



## Ecology invites applications for US Forest Offset Protocol Technical Working Group

As part of the [WAC 173-446 Offsets Rulemaking](#), the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is considering revisions and additions to offset protocols adopted in WAC 173-446. Ecology will consider updates to the **US Forest Protocol**, as well as updates to the **Ozone Depleting Substances Protocol**, and consider the adoption of a **Blue Carbon Offset Protocol**. Ecology will invite applications for technical working groups related to each the three protocols within the scope of this rulemaking.

In the near future, Ecology will also invite applicants for an **Environmental Justice Offset Working Group** to inform environmental justice considerations related to any potential protocol changes that would be considered for the cap-and-invest program. The group is expected to begin meeting in late spring or early summer. Members of this group will not need to have knowledge about offsets or the Climate Commitment Act, and Ecology will instead seek members with lived or professional experience with environmental justice and injustice and an interest in compliance offset market projects.

### US Forest Offset Protocol Technical Working Group

Ecology is seeking applications from individuals with expertise in the development, registration, verification, or analysis of compliance or voluntary forest offsets projects to participate in a US Forest Protocol Technical Working Group. The purpose of this working group is to inform Ecology's decisions related to revisions to the adopted California's Air Resources Board (CARB) Compliance Offset Protocol – U.S. Forest Projects – June 15, 2015. The working group will provide input on a series of potential revisions under consideration sourced from [CARB 2021 Offset Taskforce Report](#), voluntary offset market protocols, and public comments received during this and previous rulemaking.

The US Forest Protocol Technical Working Group will begin meeting in late May/early June. The Blue Carbon Technical Working Group is expected to begin meeting in the fall.

Input from technical working group members will help to inform Ecology's rulemaking related to this protocol. This rulemaking will also be informed by input from the Environmental Justice Offset Working Group, public comments, and programmatic considerations.

### Applicant Desired Experience

Applicants for the US Forest Offset Protocol technical working group should have:

- Expertise in one or more forestry related offset protocols in the compliance or voluntary offset market, which may include experience in offset project development, offset project verification, or offset project registration.
- Expertise related to the US Forest Projects. June 15, 2015 CARB compliance offset protocol is preferred.
- Expertise related to forestry or forest offset project development in the Pacific Northwest is preferred.

## Application for US Forest Offset Protocol Technical Working Group

Ecology is particularly interested in applications from applicants who have:

- 1) Experience related to relevant offset protocols **and** experience related to environmental justice and/or
- 2) Experience related to relevant offset protocols **and** experience planning, developing, or assessing the feasibility of offset projects on Tribal lands.

Ecology seeks applicants with a diversity of perspectives and roles related to forest offset projects including but not limited to project developers, project registries, verifiers, non-profits, and academia.

### Working group member expectations

Working group members are expected to attend virtual meetings facilitated by Ecology and review meeting materials. The working group is expected to meet every three weeks for approximately 6 months for 2-3 hours each time. The schedule will be set once the members are selected. Additional meetings may be added as needed. Working group members for the US Forest Offset Protocol technical working group will participate on a volunteer basis and will not be compensated by Ecology for their participation.

### How to Apply

Applicants should submit a resume and cover letter (1-2 pages) describing their relevant experience and expertise related to forestry offset protocols. The cover letter should include experience with the forestry offset protocols, and the applicant's role in developing or implementing those offset protocols. Please make clear in your cover letter that you are applying for the US Forest Offset Protocol technical working group. Applications must be submitted by individuals, not organizations or interested parties. Applicants may, however, be represented by or affiliated with an organization.

Ecology will select working group members based on the individual's experience and expertise related to forestry offset protocols and forestry offset project development, as well as experience related to environmental justice and experience assessing the feasibility of offset projects on Tribal lands.

Please submit application materials by **Sunday, May 5th, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.** Please submit applications and questions to [CCAOffsets@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:CCAOffsets@ecy.wa.gov).

### Next Steps for Other Working Groups

Stay tuned for applications to open. Subscribe to our [Cap-and-Invest Offsets email list](#) and visit our [Offsets webpage](#).

### Additional Resources

- [WAC 173-446 Offsets Rulemaking information](#)
- [Cap-and-Invest Offsets webpage](#)
- [US Forest Technical Working Group Webpage](#)
- [CARB Compliance Offsets Protocol Final Recommendations](#)