

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 15, 2025

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA
Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Microsoft Teams**

[Environmental Commission Regular Meeting | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

5:15 PM - Regular Meeting

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**
- 2. Approval of Agenda** (No Public Comment)
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.A Approval of the September 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- 4. New Business**
 - 4.A 2026 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP)**
 - Consultant Presentation
 - Request for Feedback
 - Request for EC Recommendation for City Council to Approve the CEIP
- 5. Unfinished Business**
 - 5.A 2026 Water Quality Grant**
 - Applicant Presentation: Mid-Columbia Fisheries
 - Applicant Scoring and Grant Funding Decision
- 6. Citizen Comment**
- 7. Staff Update/Discussion Items**
 - 7.A City-Wide Voluntary Water Conservation**
 - Ecology 2025 Surface Water Withdrawal Curtailment
 - Surface vs. Groundwater Supply - Implications for different communities
 - Coaching our community
- 8. Adjournment**



For more information on the Environmental Commission, contact Rebecca Springer, Public Works Water Resources Manager, at 509-925-8653



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

September 17, 2025

5:15 PM

Council Conference Room

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Present: Kamran Hermann, Ravin Harlin, Christina Wollman, Jean Marie Linhart, Nancy Lillquist (ordinance update-City Council liaison is now a voting member of the Commission)

Absent: Brenda DeVore

Others Present: Rebecca Springer-Water Resource Manager; Kathy Boots-Planning Technician

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of May 21, 2025 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Lillquist motioned to approve the May 21, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

3.B Approval of July 16, 2025 Environmental Commission Minutes
Commissioner Lillquist motioned to approve the July 16, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

4. New Business

4.A Discuss Water Quality Grant Application and Updated Scoring Rubric
Rebecca Springer stated that one application was received from Mid-Columbia Fisheries (MCF) for the water quality grant. MCF will be presenting their application at the October 15, 2025, meeting. Ms. Springer reviewed a draft rubric she generated that would provide clearer guidance in scoring applications. Grants can affect water quality directly or indirectly. Examples of direct and indirect were provided. Additional scores can be granted if the project provides both direct and indirect water quality. Springer is looking at grants to see if there are any additional grants that can be applied for to increase the funding available. Staff will be reaching out to Ellensburg High School to seek a member to attend meetings. Commissioner Wollman will not be at the next meeting but can score it remotely if the slides are provided.

5. Unfinished Business

None.

6. Citizen Comment

None.

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

7.A Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Open House

The Comprehensive Plan Periodic update open house is tonight. Details were provided. The Environmental Commission will be reviewing the Environmental and Climate Sustainability chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.

7.B Clean Energy Implementation Plan Public Input Workshop

Nichole Baker will attend the October 2025 meeting to provide information that was received from the public regarding the clean energy implementation plan from the Public Input Workshop.

7.C Ellensburg Academy

Staff provided details regarding the Ellensburg Academy on September 24, 2025.

8. Bicycle Advisory

No updates.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



Meeting Date: October 15, 2025

**City of Ellensburg
Environmental Commission Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: 2026 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP)

- Consultant Presentation
- Request for Feedback
- Request for EC Recommendation for City Council to Approve the CEIP

Submitted by:

Department: Energy Services

Suggested Motion/Action:

Forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to approve the CEIP for submission to Commerce by December 2025.

Background/Summary:

Consultants from Lighthouse Energy Consulting LLC will provide an overview and presentation of the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP). The CEIP, WAC 194-40-200, supports the goals set by the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), Chapter 19.405 RCW, which aims to transition the state's electricity supply to be free of greenhouse gas emissions. While the City of Ellensburg already sources nearly 90% clean energy from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) resources, the CEIP represents the next phase in the City's commitment to serving the community, especially those who may experience greater impacts during the clean energy transition.

Previous Council Action:

On September 23rd, 2025, the City of Ellensburg held a public input workshop for community members to provide feedback for the City's 2026-2029 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP). The first and previous CEIP was completed in December 2021, for the years 2022 through 2025.

Analysis:

Completed in 2025, the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) will outline how the City of Ellensburg will continue to deliver safe, reliable, affordable, and clean electricity from 2026 through 2029. WAC 194-40-050 establishes that each utility must submit a CEIP every four years beginning January 1, 2022.

Financial Impact:

Fiscal impact not known at this time.

