

Climate Commitment Act Reporting

Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides additional detail beyond what is provided in the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) reporting forms and will be updated as additional questions arise.

Who needs to complete CCA reporting?

All projects/programs funded in 2025-2027 by CCA for which there were expenditures in fiscal year 2026 require reporting (RGP, FHCWR, IEGP, SFF AMM, and some RPPP awards). If unsure of whether your district needs to complete CCA reporting, please check with the program manager or your regional manager.

Links to reporting forms and versions in Microsoft Word are below:

Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resilience (FHCWR)

[FHCWR Program and CCA Form](#) | [FHCWR Program and CCA - Word](#)

SFF Alternative Manure Management (AMM)

AMM only. SFF 'Classic' does not need to complete CCA reporting.

[SFF-AMM Program and CCA Form](#) | [SFF - AMM Program and CCA - Word](#)

Riparian Grant Program (RGP) Operating and Capital, Irrigations Efficiencies Grant Program (IEGP), and Riparian Plant Propagation Program (RPPP)

All programs will be reported using the following form. *Submit one form per funding source.*

[CCA IEGP, RGP, RPPP Form](#) | [CCA – IEGP, RGP, RPPP - Word](#)

Is CCA reporting separate from program reporting?

For FHCWR and AMM, the program reporting is combined with the CCA reporting into one form. For IEGP, RPPP, and RGP, any additional program reporting required for fiscal year 2026 will be communicated by the program manager.

What is the due date for this reporting?

CCA reporting is due July 31, 2026.

What is the time period for this reporting?

The CCA reporting is for work occurring and funds expended in fiscal year 2026 (Jul 1, 2025 - Jun 30, 2026), even though the funding may have been awarded for the entire biennium.

Where will the information submitted in this reporting be used?

SCC will compile reporting submitted by districts and submit it to WA State Department of Ecology, the agency that manages CCA reporting. Information submitted may be part of one of two public facing documents: a [Report to the Legislature](#) or a [CCA Dashboard](#).

Why is the process for determining overburdened communities different from last year?

The guidance on CCA reporting has evolved over time and new guidance from Ecology on CCA reporting was received by SCC in early July. This represents the guidance that all agencies have received for CCA reporting for FY 2026.

How do we determine if our work provided direct and meaningful benefits?

From [Guidance on Direct and Meaningful Benefits](#):

In order to count benefits as being direct and meaningful, use the two-part test below:

Projects should either:

- a) address a problem at its source, or
 - b) be developed or implemented in conjunction with the affected community; and
- agencies should be able to answer yes to the question under meaningful benefits and to at

least one of the questions in the direct benefits section below:

Meaningful benefits: Does it achieve measurable progress toward improving environmental health or quality of life?

Direct benefits: Does the expenditure have a positive environmental, social, and/or economic effect? Were the benefits identified in conjunction with the targeted community?

For more information and specific examples of projects that should or should not be counted as providing direct and meaningful benefits, please see: [Guidance on Direct and Meaningful Benefits](#)

What are the criteria used in the GEOID Tracker Tool for identifying vulnerable populations and overburdened communities?

The [GEOID Tracker Tool](#) identifies Census Tract Numbers that meet certain criteria:

Overburdened communities are defined as those scoring 8+ on the Environmental Health Disparities map and Tribal census tracts (tracts overlapping with reservation and off-reservation trust lands in Bureau of Indian Affairs map layers). "Vulnerable populations within overburdened communities" is a filtered subset of these overburdened communities. They are overburdened communities that also rank 9 or 10 for the Socioeconomic Factors or Sensitivity Factors categories in the Environmental Health Disparities map.

Can we report this funding as benefiting vulnerable populations/overburdened communities if the work occurred outside of the areas identified using the GEOID Tracker Tool?

Funding qualifies if it provides **direct and meaningful benefits** to a **vulnerable population** (as defined in the HEAL Act) within the boundaries of an **overburdened community**. The [GEOID Tracker Tool](#) from Ecology provides one way to identify whether investments occurred in a vulnerable population within an overburdened community.

In some cases, the area where work occurred may be identified in the GEOID Tracker Tool as an overburdened community but *not identified* as a vulnerable population. However, maps are not perfect, so there is also an opportunity to describe different methods for identifying overburdened communities and/or vulnerable populations that benefited even if they are in areas not identified on this map.

"Vulnerable populations" ([RCW 70A.02.010](#)) includes, but is not limited to:

- Racial or ethnic minorities;
- Low-income populations;
- Populations disproportionately impacted by environmental harms; and
- Populations of workers experiencing environmental harms.

