



Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Success Stories from the 2020 Grant Projects



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Congress amended the Clean Water Act in 2016, which required EPA to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program. EPA was directed to develop a voluntary, competitive grant program for eligible entities to fund environmental protection and restoration programs throughout the Basin. Eligible entities include state, Tribal, and local governments; regional water pollution control organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and soil and water conservation districts. Funded work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin; and may include programs, projects, and studies. EPA funded 14 projects in the 2020, inaugural round of grants that address the following four priorities:

1. Increase monitoring and access data from monitoring.
2. Reduce stormwater and agricultural runoff.
3. Reduce toxics through small scale cleanup of non-CERCLA (also known as Superfund) contaminated sites.
4. Promote citizen engagement, education, and involvement to increase pollution prevention actions.

In September of 2020, EPA was able to provide the full amount requested by successful grantees for a total of \$2,053,903 in FY19 and FY20 grant funding. These are their stories of progress made to date.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY LOCAL SOURCE CONTROL IN THE CITY OF VANCOUVER (WA)



The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received \$105,000 from EPA to lead a project designed to provide **pollution prevention assistance** to businesses in the City of Vancouver, Washington. With this funding, Ecology has brought the City of Vancouver into its statewide Pollution Prevention Assistance Partnership, which includes other key partners working to prevent pollution to the Columbia River watershed, including **Clark County Public Works, Clark County Health District, and Spokane County Regional Health District.**

With support from Ecology, the **City of Vancouver** will provide free, onsite technical assistance to businesses to help them reduce, manage, store, and dispose of hazardous waste; assist businesses with switching to safer alternatives; and prevent pesticides and other contaminants from entering stormwater and wastewater streams. This project addresses grant program priorities 2 and 3. Providing education and technical assistance to businesses reduces toxic stormwater runoff and promotes the businesses' engagement in pollution prevention.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

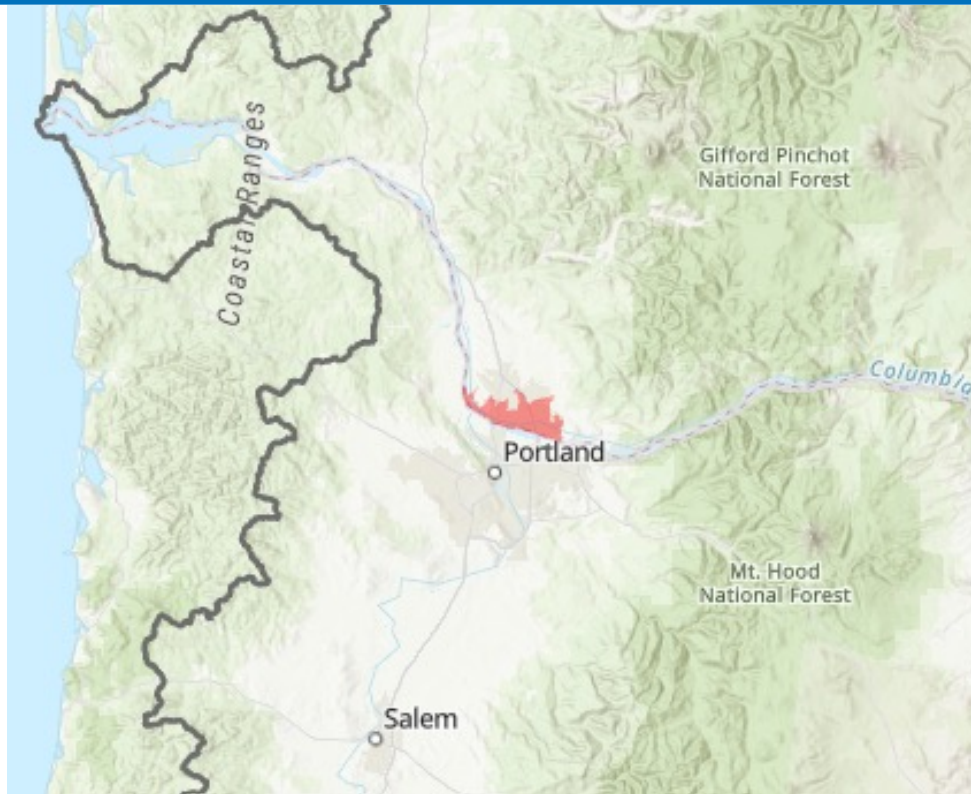
- Technical assistance visits to businesses have begun and will continue throughout the rest of this project, for a total of 100 visited businesses.
- 30 Spill Preparedness kits are ready for distribution to businesses.
- One **Safe Pest Control** workshop to multifamily property managers on integrated pest management was held on July 21, 2021.
- A Dangerous Waste Factsheet was developed and distributed by the City of Vancouver.





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***From the City:
“Lessons learned from the pandemic restrictions are that we can make progress on some outreach efforts, particularly webinars and other virtual media but we can’t compete with other needs and demands on local businesses. Our approach to launching the program has been modified and we’re approaching with caution to respect the time and safety concerns of our audience. With just a few site visits conducted, we can see the need to for technical assistance on pollution prevention and look forward to filling that gap in the City.”***



City of Vancouver Project Area

WHAT’S NEXT? WHERE DO THEY GO FROM HERE?

- A second Safe Pest Control workshop to multifamily property managers on integrated pest management will be held before December.
- The Wash Right Campaign is expected to begin in Spring 2022. Materials will be developed and distributed to educate businesses throughout the city about wash wastewater discharges.
- 25 businesses will develop a spill preparedness plan and receive a spill kit from this project.



To learn more, visit Ecology’s Pollution Prevention Assistance program: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Pollution-prevention-assistance>