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:
None

APPLICATION FORM

Ellensburg Community Grant Program

Focus area: **2026 Water Quality**

Project Title: Ellensburg Adopt-a-Stream and Backyard Buffer

Applicant information

Name of applicant: Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Applicant's address: 413 N Main St Suite K, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Mailing address: PO BOX 2211 White Salmon, WA 98672

Email: becca@midcolumbiafisheries.org

Phone (cell): (509) 281-1311

Please answer the following questions (be concise but include all requested information):

1) Describe your project and the steps you will take to accomplish it. What are your goals?

Mid-Columbia Fisheries (MCF) seeks grant support to expand the Adopt-a-Stream program in Ellensburg. Currently, 8 community groups steward 4 miles of stream in Ellensburg, with a ninth in Kittitas. Two new groups will begin cleanups in Fall 2025. These volunteers monitor stream health and remove trash, contributing to the program's impact: 6,409 lbs of trash removed, 4,270 riparian plants installed, and 1,146 volunteers engaged for 1,780 hours since 2018. The Adopt-a-Stream and Backyard Buffer program's goal is simple: improve water quality and habitat by engaging the community in protecting and restoring urban streams.

In 2026, the program proposes to 1) grow the Adopt a Stream program, 2) maintain previous plantings along urban streams with volunteer support, and 3) increase the visibility of the City of Ellensburg's support by adding logo stickers to the Adopt a Stream signs.

Project Objectives

Mid-Columbia Fisheries aims to:

1. Provide logistical support for Adopt-a-Stream partners' semi-annual cleanups and program expansion.
2. Support volunteers by supplying refreshments and managing trash disposal.
3. Provide plants for replanting at previous Backyard Buffer sites.
4. Replace and install Adopt-a-Stream signs along two newly adopted stream reaches and add "City of Ellensburg" stickers to existing signs.
5. Increase community awareness of water quality needs in Ellensburg.
6. Provide stewardship for previously installed Backyard Buffer projects.

Project Tasks

To achieve these objectives, MCF will:

- a. Support current Adopt-a-Stream participants by coordinating 16 stream cleanups and 2 planting events.
- b. Engage the community by recruiting 10–15 volunteers for each event.
- c. Install City of Ellensburg stickers on existing signs and place two new Adopt-a-Stream signs for active groups.

Event Support and Trash Disposal

MCF will support Adopt-a-Stream participants by providing refreshments and disposing of refuse gathered during volunteer events. Dump fees are minimal but add up after multiple clean-up events.

Small-scale Riparian Enhancement

With 12 miles of stream flowing through Ellensburg, the potential for riparian restoration is significant. Many homeowners, unaware of the importance of streamside areas, maintain lawns to the creek banks which worsen erosion, degrade fish habitat, and allow contaminants to enter waterways.

With grant support, Mid-Columbia Fisheries will continue its riparian planting program, engaging community members in improving local streams. Replanting at past sites will strengthen and showcase the value of healthy riparian buffers.

Stewardship

An important component of the Ellensburg Adopt-a-Stream Program is stewardship of urban projects installed in previous years. MCF staff will work with volunteers to manage invasive weeds and water native plants. Performing such stewardship activities has been proven to increase the success of riparian enhancement projects. Such success translates into long-term water quality benefits.

Adopt-a-Stream Program Signs

Adopt-a-Stream signs are a simple, cost-effective tool for outreach and recognition. Based on MCF's experience with urban stream restoration, these signs spark community interest while promoting both Adopt-a-Stream and backyard buffer projects. They also provide visible recognition for the volunteers and groups who dedicate their time to keeping local streams clean—an incentive that strengthens participation.

Beyond recognition, the signs serve as a constant reminder that water quality matters in Ellensburg. Adding City of Ellensburg stickers further highlights the city's commitment and partnership, reinforcing the program's credibility and encouraging broader community support.

2) How will your project improve water quality in Ellensburg?

Native plants protect streams and nearby structures by slowing runoff, soaking up water, and filtering out sediments, fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, and petroleum products. Their roots stabilize soil, reduce erosion, and help recharge wells while minimizing flooding. Shade from trees keeps streams cool for native species, and the added beauty enhances community spaces. Trash, especially plastics, threatens water quality by carrying toxins, breaking into microplastics, and accumulating in wildlife. Community action is key to reducing this pollution.

Adopt-a-Stream signs along public stream reaches raise awareness of water quality, recognize participating groups, and inspire broader community support. When placed in high-traffic areas, they highlight Ellensburg's commitment to healthy urban streams.