"Overburdened community" (RCW 70A.65.010) includes, but is not limited to:

- Highly impacted communities as defined in RCW 19.405.020;
- Communities located in census tracts that are fully or partially on "Indian country" as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151; and
- Populations, including Native Americans or immigrant populations, who may be exposed to environmental contaminants and pollutants outside of the geographic area in which they reside based on the populations' use of traditional or cultural foods and practices, such as the use of resources, access to which is protected under treaty rights in ceded areas, when those exposures in conjunction with other exposures may result in disproportionately greater risks, including risks of certain cancers or other adverse health effects and outcomes.

Other resources that can be used to identify vulnerable populations/overburdened communities include data sources, mapping tools, and/or community consultation by which the recipient identified overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.

For more information and specific examples of projects that should or should not be counted as providing direct and meaningful benefits, please see: [Guidance on Direct and Meaningful Benefits](#)

We are asked to provide the dollar amount spent in an overburdened community. Could you explain where you would get that number from, even if it's a guestimate?

Estimate the total dollar amount of FY 2026 funds (related to the reporting) spent in vulnerable populations within overburdened communities (identified by GEOID Tracker Tool or other methods) by considering staff time, cost-share or DIP funds, and material costs. We realize this data may be an approximation.

How do I use the information from the GEOID tracker tool in my Formstack form?

You will use the GEOID tracker simply to find out whether the census tracks you did work in fall within Ecology's designated vulnerable populations within overburdened communities (VPOBC).

Once you have that data you can just copy over the census tract #s that fall within VPOBC (Column F) to the Formstack question that asks for you to report that information. Any census numbers that don't fall within that category don't need to be copied over to the Formstack form unless you think they are a vulnerable population and can explain how you determined that.

What if I have multiple census tracts where work was completed?

In the GEOID tracker tool, you can check as many census tract numbers as you want. This can be done by either pasting them all into the same cell separated by commas, or into individual cells. You only need to report on the census tracts that showed up in Column F.

How should we approach using the GEOID tracker as our district's work occurred in many census tracts. Is there a way to avoid the cumbersome activity of looking up every single one and copying and pasting into the GEOID tracker to determine VPOBC?

You can use this link to see which census tracts are in which county (see the county column): [**State of Washington Census Tracts - BVP20 - Data as of January 1, 2020**](#). If you pull all the census tracts for the county, you should then be able to paste those into the GEOID checker and determine which of them qualify as vulnerable populations within overburdened communities.

What is the definition of 'consulted'? (from the question "If vulnerable populations within overburdened communities were consulted when determining the benefits, how were they consulted?")

Ecology has provided a list of options describing different forms of consultation. Please use your best judgement and select the response from this list that most closely matches what occurred.

If vulnerable populations within overburdened communities were consulted when determining the benefits, how were they consulted? * *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Vulnerable populations were not consulted
- ☐ Public meetings/focus groups
- ☐ One-on-one consultation
- ☐ Co-design of the project
- ☐ Metrics developed and shared by the vulnerable population
- ☐ Other consultation methods

If my district has both RGP capital and RGP operating funds, do we have to submit two separate reports?

Yes. Check with the program manager if you have a question about whether the RGP funding awarded to your district is capital or operating funding.

For estimating greenhouse gas emissions reductions for riparian herbaceous cover and filter strips plantings associated with RGP capital, why are you only collecting acres where these plantings occurred on croplands? How do you define “cropland?”

The COMET Planner tool only provides estimates for these two practices based on implementing them on cropland. We have not been able to find a definition of cropland in the supporting materials for COMET Planner so districts should use their districts should use their best judgement on whether the restoration acres had been actively planted in crops. We understand these BMPs are also used at sites that are not active cropland. Additionally, we recognize that the COMET Planner tool does not capture all of the BMPs funded by RGP.

Can I report on GHG emissions reductions for planting through RGP that was completed using maintenance funding?

No. For CCA reporting, districts are only asked to report on acres and GHG emissions reductions to be reported for new riparian plantings installed in FY26, not for plantings associated with maintenance.

Who do I ask if I have questions?

View the webinar on CCA reporting on the [CCA webpage](#).

Join our program managers for office hours

- **July 23, 1:00 – 2:00 pm** | [Zoom link](#)
 - Passcode: 005257
- **July 29, 10:00 - 11:00 am** | [Zoom link](#)
 - Passcode: 446726

Questions about CCA reporting should be addressed to [Jennifer Coe](#) or [Karen Hills](#). Program-specific questions should be directed to the SCC staff person who is managing the relevant program/funding source.

Riparian Grant Program – [Margaret McKeown](#),
Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency – [Jennifer Coe](#)
Sustainable Farms and Fields – [Karen Hills](#)
Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program – [Jon Culp](#)
Riparian Plant Propagation Program – [Brian Cochrane](#)