



State of Washington

## Product Stewardship and Plastics Specialist (Environmental Specialist 5)

<b>SALARY</b>	\$6,259.00 - \$8,415.00 Monthly \$75,108.00 - \$100,980.00 Annually	<b>LOCATION</b>	Thurston County – Lacey, WA
<b>JOB TYPE</b>	Full Time - Permanent	<b>REMOTE EMPLOYMENT</b>	Flexible/Hybrid
<b>JOB NUMBER</b>	2026-SWM4613-00448	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Dept. of Ecology
<b>DIVISION</b>	Solid Waste Management	<b>OPENING DATE</b>	01/15/2026
<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	Continuous	<b>SALARY INFORMATION</b>	The high end of the salary range, Step M is typically a longevity step

### Description



Keeping Washington Clean and Evergreen

The Department of Ecology is hiring a **Product Stewardship and Plastics Specialist** (Environmental Specialist 5) within the **Solid Waste Management** (SWM) program.

#### Location:

- Headquarters Office in [Lacey, WA](#).
- Upon hire, you must live within a commutable distance from the duty station.

#### Schedule:

- This position is eligible for telework and flexible schedule options.
- You may telework up to 90 percent of your work time with occasional in-person meetings and activities.
- Schedules are dependent upon position needs and are subject to change.

#### Application Timeline:

- **Apply by January 28, 2026**
- This position will remain open until filled. The agency reserves the right to make a hire at any time after application review begins. Applications received after the date above may not be considered.

Ecology is committed to **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect**

### Duties



In this role, you will conduct high-level, statewide product stewardship and plastics policy development and analysis, working with a variety of local, state, and national interests. You will represent Ecology as the statewide Plastics Lead through participation in state and national organizations with the potential for additional training in plastics and product stewardship subject matter and conference attendance. Reviewing policy, conducting bill analysis, developing fiscal notes, working with the regulated community, collaborating with the post-consumer recycled content and product stewardship team, and rule development are all part of the things you will get to do.

#### What you will do:

- Participate in legislative activities including reviewing draft legislation and providing comment on bill language, conducting bill analyses, assist in fiscal note development, prepare testimony, develop talking points, write documents and reports, prepare, and give presentations at legislative work sessions.
- Negotiate complex and sometimes contentious policy issues with internal and external interested parties, as well as local, state, and federal agencies. Conduct outreach with affected interested parties, local governments, state, and federal agencies, as well as trade organizations and associations.
- Lead implementation of postconsumer recycled content law, chapter 70A.245 RCW, including but not limited to conducting workload analysis, and addressing non-compliance through issuing enforcement and negotiating corrective action plans.
- Develop and implement necessary contracts for external assistance with development of technologies, processes, and interested party involvement in how best to manage plastic material.
- Provide policy recommendations to Ecology, other agencies, local governments, and interested legislators regarding proposals to reduce, recycle or otherwise manage plastic packaging or products
- Respond to requests for presentations and interviews, represent the agency, and develop and present product stewardship issues and policies for local, state, and national entities and the media.

#### Qualifications

For detailed information on how we calculate experience and responses to other frequently asked questions, please visit our [Recruitment website](#).

**Ten (10) years** of experience and/or education as described below

**Experience:** performing environmental-based work, OR work related to the position, that includes three or more of the following:

- Product stewardship, solid waste management, recycling systems, and post-consumer recycled content (PCRC) requirements.
- State and federal environmental laws, rulemaking processes, and legislative procedures.
- Plastics management issues, recycling markets, and emerging technologies.
- Principles of program administration, compliance oversight, and interested party engagement.

Experience must include demonstrated competence in the following skill sets:

- Developing and analyzing policy, legislation, rules, and technical guidance.
- Building and facilitating effective relationships, including negotiation and conflict resolution.
- Communicating complex information clearly through writing, presentations, outreach, and web content.
- Managing projects, priorities, and contracts effectively.
- Synthesizing technical, legislative, and interested party input into workable policy solutions.
- Using critical / analytical thinking and problem-solving skills to make decisions or determine a course of action.
- Reviewing / assessing information and data to draw conclusions and recommending decisions or actions.
- Conducting research and performing data analysis on both qualitative and quantitative data.

