

Future Plan Updates



12

12. Future Plan Updates

This section addresses updates to the Program's 'Master' Plan and our annual 'Implementation' Plans. Our Program's original 'Master' Plan was the 1990 Final Plan that launched the Program. That Plan was updated once in 1997. That 1997 document was a Plan Update to the 1990 Final Plan. This current document is another Plan Update to the 1990 Final Plan, and it builds on the 1997 Plan Update. It will be the 2010 Plan Update, after it is adopted and approved.

In addition to Plan Updates like the one in 1997, and the one we are undertaking with this document, Ecology is urging local programs to develop 'Implementation' Plans. An annual Implementation Plan would include an annual review and adjustment, if needed, of our Program's goals and objectives. It would contain a compilation of our Program's annual work plans and timelines, at an aggregated level. And it would contain, again at an aggregated level, the budgets and staffing levels for our Program. Ecology is requesting that a one-year Implementation Plan, for the first year covered by the Plan Update, be included with the Plan Update when it is submitted to Ecology for approval. This is intended to give Ecology a clearer picture of what actions, at a specific level, will be taken to begin implementing a Program's newest Plan Update.

12.1. Timing and Process for Updating the Master Plan

Ecology is encouraging MRW programs throughout the State to update their Master Plans every five years. Our Program intends to review our plan at five year intervals to determine the need for a formal plan update. It makes sense to do this; many things change in a five-year period. Those changes can include demographic shifts in the populations we serve; changes to our goals; changes in the nature of the hazardous wastes, materials and products we are attempting to address; and changes in the methods we use to address those wastes, materials and products.

Following a five-year cycle would entail revisiting the status of this Plan Update with Ecology in 2014 to see if another formal Plan Update is needed. If both the Program and Ecology thought it would be advantageous, we would begin our scoping process in 2014 for a targeted Plan Update completion in 2015. Our Program would also intend to use the same approval process as we are using for this Plan Update. That process would include public input through a variety of mechanisms in the scoping phase, and an extensive public comment period for review of the draft document prior to it being submitted to the MCC. After those public comments were reviewed, and incorporated as appropriate, the Plan Update would be submitted to the MCC for their review and approval. After MCC approval, the document would be submitted to the King County Board of Health (BOH) for review and approval. After addressing any concerns from the BOH, the document would be submitted to Ecology for final review and approval.

12.2. Timing and Process for Implementation Plans

An annual Implementation Plan is merely a compilation of work that our Program does each year to review its goals and objectives, develop its budgets and create its project work plans. Under the structure that Ecology is advocating, we would take that same information, aggregate it and submit it with the five-year spanning Plan Update. This would show a detailed level of planning by our Program for the first year of the five-year period covered by the Plan Update. While we essentially do this work every year to implement our Program's work, this one year Implementation Plan would be submitted with our Plan Update for Ecology's review.

This type of planning is conducted every year, as a routine way to implement our Program's work and provide information for evaluating that work. It will continue whether we are undertaking a formal Plan Update process or just conducting our regular business, to be efficient, effective and transparent in our work.