3) Do you have any partners in this project? If so, what is their role or level of involvement?

Our partners include:

Adopt a Stream participants (CWU Environmental Club, EHS Environmental Club, CWU Geology Club, KEEN, CWU Army ROTC, Kittitas Girl Scouts, CWU Biology Club, Oddfellows, and KVUUC) will remove trash from streams, assist with identifying planting reaches, advertising to landowners, and installing plants.

Central Washington University – Facilities – Project planning and stewardship.

Central Washington University – Center for Leadership and Community Engagement: Volunteer recruitment

4) Who are your other contributors, either in-kind or providing funds?

The Adopt-a-Stream program in Ellensburg began with support from the Washington State Department of Ecology through a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant. Today, Mid-Columbia Fisheries staff continue to lead planning and coordination with support from volunteer groups and Central Washington University. Department of Ecology grants support volunteer planting and maintenance at several urban stream sites.

Funding from the City of Ellensburg Storm Water Grant has expanded MCF's volunteer base and enabled the coordinator to identify stream reaches in need of greater riparian cover. Since 2018, these funds have helped staff and volunteers install 4,270 native riparian plants. City support has also covered the logistics of trash disposal and provided resources to assist current stream adoptees.

5) Who will benefit directly from this project? Where applicable, describe the demographics and number of people impacted. How visible will the results of the project be for the general public?

This project will improve water quality in Wilson, Mercer, Reecer, and Whiskey Creeks. This will benefit the residents of Ellensburg who depend on these streams for irrigation, recreation, aesthetic value, and to provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat. Advertising this project on a local level and the maintenance of permanent public signage will increase awareness and instill a sense of stewardship in community members. The community-based riparian enhancement work will engage citizens of all ages in hands-on stewardship.

6) Where will the project occur? Provide the specific location(s) of your project.

Each Adopt-a-Stream partner is responsible for a defined stretch of one of Ellensburg's four urban streams (Figure 1). Planting sites will be selected in collaboration with partners and prioritized based on areas of greatest need.

7) How will you evaluate the success of this project? What does success look like?

A successful project will be based on multiple criteria:

- a. Providing logistical support to current Adopt-a-Stream participants (8-10 groups, 16-20 stream clean-ups);
- b. Engaging the community through high volunteer turnout (average of 5 - 10 volunteers/event, with some clubs bringing 40 – 50 volunteers); and
- c. Installing two new adopt-a-stream signs and adding City of Ellensburg stickers to existing signs for participating groups at public locations.

8) Describe how the project impacts will be sustained after your project is completed.

Adopted stream plantings will primarily be maintained by landowners, with some support from Mid-Columbia Fisheries staff and volunteers. Additionally, public signs will continually remind Ellensburg residents of important water quality issues and the benefit of maintaining healthy riverine and riparian habitats. We also expect that the Adopt-a-Stream groups will continue their work after the termination of grant funding.

9) How will the community know that the City of Ellensburg supported this request?

Mid-Columbia Fisheries will advertise the Adopt-a-Stream project and the City's support through the local newspaper, local radio stations and social media. The addition of City of Ellensburg stickers to the permanent Adopt a Stream signs will make the City's sponsorship clear to the community.

Cost Category						
Personnel	Hour	#/Hour	\$/Hour	Grant	In Kind	Total
MCF Staff Time to plan, support, & coordinate Adopt a Stream, volunteer events, and outreach	hrs	144	\$42	\$6,048		\$6,048
Riparian site stewardship (2-person crew)	hrs	10	\$52.00	\$520		\$520
Bookkeeping	hrs	4	\$50		\$200	\$200
Volunteer time for plantings and stream clean-ups (18 events * 5 people/event*2 hours)	hrs	180	\$34.79		\$6,262	\$6,262
				\$6,568	\$6,462	\$13,030
Materials and Supplies	Unit	#/Unit	\$/Unit	Grant	In Kind	Total
Plants	ea	100	\$12	\$1,200		\$1,200
Wood chips (cost based on recent contract)	cy	7	\$10	\$70		\$70
Irrigation supplies	lump	1	\$500	\$500		\$500
Volunteer Refreshments	per event	18	\$25	\$450		\$450
Tools and PPE	lump	1	\$356	\$356		\$356
				\$2,576	\$0	\$2,576
Professional Services	Unit	#/Unit	\$/Unit	Grant	In Kind	Total
AAS Signs and stickers	lump	1	\$400	\$400		\$400
				\$400		\$400
Funds from other sources	Unit	#/Unit	\$/Unit	Grant	In Kind	Total
Department of Ecology volunteer planting party support	ea	2	\$500		\$1,000	\$1,000
				\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other	Unit	#/Unit	\$/Unit	Grant	In Kind	Total
Dump fees (based on 2025 rate per ton)	tons	2	\$158.00	\$316		\$316
Mileage (travel to stream clean-up and planting site)	mile	200	0.7	\$140		\$140
				\$456	\$0	\$456
Total				\$10,000	\$7,462	\$17,462



Figure 1. Adopted stream reaches.