**Education:** in environmental, physical, or one of the natural sciences; environmental or natural science interdisciplinary studies; environmental planning, or related field.

Examples of how to qualify:

- 10 years of experience.
- 9 years of experience AND 30-59 semester or 45-89 quarter college credits.
- 8 years of experience AND 60-89 semester or 90-134 quarter college credits (Associate's degree).
- 7 years of experience AND 90-119 semester or 135-179 quarter college credits.
- 6 years of experience AND a Bachelor's degree.
- 4 years of experience AND a Master's degree.

- 3 years of experience AND a Ph.D.

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Knowledge of solid waste laws and regulations.
- Knowledge of product stewardship, product take-back or extended producer responsibility policies, programs, and principles.
- Ability to think conceptually, observe and interpret trends, analyze data, and draw logical conclusions
- Skilled at communication with private businesses and public organizations.
- Experience developing technical reports and outreach materials.
- Work well with interested parties; identify key partners and maintain effective working relationships.
- Understanding of negotiation and mediation processes.
- Ability to recognize emerging issues and plan in advance to address those issues.
- Knowledge of plastics and packaging issues, including current policies regarding post-consumer recycled content, and recycling and reduction

If you are excited about this role but not sure if your experience aligns perfectly with every qualification in the job description, **we encourage you to apply**. Studies have shown that women and people of color are less likely to apply to jobs unless they meet every single qualification. At the Department of Ecology, we are dedicated to building a diverse and authentic workplace centered in belonging. You may just be the needed candidate for this or other roles.

**Supplemental Information**

Ecology does not use the **E-Verify** system; therefore, we are not eligible to extend STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT). For more information, please visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

**Our Commitment to DEIR**

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect (DEIR)** are core values central to Ecology's work. We strive to be a workplace where we are esteemed for sharing our authentic identities, while advancing our individual professional goals and collaborating to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations.

**Diversity:** We celebrate and appreciate diversity; our unique perspectives and abilities enrich us all and lead to innovative approaches and solutions.

**Equity:** We champion equity, recognizing that each of us need different things to thrive.

**Inclusion:** We intentionally create and hold space so that we all have meaningful opportunities to participate and contribute to Ecology's work.

**Respect:** We treat each other with respect and dignity, acknowledging the inherent worth of our diverse perspectives and lived experiences, even in times of uncertainty and disagreement.

We believe that DEIR is both a goal and an action. We are on a journey, honoring our shared humanity and taking steps to demonstrate our commitment to a vision where each of us is heard, seen, and valued.

**Application Process**

Ecology seeks diverse applicants: We view diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect through a broad lens including race, ethnicity, class, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, military background, language, education, life experience, physical disability, neurodiversity, and intersectional identities. Qualified job seekers from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

**How to Apply**

Click "Apply" at the top of this page. Complete the entire application, including full work history and responses to all supplemental questions, and attach:

- Cover letter, describing your interest in and qualifications for this position
- Resume

Because we base our selection on the information you provide, it is in your best interest to complete the application thoroughly. A resume will not substitute for the "work experience" section of the application or vice versa. Applications with blank fields or supplemental question responses with comments such as "see resume" may be considered incomplete.

For detailed application information, please visit our [Recruitment website](#).

**Application Attestation:** By submitting an application, you are affirming that the information contained in your application and on all attachments is complete and truthful. The state may verify this information, and any false or misleading answers may result in rejection of your application or dismissal if employed.

**Need an Accommodation?**

If you need reasonable accommodation during the application and/or screening process, including this job announcement in an alternate format:

- Please contact us at 360-407-6186 or [careers@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:careers@ecy.wa.gov)
- If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call through the Washington Relay Service by dialing 711 or 1-800-833-6384.

