



**Memorandum of Agreement  
Between  
the Washington State Department of Ecology  
  
And  
the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) share a commitment to recognize and reward environmental leadership in the protection of air, water, and land. To that end, EPA created the National Environmental Performance Track program and WDOE has been seeking innovative ways to achieve improved environmental results. This voluntary incentive and recognition program encourages program members to focus on issues important to their communities, to take a creative approach to solving local problems, and to employ partnerships and networking with neighborhood citizens to achieve environmental goals.

WDOE and EPA believe that we can achieve more by working together than by pursuing our goals independently. Coordinating efforts will enable us to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the national program in Washington as we meet the opportunities that will accompany their growth and development. WDOE will also explore state incentives available to Washington Performance Track members to attract more members and put the state's unique imprint on the national program. As program membership increases, so do our opportunities to encourage organizations to commit to practices that yield results beyond compliance and ensure the higher level of environmental protection that WDOE, EPA, program members, and the American public all seek.

**1. General Provisions**

Through this Memorandum of Agreement, WDOE and EPA commit to creating the best value for our customers; reducing the resource requirements of WDOE and EPA staff and the administrative burdens of member organizations; creating the greatest amount of incentives, flexibility, and recognition for program members; and reinforcing and encouraging continual improvement in environmental performance. While encouraging each program to maintain its own identity and ensure the integrity of each program's application standards, WDOE and EPA pledge to:

- Work with facilities to identify ways to streamline and facilitate the application process for the Performance Track program.
- Provide to eligible facilities the assistance necessary to apply and be evaluated expeditiously for acceptance into the program.
- Coordinate reviews of applicants to the program to assure that all program criteria are met and both agencies agree that an applicant should become a member.
- Develop incentives that reduce program members' administrative burdens, such as reduced reporting and expedited permitting, where feasible, in recognition of their high levels of performance.
- Coordinate the delivery of incentives to achieve the maximum environmental benefit and minimize transaction costs.
- Identify for program members a high level point of contact in each program.
- Produce marketing tools and coordinate recruiting and recognition events.

- Identify opportunities to use innovative methods to comply with existing regulations, and work cooperatively to implement them.
- Communicate the measurable environmental results achieved by the National Environmental Performance Track program to the public.

## **2. Future Commitment**

WDOE and EPA will continue to pursue other actions together to enhance the program and reward program members for their leadership in environmental protection. At some point in the future, WDOE may consider establishing its own voluntary incentive and recognition program. If WDOE does establish its own program, both agencies will continue to coordinate our programs so both program members and the environment benefit.

Our future focus will be to develop additional means to deliver recognition, regulatory flexibility for enhanced environmental performance, and incentives for improved environmental results to our environmental leader members. In doing so we anticipate this will help establish a cleaner environment within Washington and the United States as a result.

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of May 2004, and remains in effect unless amended by mutual consent.

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Linda Hoffman  
Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology

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John Iani  
Regional Administrator  
EPA Region X