

Okanogan Cover Crop
Photo: Leslie Michel

Sustainable Farms and Fields Program

Application Webinar



April 21, 2026



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands



Today's Webinar

Objective

Orientation to Sustainable Farms and Fields funding opportunity for applicants.

Agenda

- Brief overview
- Orientation to application
- What's different for FY27
- Highlight FAQs
- Q&A session



Funding Opportunity Goal

Increase the implementation of climate-smart practices to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on farmland, rangeland, and tidelands in Washington through voluntary incentives.

Projects completed by June 30, 2027



Funding Amount

FY 2026:

- \$4.57 M in requests for \$1.26 M available funding
- 26 districts received SFF funding & average funding per district was \$47 K

FY 2027:

- \$_____ in requests for \$560,000 in available funding



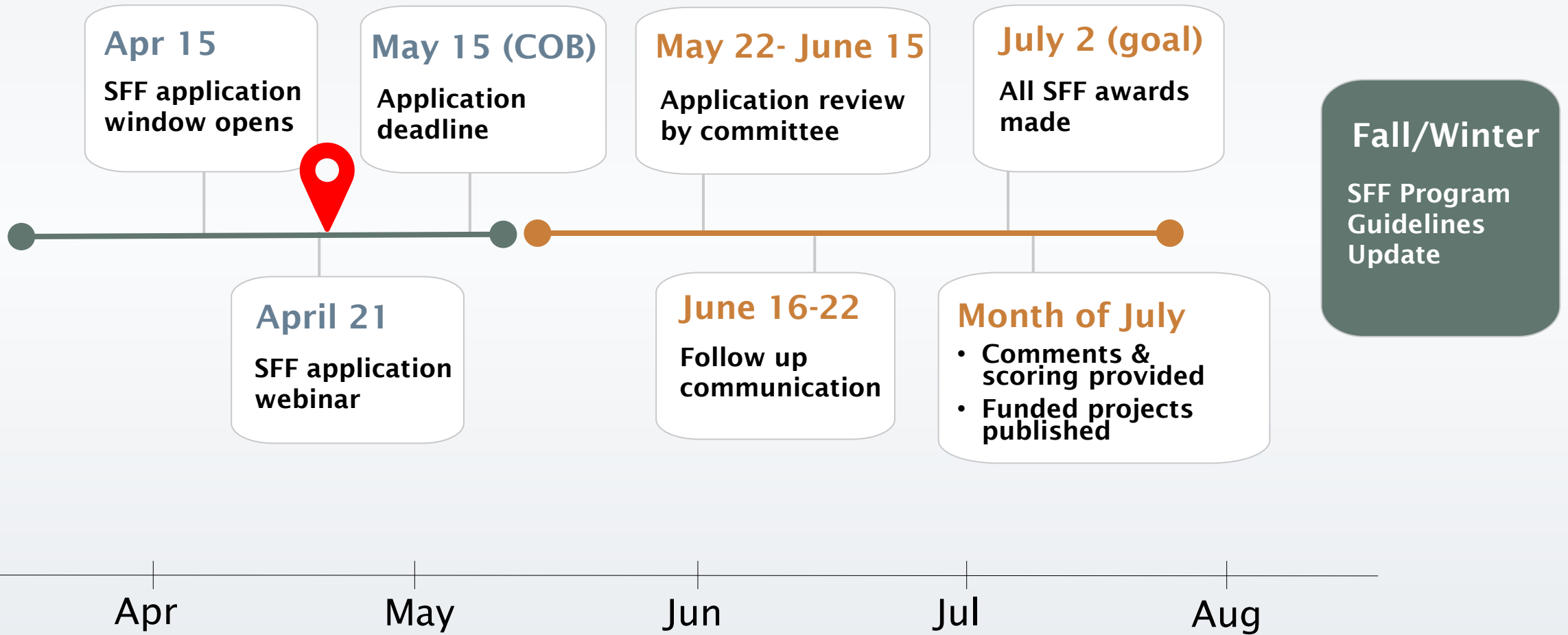
Important Notes for FY 2027

- Each applicant (e.g., district) will be limited to \$15,000 in TA-only funding (no BMPs implemented)
- Partial funding
- WSDA funding opportunity in development
 - Expected Summer 2026
 - \$4.6 M in direct to producer grants for climate-smart equipment