#### Questions?

- For specific questions about the position location options, schedule, or duties, please contact Chery Sullivan at [chery.sullivan@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:chery.sullivan@ecy.wa.gov)
- If you need assistance applying for this job, are inquiring about the status of your application, would like to request the full position description, or have any other questions, please contact the Recruitment Team at [careers@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:careers@ecy.wa.gov)

#### About the Solid Waste Management Program (SWM)

The Solid Waste Management Program's mission is to reduce waste through prevention and reuse, keep toxics out of the environment; and safely manage what remains. The Solid Waste Management program's vision is to transition to a society where waste is viewed as inefficient, and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated, contributing to economic, social, and environmental vitality.

#### About the Department of Ecology

As the State of Washington's environmental protection agency, we are deeply committed to protecting, preserving, and enhancing Washington's environment for current and future generations. Joining Ecology means becoming part of a team dedicated to protecting and sustaining healthy land, air, water, and climate in harmony with a strong economy. A career in public service at Ecology allows you to help solve some of the most challenging problems facing our state, while keeping your health and financial security a priority. We combine one of the most competitive benefits packages in the nation with a strong commitment to life/work balance. We invest in our employees to create and sustain a working environment that encourages creative leadership, effective resource management, teamwork, professionalism, and accountability.

Ecology employees may be eligible for the following: [Medical/Dental/Vision for employee & dependent\(s\)](#), [Public Employees Retirement System \(PERS\)](#), [Vacation, Sick, and other Leave](#), [11 Paid Holidays per year](#), [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#), [Tuition Waiver](#), [Long Term Disability](#) & [Life Insurance](#), [Deferred Compensation Programs](#), [Dependent Care Assistance Program \(DCAP\)](#), [Flexible Spending Arrangement \(ESA\)](#), [Employee Assistance Program](#), [Commuter Trip Reduction Incentives](#), [Combined Fund Drive](#), [SmartHealth](#) \*[Click here for more information](#)

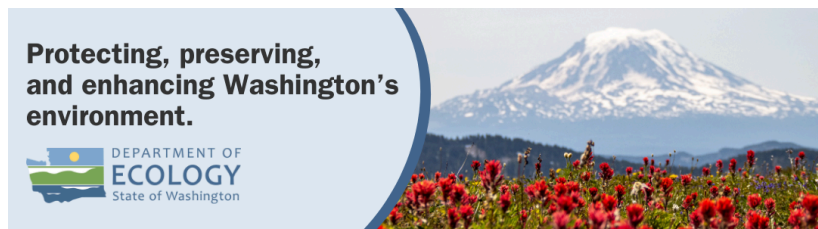
To learn more about Ecology, please visit our [website](#), explore [Working at Ecology](#), check out our [Strategic Plan](#), and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), or our [blog](#).

Equal Opportunity Employer: The Washington State Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity employer. We strive to create a working environment that includes and respects cultural, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and gender identity diversity. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of disability, persons over 40 years of age, veterans, military spouses or people with military status, and people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are encouraged to apply.

Collective Bargaining: This is a position covered by a bargaining unit for which the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) is the exclusive representative.

**Note:** This recruitment may be used to fill other positions of the same job classification across the agency. Once all the position(s) from the recruitment announcement are filled, the recruitment may only be used to fill additional open positions for the next sixty (60) days.

#LI-Hybrid



#### Benefits

##### **More than Just a Paycheck!**

Employee benefits are not just about the kind of services you get, they are also about how much you may have to pay out of pocket. Washington State offers one of the most competitive benefits packages in the nation.

We understand that your life revolves around more than just your career. Like everyone, your first priority is ensuring that you and your family will maintain health and financial security. That's why choice is a key component of our

benefits package. We have a selection of health and retirement plans, paid leave, staff training and other compensation benefits that you can mix and match to meet your current and future needs.

#### Read about our benefits:

*The following information describes typical benefits available for full-time employees who are expected to work more than six months. Actual benefits may vary by appointment type or be prorated for other than full-time work (e.g. part-time); view the job posting for benefits details for job types other than full-time.*

**Note:** If the position offers benefits which differ from the following, the job posting should include the specific benefits.

