



Greater Seattle and Washington State: Your Partner in **Environmental Technology & Services**

TRADE
DEVELOPMENT
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of
GREATER
SEATTLE



An overview of the environmental technology and services industry in Washington State and Greater Seattle for prospective partners in business, investment and research.

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Overview: Large and Diverse

Greater Seattle and Washington State are leaders in developing innovative solutions to diverse environmental problems, including toxic waste cleanup, water and air pollution reduction, recycling, and waste management. Be it state-of-the-art technology, highly advanced research, consulting and engineering services, education and training or joint ventures, Greater Seattle and Washington State offer boundless opportunities. Equidistant from Asia and Europe by air, this region enjoys easy access to the international marketplace and is a global center for the environmental services.

A Foundation of Experience

Greater Seattle and Washington State became leaders in environmental protection well before the existence of environmental protection laws and protection were commonplace in the United States. In 1953, a group of citizen activists decided that the pollution streaming into Lake Washington—a large recreational lake located just minutes away from the downtowns of Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, and Kirkland—must be stopped. Their efforts lead to the formation of an agency responsible for environmentally-safe sewage disposal. The lake is now clean, safe and enjoyed by all in the area. With the formation of this organization, as well as a fervent public mandate for maintaining a healthy and productive environment, the seeds for a strong environmental industry were planted. Today, the Greater Seattle region is home to companies with over 40 years of experience in environmental technology and services.

The presence of The Hanford Site—formerly an atomic weapons facility located in Eastern Washington—also helped to develop Washington’s strong environmental industry. The U.S. Department of Energy has allocated more than \$1 billion annually to clean up toxic, radioactive and chemical waste at this site. Hanford has become a national proving ground for cleanup technologies and Washington State environmental firms have gained tremendous advantage from the ability to contribute to those efforts.

The environmental industry is also enhanced by the presence of top-ranked research, educational and training institutions in the region. These include the University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University, Evergreen State College and the state community college system. In addition, a host of private and governmental institutions provide training in environmental technologies. The Greater Seattle region is nestled between two mountain ranges, an ocean inlet and fresh rivers and lakes, making it a convenient metropolitan location for outdoor recreation—just another motivating factor that keeps the environmental industry here strong and growing.

Leader and Innovator

Washington State firms and government have a history of being at the forefront of the industry, and the Greater Seattle region has exercised a leadership role in maintaining and improving natural resources. Examples of this role include:

- voters passing a state initiative which requires utilities to get 15 percent of their power from renewable resources, such as wind and solar;
- City of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels initiating the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which calls for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution;
- King County Executive Ron Sims honored by the Environmental Protection Agency for pursuing aggressive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in county operations, including one of the nation's greenest transit agencies, and land use policies to reduce sprawl and increase use of transit. Under Sims's leadership, King County became the first county in the nation to join the Chicago Carbon Exchange;
- eliminating air smog conditions of the '70s and later achieving levels that reach or exceed current standards;
- receiving a 2002 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Air Excellence Award;
- leading the rest of the country by example with our aggressive recycling program. Since 1989, Seattle and King County have diverted 50 percent of the waste stream production;
- a local government effort succeeded in initiating an educational and outreach program to small businesses that led to a reduction in output of over 1.4 million pounds of hazardous waste and diverted over three million pounds from improper disposal;
- The Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) was established in 1970 and was the first comprehensive state regulatory agency in the United States.

Environmental Industry Sector

The presence of over 400 companies employing 16,000 people gives Washington State and the Greater Seattle region one of the largest concentrations of environmental businesses in the nation.

Washington's environmental industry sector is also an active part of the state's export economy, and firms sell their products and services to markets around the globe. According to the Northwest Environmental Business Council, Washington exports approximately \$200 million per year in environmental services.

Examples of Environmental Technology and Service Firms

Wilder Environmental, a division of Wilder Construction, offers full service remediation-contaminated soil fixation, stabilization, solidification encapsulation and bioremediation.

URS Corporation provides a comprehensive range of professional planning, design, systems engineering and technical assistance, program and construction management, and operations and maintenance services, with special expertise in pollution control, water resources development and hazardous waste and wastewater management. URS Corporation's work has taken them throughout the United States and to more than 20 job sites around the world.

Hart Crowser provides environmental engineering, geotechnical engineering, natural resource, and mining consulting services. It has conducted a training program for SEDESOL (Mexico's equivalent of the Environmental Protection Agency) on remediation technologies and chemical spill planning and response, as well as industrial audits.

CH2M Hill provides comprehensive waste resource and management solutions to government, industry and business worldwide. They are The Hanford Site's prime contractor with the responsibility for storing and retrieving approximately 53 million gallons of highly radioactive and hazardous waste.

Amec Earth & Environmental is a leading earth and environmental consulting business, providing multi-disciplined solutions covering all aspects of environmental services, geotechnical engineering, infrastructure, materials testing and engineering and water resource services.

Kennedy/Jenks Consultants is an engineering and environmental sciences consulting firm, with expertise in water resources management, wastewater, environmental management, industrial facilities, transportation, institutional infrastructure, advanced technologies, information technologies, and membrane technologies.

GeoEngineers, Inc., headquartered in Redmond, Washington, offers an integrated suite of engineering and environmental services, including environmental site assessment and remediation, permitting, planning, river and stream management, testing and special inspection and water resources.

Clean Harbors Environmental Services, with a service center in SeaTac, is North America's leading provider of environmental and hazardous waste management services, including field services, emergency response, industrial services, waste transportation and disposal, and laboratory chemical packing.