For info: <https://agr.wa.gov/services/grant-opportunities> or email WaSHI@agr.wa.gov

APPLICATION WINDOW

REVIEW & AWARD



Application

- Eligible Practices
- [Get it here.](#)

Sustainable Farms & Fields Eligible Practices & Tools for Estimating Greenhouse Gas Impacts

Updated April 2026

Note that greenhouse gas impacts for most eligible practices can be estimated using [COMET Planner](#) or by using [COMET Farm](#).

New for FY27: For projects involving a change in energy efficiency or fuel use (from baseline) to implement practices, please use [COMET Energy](#) to estimate the impact on GHG emissions related to energy/fuel use over the lifespan of the practice. In some cases, COMET Energy will be used in addition to COMET Planner/Farm and in other cases only one of these tools will be needed. Please provide the total estimated impact over the total lifespan of the practice. Questions? Please contact Karen Hills (khills@scc.wa.gov).

Soil Health

Practice (Code)	Practice Lifespan	Practice Description	Recommended tool(s) for estimating CO ₂ e impact
CPS 327: Conservation Cover	5	Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover	COMET Planner
CPS 328: Conservation Crop Rotation	1	Growing crops in a planned sequence on the same field.	COMET Planner
CPS 329: Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till/Strip-Till/Direct Seed	1	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round, limiting soil-disturbing activities to those necessary to place nutrients, condition residue and plant crops.	COMET Planner
CPS 332: Contour Buffer Strips	5	Narrow strips of permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established around the hill slope, and alternated down the slope with wider	COMET Planner

Application

Project Types

- Technical Assistance
- Cost Share
- Materials & Supplies
- Equipment Sharing
- Demonstration
 - **Type A** – Showcase an eligible practice
 - **Type B** – Gather information about a practice that is not yet eligible



Palouse Conservation District

Application

Formstack form

- also available in Word

Application structure

- Narrative
- Budget



Scoring Metrics

Project Type	TA	Cost Share	Materials & Supplies	Equipment Sharing	Demo
Potential of the proposed projects to increase carbon sequestration and reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (e.g., using COMET Planner, COMET Farm, NRCS Qualitative Ranking)	-	5	5	5	5
Creation of riparian buffers/fish habitat	-	1	1	-	1
Creation of pollinator habitat	-	1	1	-	1
Partnerships/collaboration	2	2	2	2	4
Benefit to multiple <u>land owners/ managers</u>	2	2	2	2	2
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	2	2	2	2	2
Completeness of application materials submitted	2	2	2	2	2
Fits within program priorities	2	2	2	2	2
Clearly demonstrates or describes ability to complete project (including expanding existing project, having producers identified prior to application, achievable timeline for project completion)	6	6	6	6	6
Total Possible Score*	16	23	23	21	25

What's New for FY2027

- WaCSE no longer supported – use COMET Planner when possible
- Greenhouse gas impact estimated across lifespan of practice

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CPS 332: Contour Buffer	5	Narrow strips of permanent,	COMET Planner

What's New for FY2027

- Greenhouse gas impact estimate can include impact due to reductions in fuel use and energy efficiency



What's New for FY2027

New aquaculture practices in development

Practice (Code)	Practice Lifespan	Practice Description	Recommended tool(s) for estimating CO₂e impact
SCCXX (in development): Aquaculture Practices	In development	New proposed practices for aquaculture available in FY27 to CDs that proposed them (practice names pending) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration of marine vegetation in proximity to shellfish production areas• Precision mechanical harvest for on-bottom oysters• Floating bag aquaculture	Contact program manager

FAQs

- Can we fund training through SFF?
- Should we apply for multiple project types in the same application?
- [Download the FAQs.](#)





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**Conservation
Commission**



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