#### Insurance Benefits

Employees and their families are covered by medical (including vision), dental and basic life insurance. There are multiple medical plans with affordable monthly premiums that offer coverage throughout the state.

Staff are eligible to enroll each year in a medical flexible spending account which enables them to use tax-deferred dollars toward their health care expenses. Employees are also covered by basic life and long-term disability insurance, with the option to purchase additional coverage amounts.

To view premium rates, coverage choice in your area and how to enroll, please visit the [Public Employees Benefits Board \(PEBB\) website](#). The [Washington Wellness](#) program from the Health Care Authority works with PEBB to support our workplace [wellness programs](#).

[Dependent care assistance](#) allows the employee to save pre-tax dollars for a child or elder care expenses.

Other insurance coverage for auto, boat, home, and renter insurance is available through payroll deduction.

The [Washington State Employee Assistance Program](#) promotes the health and well-being of employees.

#### Retirement and Deferred Compensation

State Employees are members of the Washington Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). New employees have the option of two employer contributed retirement programs. For additional information, check out the [Department of Retirement Systems'](#) web site.

Employees also have the ability to participate in the [Deferred Compensation Program](#) (DCP). This is a supplemental retirement savings program (similar to an IRA) that allows you control over the amount of pre-tax salary dollars you defer as well as the flexibility to choose between multiple investment options.

#### Social Security

All state employees are covered by the federal [Social Security](#) and Medicare systems. The state and the employee pay an equal amount into the system.

#### Public Service Loan Forgiveness

If you are employed by a government or not-for-profit organization, and meet the qualifying criteria, you may be eligible to receive student loan forgiveness under the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#).

#### Holidays

Full-time and part-time employees are entitled to paid holidays and one paid personal holiday per calendar year.

**Note:** Employees who are members of certain Unions may be entitled to additional personal leave day(s), please refer to position specific [Collective Bargaining Agreements](#) for more information.

Full-time employees who work full monthly schedules qualify for holiday compensation if they are employed before the holiday and are in pay status for at least 80 nonovertime hours during the month of the holiday; or for the entire work shift preceding the holiday.

Part-time employees who are in pay status during the month of the holiday qualify for the holiday on a pro-rata basis. Compensation for holidays (including personal holiday) will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status in the month to that required for full-time employment, excluding all holiday hours. Pay status includes hours worked and time on paid leave.

#### Sick Leave

Full-time employees earn eight hours of sick leave per month. Overtime eligible employees who are in pay status for less than 80 hours per month, earn a monthly proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment. Overtime exempt employees who are in pay status for less than 80 hours per month do not earn a monthly accrual of sick leave.

Sick leave accruals for part-time employees will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment. Pay status includes hours worked, time on paid leave and paid holiday.

#### Vacation (Annual Leave)

Full-time employees accrue vacation leave at the rates specified in [WAC 357-31-165\(1\)](#) or the applicable collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Full-time employees who are in pay status for less than 80 nonovertime hours in a month do not earn a monthly accrual of vacation leave.

Part-time employees accrue vacation leave hours in accordance with [WAC 357-31-165\(1\)](#) or the applicable collective bargaining agreement (CBA) on a pro rata basis. Vacation leave accrual will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment.

Pay status includes hours worked, time on paid leave and paid holiday.

As provided in [WAC 357-58-175](#), an employer may authorize a lump-sum accrual of vacation leave or accelerate the vacation leave accrual rate to support the recruitment and/or retention of a candidate or employee for a Washington Management Service position. Vacation leave accrual rates may only be accelerated using the rates established WAC 357-31-165.

**Note:** Most agencies follow the civil service rules covering leave and holidays for **exempt** employees even though there is no requirement for them to do so. However, agencies are required to adhere to the applicable RCWs pertaining holidays and leave.

#### Military Leave

Washington State supports members of the armed forces with 21 days paid military leave per year.

#### Bereavement Leave

Most employees whose family member or household member dies, or for loss of pregnancy, are entitled to five (5) days of paid bereavement leave. In addition, the employer may approve other available leave types for the purpose of bereavement leave.

