

HUMANS & THE ENVIRONMENT

Washington State is home to many organizations, companies, universities and communities that are promoting environmental sustainability through innovative technology and product development, research and education, policy and advocacy. The majority of these activities target Washington State as part of the global environment. Our findings suggest an opportunity to build on existing international programs to advance our role as a global leader in environmental sustainability.

Environmental work in Washington State:

- 30 non-profit organizations & foundations work to improve the environment internationally
- Over 400 non-profit organizations & foundations promote the environment within the U.S.
- At least 183 private sector companies advance the environment through product development, business practices and philanthropy
- Some 67 university-based centers produce world-class environmental research, engage in community outreach, and teach the next generation of environmental stewards

NON-PROFIT AND PHILANTHROPY STRENGTHS

Surveys were completed by 186 non-profit organizations and foundations addressing issues of environmental sustainability.

Core Competencies

- Marine and fresh water environments: 108 organizations promote healthy watersheds, 58 focus on ocean and estuary quality, and 65 promote clean water and sanitation.
- Climate change: 53 organizations address climate change directly, 50 work on energy issues, and 47 ameliorate pollution and toxins.
- Sustainable agriculture: 94 organizations are developing and promoting environmentally friendly farming technologies.
- Biodiversity and conservation: 79 organizations address issues of biodiversity and 73 also focus on the relationship between wildlife and human health.
- Environmental justice: 35 non-profits include environmental justice as part of their mission.

Approaches

- Focus on public awareness, education & training: These approaches predominate in the non-profit and foundation sector.
- Holistic approaches to sustainable development: More than 60% of environmental organizations simultaneously address poverty and health concerns.
- A spirit of collaboration: 82% of the organizations surveyed identified they collaborate with other domestic organizations and 29% collaborate with international organizations, primarily with other non-profits.

Global Reach

- Washington's non-profit environmental organizations work on all continents, although most focus their efforts domestically with the recognition that local efforts often contribute to the global common good. 57% work exclusively on domestic environmental concerns, 15% work both in the U.S. and abroad and 30% work exclusively abroad.

Washington's Non-Profits at Work Worldwide

WATER & SANITATION HEALTH (W.A.S.H.) works in Malawi, China and Honduras, and is using new sustainable technology and collaborating with International Rural Water Association to deliver clean disinfected water to schools and communities.

THE JIJI FOUNDATION has granted a total of \$378,018 to 37 organizations for environmental education, biodiversity research and international relations.

MARINE AFFAIRS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION has built the leading global forum for the transfer of best practices on planning and managing marine protected areas, enabling practitioners worldwide to benefit from their collective knowledge, regardless of their location or financial means.

PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERSHIP

The study identified 183 companies headquartered in Washington State contributing to the well-being of the environment through responsible corporate citizenship.

Core Competencies

- **Pollution and toxic abatement:** Of all the environmental issues examined, Washington's companies contribute the greatest number of products and services (100), as well as the largest number of responsible business practices (70) to toxic abatement.
- **Energy conservation and production:** 91 products developed and services offered contribute to energy conservation and renewable energy production. Similarly, 41 business practices address conservation.
- **Urban ecology:** 62 products and services relate to urban ecology and sustainable cities, along with 43 business practices and 16 philanthropic projects.

Approaches

- A wide variety of environmental products and services are developed, manufactured and sold, from organically grown food to shade grown coffee to energy-saving devices (163 products and services).
- Responsible business practices range from pollution abatement to sustainable architecture (90 companies).
- Philanthropic contributions focus primarily on environmental justice (27 projects) and efforts to change public environmental conceptions and behavior (25 projects).

Geographic Reach

For the private sector, reach was determined only for philanthropic projects. 38 philanthropic projects were uncovered.

- **US concentration:** 15 of the supported environmental projects were implemented in the U.S.
- **Global and international emphasis:** 11 philanthropic projects supported were in more than one country, five projects were supported in Africa and four in Asia.

Washington's Businesses at Work Worldwide

REI supported an EarthCorps collaborative project to remove 1,000 feet of seawall and restore habitat on the shoreline of Seahurst park near Seattle, WA.

GLOBAL ENERGY CONCEPTS, LLC consults with energy industry clients and specializes in the design, analysis and management of wind energy projects.

THE BOEING COMPANY is a founding member of AFRA, an organization committed to improving the management of older aircraft fleets and fostering the recovery and the safe and environmentally progressive reuse of aerospace materials.

UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE

Across the six public four-year universities in Washington State, 67 centers focus on and address environmental concerns.

Core Competencies

- **Clean water:** 19 centers have expertise in water & sanitation concerns, 17 have a focus on oceans & estuaries and 16 work with watersheds.
- **Sustainable agriculture and farming:** 17 centers contribute to sustainable agriculture & farming.
- **Ecosystem:** 17 centers work on biodiversity, 17 address ecosystems services, and an additional 14 include wildlife in their mission.
- **Pollution abatement & climate change:** 15 centers work to address climate change; 14 include a focus on pollution & toxins.
- **First organic agriculture major:** WSU's strength in sustainable agriculture & farming has resulted in the first organic agriculture major in the U.S.

Approaches & Reach

- **Holistic approach to environmental concerns:** 52% of university centers combine a focus on the environment with other social and health concerns, recognizing the connection between humans and the environment.

- **Global reach:** 63% of these centers have international programs or foci.

Washington's Universities at Work Worldwide

CWU, WWU AND WA STATE DEPT. OF ECOLOGY'S GEO-ECOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP conducts applied, ecological research with students focusing on a variety of issues including the ecological impacts of shoreline development and water-level drawdowns, wetland characterizations, and shoreline hazard assessments.

THE INTERNATIONAL CANOPY NETWORK AT EVERGREEN facilitates interactions between people concerned with forest canopies and forest ecosystems around the world.

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT WSU mobilizes community resources in order to address poverty, inequality, discrimination, and environmental dangers that have unequal effects.