

*Signature on File:*

*Paula J. Hammond*

Secretary of Transportation

Date: April 7, 2009

## **Environmental Policy Statement**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of this Secretary's Executive Order is to direct Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) employees to follow sound environmental protection practices in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of WSDOT's transportation systems and facilities. This includes, but is not limited to, pollution prevention, energy conservation, environmental impact avoidance and mitigation, and compliance with environmental laws.

#### **B. Supersession**

This supersedes the *Environmental Policy Statement* Secretary's Executive Order E 1018.00 dated September 26, 2001.

#### **C. What Has Changed**

The policy and direction remain the same. The language is updated to be more concise, and the document reformatted to meet current WSDOT publication standards.

### **II. Secretary's Executive Order**

WSDOT is a positive force in support of the state's efforts to protect and preserve the quality of our environment, support healthy communities and sustainable economic growth, conserve natural resources, and respond to climate change by meeting the greenhouse gas emissions reduction and clean energy economy goals for Washington State.

WSDOT employees are directed to conduct activities in ways that protect and preserve our state's natural resources, environmental assets, and our citizens' health and safety while providing for cost-effective delivery and operation of transportation systems and services. WSDOT employees are further directed to:

- Hold themselves accountable to the public and demonstrate the effectiveness of our environmental investments and permit compliance record.

- Participate in training appropriate to their functions concerning the department's environmental responsibilities.
- Communicate to contractors, consultants, and other partners the management practices and compliance requirements WSDOT has established.
- Work with the tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, and the Governor's office to protect our state's natural and cultural resources as we develop, operate, and maintain the transportation systems of the state.

WSDOT employees assigned to environmental positions are further directed to consistently report and review environmental performance measures as a basis to improve the department's performance.

### **III. Responsibilities**

#### **A. Executive Responsibilities**

Executives must ensure that environmental compliance plans are current and compliance commitments tracked.

Executives are encouraged to look for opportunities to align the public's need for a healthy environment and a safe and reliable transportation system.

#### **B. Employee Responsibilities**

Each employee must ensure that he or she is familiar with the environmental protection policies and procedures associated with his or her work.

Each employee will be proactive in communicating environmental compliance concerns to his or her supervisor and, as appropriate, consulting the region or modal environmental compliance plans.

Safety first: Each employee must be familiar with the safety plans for their workplace, site visits, and other safety measures necessary to execute this order.

### **IV. Information to Carry Out this Secretary's Executive Order**

Our strategic plan focuses on meeting the following goal: *To enhance Washington's quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment.*

#### **A. Environmental Services Office and Contacts**

The Headquarters Environmental Services Office is the central resource for meeting this direction. In addition, there are environmental contacts in each region and the Ferries, Rail, and Maintenance divisions.

- B. [Environmental Procedures Manual M 31-11](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals/m31-11.htm)**  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals/m31-11.htm>



The *Environmental Procedures Manual* M 31-11 provides guidance for complying with federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations and WSDOT's policies during all phases of the transportation decision-making process.

- C. [Commitment Tracking System](http://wwwi.wsdot.wa.gov/environment)**  
<http://wwwi.wsdot.wa.gov/environment>

The commitment tracking system is used for tracking environmental documents, permits and approvals, and their associated commitments.

## VI. Executive Review and Update Requirements

All executives are responsible for informing the Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Regional Operations of changes needed for the maintenance of this document.

The Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Regional Operations is responsible for periodic review and updates to this document for review and approval by the Secretary of Transportation.

***Alternate Formats:*** Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate formats by calling the WSDOT ADA Accommodation Hotline collect 206-389-2839. Persons with hearing impairments may access WA State Telecommunications Relay Service at TT 1-800-833-6388, Tele-Braille 1-800-833-6385, or Voice 1-800-833-6384, and ask to be connected to (360) 705-7097.