

PROJECT CHARTER
WA Chemical Policy Workgroup
8/29/2022

Workgroup Purpose

Stimulate action and development of chemical and hazardous waste policy, research, and policy implementation through information sharing, networking, and collaborative problem solving.

Goals

To strengthen chemical policy and research in Washington State to meet the demands of the changing chemical policy landscape (such as passage of the Safer Products for Washington Act in 2019 and the Lautenberg Act amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 2016, and the growing need for succession planning and information exchange).

Objectives

1. Convene a regular monthly meeting of local and state agency staff in Washington State to collaborate and stimulate development of improved chemical policy.
2. Provide a forum to share information, inspire innovation, and encourage alignment of local, state, and federal government chemical policies.

Success Criteria

1. Increased collaboration among local and state agency staff in Washington State on chemical research, policy, and implementation.
2. Identifiable positive impacts to public health and environmental quality due to collaboration.

Scope

The scope of the workgroup includes discussion of:

- regulatory development and implementation of [the Pollution Prevention for Healthy People and Puget Sound Act \(Safer Products for Washington\)](#),
- regulatory development and implementation of TSCA - focused on local and state impacts including preemption of local and state regulations,
- regulatory development and implementation of Chemical Action Plans,
- bills related to chemical policy during the legislative session,
- comment letters and engagement on regulations and bills,
- discussion and education around new research and how to turn that into policy, and
- ad hoc project specific subcommittees

As a new workgroup with soft sideboards, we anticipate that adaptive management will be needed as the group grows and develops to ensure that we remain on-point toward the stated goals and objectives and that participant needs are addressed.

Membership

Membership of the workgroup is limited to local and state government staff who work on chemical and household hazardous waste policy and research as well as those that plan or develop policy implementation within Washington State. Federal government staff including those from the EPA, staff from other state and local governments outside Washington State, and NGO staff may be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis as needed.

Meeting Guidelines

- Meeting time will be used for knowledge sharing and collaboration; the Workgroup is not a decision-making body
- Meetings will be organized and run by a professional facilitator
- Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and participants will be asked to follow virtual meeting best practices
- Speakers will be recorded (with permission). Discussion will not be recorded.
- Meeting agendas, notes and presentations will be posted on Workgroup website (WAChemicalPolicyWorkgroup.org)

Justification

Currently, there is no regular statewide forum for local and state agency staff in Washington State working on chemical research and policy. While there are national groups (such as IC2 and the TSCA workgroup), they are not focused on Washington State. Many local and state staff that would be interested in this group do not attend the nation-wide forums. Currently relationships are built and collaboration happens in Washington State on an ad hoc basis. This leads to missed opportunities.

Public health and the environment would be better protected from hazardous chemicals through a regular, multi-agency, staff-level forum to address these issues. This forum could stay up to date on Ecology's implementation of Safer products for Washington and provide feedback to Ecology in the monthly meetings. This forum could also discuss EPA's implementation of TSCA and how those new regulations will apply in Washington and intersect with local and state laws.

Local and state agency staff will form collaborative relationships during the monthly meetings. As agencies are experiencing more frequent changes in staffing, the forum will provide an opportunity to cultivate new leaders, for new staff to form connections, and for retiring staff experts to pass on valuable knowledge to chemical policy staff across the state.

Project Deliverables

1. Monthly meeting held, well attended, notes taken
2. After a few kick-off meetings, develop a yearly agenda
3. Other deliverables (such as collaborative comment letters, etc.), as identified by the workgroup