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To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.
Implementation Plan

Chapter 173-167 WAC

Emergency Drought Funding

Water Resources Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington
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Table of Contents

Purpose............................................................................................................................................. i
Introduction......................................................................................................................................1
Implementation and Enforcement ....................................................................................................2
Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule .................................................................2
Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance ............................................................................2
Evaluating the Rule..........................................................................................................................2
Training and Informing Ecology Staff............................................................................................2
List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised........................................3
More Information.............................................................................................................................3
Contact Information........................................................................................................................3
Purpose

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides the information in this implementation plan to meet agency and Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.328) requirements related to rule adoptions.
Introduction

On June 4, 2019, Ecology adopted Chapter 173-167 WAC, Emergency Drought Funding (AO # 19-06). The purpose of this rule implementation plan is to inform those who must comply with Chapter 173-167 WAC about how Ecology intends to:

- Implement and enforce the rule.
- Inform and educate persons affected by the rule.
- Promote and assist voluntary compliance for the rule.
- Evaluate the rule.
- Train and inform Ecology staff about the new rule.

Also included in this plan is information about:

- Supporting documents that may need to be written or revised because of the new rule or amended rule.
- Other resources where more information about the rule is available.
- Contact information for Ecology employees who can answer questions about the rule implementation.
Implementation and Enforcement

Ecology’s Water Resources Program staff at headquarters and regional offices will implement this rule. This grant program will provide funding to implement measures that reduce hardship caused by drought. Ecology staff will make funding decisions based on the eligibility criteria defined in the rule.

Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule

Upon rule adoption, Ecology will issue a news release, communicate with tribes, post announcements on social media, send Listserv notifications (Washington Water Supply list, Water Resources list, Water Resources Advisory Committee list, WAC Track list), and post to our website.

Ecology has produced grant application guidance, and staff will be available to provide technical assistance for applicants throughout the process.

Ecology will also post frequent website updates of descriptions of projects, amounts awarded and progress on projects.

Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance

This rule does not create a compliance obligation for the regulated public. Those that wish to apply for funding through the Emergency Drought Grant Program are required to meet eligibility requirements set in rule. The rule, the grant website, the application, and the instructions provide additional guidance on how we will evaluate project proposals, supporting applicants in developing sound proposals.

Ecology and local partners will promote voluntary water conservation using methods and messaging that have worked well in the past.

Evaluating the Rule

Public bodies will likely experience impacts from drought at various times throughout the current drought declaration. We want to ensure that funds will be available when a need arises. Balancing the immediate need with long term planning is critical. In balancing these interests, it is essential that projects are chosen based on their effectiveness to alleviate hardship and will be implemented in a timely fashion. Fulfilling these criteria will in turn help us determine effectiveness of rule implementation.

Training and Informing Ecology Staff

Ecology will use staff meetings, agency website, and e-mail to train and inform agency staff about the drought emergency grant program. The agency drought funding coordinator and regional representatives will collaborate to implement the rule.
List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised

All documents related to this grant program have been updated.

More Information

The rulemaking webpage is at http://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-167

Publication 17-01-004 provides the Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans Managed in EAGL.

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