Education

More than half of Greater Seattle's residents have completed a four-year university education or higher. Seattle is ranked first among the nation's major cities in the percentage of adults with college degrees. Graduates from the University of Washington and other regional institutions become the work force for the region's environmental and engineering companies. Every year thousands of international students are enrolled in Washington State educational institutions, both public and private.

[Washington State University \(WSU\)](#) offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in environmental engineering, groundwater management and air pollution abatement administration, as well as water and wastewater treatment and design. WSU is also an active participant in the cross-disciplinary [Center for Environmental, Sediment, and Aquatic Research](#), which administers unique research opportunities for Ph.D. candidates interested in spending time at national and international laboratories and participating in multidisciplinary teams.

[Western Washington University](#) (through Huxley College) offers a wide variety of environmental studies degrees in environmental science, geography, planning and policy, environmental education, environmental journalism and environmental economics. Graduate degrees are available in environmental science, geography and environmental education.

[Clover Park Technical College](#) offers associate programs in environmental sciences and technology. It has the Career Discovery Intensive Language Institute which can help students learn English while they explore five professional pathways, including the environmental sciences.

[Evergreen State College](#) offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in ecological agriculture, biogeography and environmental studies.

[Green River Community College](#) offers certificate programs in Water Supply Technology and Wastewater Technology. Programs at Green River Community College prepare students for entry-level employment as water supply or wastewater technicians.

[The Seattle Community College District](#) offers associate degrees in a wide variety of environmental studies including hazardous materials handling and management technology, landscape and environmental horticulture, environmental chemistry and biotechnology.

The Backbone of Environmental Technologies and Services

Regional leaders supporting the industry through education, training, research and innovation:

University of Washington

Founded in 1861, the University of Washington (UW) is one of the oldest state-supported institutions of higher education on the West Coast and is one of the preeminent research universities in the world. It is a center of the education, research and technology transfer that have been critical in making Washington a high-tech and biotech powerhouse.

The Environmental Management Program at the UW combines a traditional graduate degree with training and practice in environmental problem-solving and decision making on the local, national and international levels. UW also provides advanced degree studies in environmental engineering, forestry, fisheries, atmospheric sciences, environmental health, geosciences, international studies, environmental law, landscape architecture, urban design and planning, marine affairs, oceanography, conservation biology, natural resource economics and ecology and resources management.

Receiving more federal research funding than any other public university in the United States, the UW boasts a diverse range of research centers, labs, projects and programs. Examples of research centers in the environmental sciences are the Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health, the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest, the Center for Water and Watershed Studies, the Environmental Health Library, the Program on Climate Change and the Urban Ecology Project.

A regional and world pioneer in research and innovation, the University of Washington—with its 3,600 faculty in 17 schools and colleges on three campuses—supports Washington state business and industry. In 2006, the UW connected with business leaders on campus at the Ideas to Innovation summit for CEOs. The first meeting of its kind at the UW, one of the summit's goals is to position the state of Washington as the epicenter for global health, environmental sustainability and technology in the 21st century.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is one of nine U.S. Department of Energy's multi-program national laboratories. Operated by Battelle, it performs research for other entities, such as government agencies, universities and industry to deliver breakthrough science and technology. The laboratory employs 4,214 staff, boasts an annual business volume of \$725 million, and has developed innovative technologies, including air pollution computer models that help determine the impact of burning fossil fuels.

PNNL is a world-class research center with more than 1,446 U.S. and foreign patents in its growing portfolio. It has over two dozen available technologies in recycling and waste management alone, and has developed a new nanotechnology that can remove mercury from wastewater. PNNL has demonstrated its innovative know-how in the clean-up of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site, which represents one of the

nation's largest environmental cleanup efforts, by deploying a range of its science-based technologies, all of which may have application beyond the Hanford Site.

The impact of PNNL's infrastructure and work reaches far beyond the Greater Seattle region and Washington State. Its William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory is accessed by over 1,500 worldwide users each year. PNNL also offers technical assistance and staff exchanges, and has performed work on 1,900 projects for clients worldwide.

Technical and Business Resources

The Greater Seattle area and Washington State are home to a variety of governmental and non-profit organizations that provide information, training or resources to both businesses and government overseas. Examples of industry assistance include:

Training

[Metropolitan Services of King County](#)

Associates in Cultural Exchange

Information

[Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center](#)

[ECOSS](#)

Green/Sustainable Building

The Greater Seattle area is a leader in sustainable building practices. For example, the City of Seattle has committed all City construction projects over 5,000 square feet, both new and remodels, to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) "Silver" rating level.

[Construction Works](#)

[Sustainable Connections](#)

Solid Waste/Recycling

[Washington State Recycling Association](#)

[Clean Washington Center](#)

[King County](#)

Water Conservation/Treatment

Cascade Water Alliance

Business Matching

[Northwest Environmental Business Council](#)

Contacts

The Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle is a partnership of the City of Seattle, City of Everett, Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, Port of Everett, Metropolitan King County, Snohomish County Government, Pierce County Government, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and organized labor. It hosts inbound international delegations, including those from the environmental sector, and promotes the region as a center for international trade and business.

If you need information about the environmental industry in Washington State and the Greater Seattle area, please contact:

Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle

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Northwest Environmental Business Council (NEBC)

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Portland, OR 97207
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Environmental Services Directory for Washington State

P.O. Box 99486
Seattle, WA 98199
Tel: 206-282-2591
Fax: 206-284-6570

Washington State Dept. of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED)

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Washington State Department of Ecology

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Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition

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If you need information about business relocation services for the Greater Seattle area, or about joint venture partnerships, please contact:

[enterpriseSeattle](#)

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