#### Additional Leave

[Leave Sharing](#)

[Parental Leave](#)

[Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#)

[Leave Without Pay](#)

Please visit the [State HR Website](#) for more detailed information regarding benefits.

Updated 01-07-2026

#### Employer

State of Washington

#### Address

[View Job Posting for Agency Information](#)

[View Job Posting for Location, Washington, 98504](#)

#### Website

<http://www.careers.wa.gov>

### Product Stewardship and Plastics Specialist (Environmental Specialist 5) Supplemental Questionnaire

#### \*QUESTION 1

How did you hear about this job?

- ☐ Community Based Organization
- ☐ Community / Technical College
- ☐ Ecology Employee
- ☐ Ecology Recruiter
- ☐ Ecology Jobs Page
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Job Board
- ☐ Job Fair
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Other Website
- ☐ Professional Association
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ University Job Board
- ☐ WorkSource
- ☐ Other

#### \*QUESTION 2

If you selected Community Based Organization, Community / Technical College, Job Board, Job Fair, LinkedIn Group, Newspaper, Other State Agency, Other Website, Professional Association, University Job Board, WorkSource, or Other, please share which one.

**\*QUESTION 3**

Have you ever worked for the Department of Ecology in any capacity including: Permanent, Non-permanent, Project, Intern, or Volunteer?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**\*QUESTION 4**

How many years of experience do you have performing environmental-based work, OR work related to the position, that includes three or more of the following: • Product stewardship, solid waste management, recycling systems, and post-consumer recycled content (PCRC) requirements. • State and federal environmental laws, rulemaking processes, and legislative procedures. • Plastics management issues, recycling markets, and emerging technologies. • Principles of program administration, compliance oversight, and interested party engagement.? Please include any experience gained through employment, internships, and/or volunteer positions. Note that experience gained from academic coursework, class projects, or other degree requirements is assessed in later questions.

- ☐ One year
- ☐ Two years
- ☐ Three years
- ☐ Four years
- ☐ Five years
- ☐ Six years
- ☐ Seven years
- ☐ Eight years
- ☐ Nine years
- ☐ Ten years or more
- ☐ None of the above

**\*QUESTION 5**

Please provide additional details to support your response above. The following information is needed: position title(s), specific duties, and periods of employment. Make sure your response specifically addresses the qualification above. An incomplete answer, including "please see resume" may remove you from further consideration.

**\*QUESTION 6**

What is your level of education in environmental, physical, or one of the natural sciences; environmental or natural science interdisciplinary studies; environmental planning, or related field?

- ☐ 30-59 semester or 45-89 quarter college credits
- ☐ 60-89 semester or 90-134 quarter college credits (AA degree)
- ☐ 90-119 semester or 135-179 quarter college credits
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Ph.D.
- ☐ None of the above

**\*QUESTION 7**

If you have college credits or a degree, please list your major(s) or field(s) of study and any degree(s) earned. If you don't have this education, put N/A.

**\*QUESTION 8**

The State of Washington and the Department of Ecology, play a vital role in fostering a Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Respectful (DEIR) workplace and contributing to equitable outcomes for the communities we serve. We view DEIR through a broad lens including: race, ethnicity, class, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, military background, language, education, life experience, physical disability, neurodiversity, and intersectional identities. We believe it is everyone's job to contribute to a DEIR workplace. Please tell us, what does it mean for you to have a commitment to DEIR in the workplace? What steps or actions have you taken to demonstrate your commitment previously?

**\*QUESTION 9**

I understand that Ecology does not use the E-Verify system and is unable to extend STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT).

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**\*QUESTION 10**

Please describe your understanding of Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship programs in Washington State.

**\*QUESTION 11**

Please briefly explain (no more than 100 words per skill) your experience associated with the skills below.

- o Planning associated with program development and developing long range plans.
- o Effective oral and written communication skills with local, state, and federal agencies, private businesses, and public organizations.
- o Reading and analyzing legislation, statutes, and regulations. Understanding government administrative structure at the state and local level.
- o Using critical / analytical thinking to solve problems, make decisions, and determine a course of action.

\* Required Question