Figure 2. Members of Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation (KVVUC) at their June 2025 Wilson Creek clean-up.



Figure 3. Example of the Adopt-a-Stream program sign (left). This grant request includes replacing the bottom half of signs as needed to reflect new club participation (right).

REVIEWER EVALUATION

Ellensburg Community Grant Program

Focus area: Water Quality

Criteria	Score
<p>Degree to which the project outputs or deliverables have the potential to promote water quality in Ellensburg (25 points total)</p> <p><i>A project may incorporate either direct or indirect water quality improvement efforts, or both. While both direct and indirect efforts would support the City’s WQ improvement goals, a combination of both types would provide maximum benefit and should be awarded the greatest number of points.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direct WQ benefit projects - Actions taken on the ground to physically remove or reduce sources of contamination, remove barriers to stormwater flow, or improve the functionality of the existing stormwater system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project removes a SOURCE of WQ contamination – this reduces the amount of pollutants available to contribute contamination to runoff, protecting WQ. ○ Project removes a FLOW BARRIER from stormwater infrastructure – this improves conveyance of stormwater and can help prevent flooding and wash-over of potentially contaminated surfaces, protecting WQ. ● Indirect WQ benefit projects - Water Quality is improved faster when all contributors are on board and understand the goal. Education and Public Outreach help align community efforts with the City’s WQ goals and objectives. <p><i>If a project includes either direct or indirect WQ benefits, award between 1 and 20 points, based on thoroughness and quality of application. If the project incorporates BOTH direct and indirect WQ benefits, such as source removal with associated public outreach, add an additional 5 points for maximized benefit.</i></p> <p><i>Reviewer Comments:</i></p>	
<p>Sustainability of the work after the grant is complete (25 points total)</p> <p><i>A well-designed project should consider the longevity of the project, which is dependent both on the estimated effectiveness period of the action AND on a well thought out plan for maintenance or ongoing work, if applicable.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the project’s estimated effectiveness period? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No mention of effectiveness period: 0 points ○ One year or less: 1-5 points ○ 2-5 years: 6-10 points ○ 5+ years: 10-15 points 	

<p><i>Award points for estimated project longevity using the bulleted suggestions above.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the application demonstrate that considerations for sustained benefit or maintenance have been considered? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who is responsible for making sure that this project remains effective? ▪ Does the applicant intend to continue with this work or intend to build upon the work in subsequent years? <p><i>Award between 1 and 10 points, based on the thoroughness of this component in the application.</i></p> <p><i>Reviewer Comments:</i></p>	
<p><i>Size and diversity of the group directly involved with the project (10 points)</i> <i>Does the applicant's proposed project team have sufficient people to accomplish their project goals?</i></p> <p><i>Reviewer Comments:</i></p>	
<p><i>Other sources of funding or support, both in-kind and cash. How will the project leverage other funds, partners or resources? (10 points)</i></p> <p><i>Will a funding award (plus any additional proposed funds on the applicant's side) be sufficient to accomplish the project goals? If awarding partial funding, can this project still be accomplished with a partial award?</i></p> <p><i>Reviewer Comments:</i></p>	
<p><i>Visibility of the project to the general public and community education. How will this project be used to connect/engage with or educate the community? (10 points)</i></p> <p><i>Reviewer Comments:</i></p>	
<p><i>Budget (10 points)</i> <i>Is the budget well outlined and realistic? Is it detailed enough to understand how the project will be funded overall? Will all funding requested from the City serve a water quality purpose?</i></p> <p><i>Reviewer Comments:</i></p>	

Reviewer Discretionary Points (<i>10 points</i>)	
<i>Reviewer Comments (required):</i>	
A high reviewer score is desired by an applicant. TOTAL SCORE: (<i>max 100 pts.</i>)	