

Community Engagement Plan

Background

All Washington residents, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, color, or national origin, have a right to live, work, and recreate in a clean and healthy environment. Low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous people in Washington and across the country often bear the brunt of pollution and the impacts of climate change.

Ecology is committed to making decisions that do not create disproportionate environmental burdens on any community and would like to understand your plans for implementing these practices within the community that you serve.

Applicant Information

Organization name: City of Redmond

EAGL application number: AQVWRKW-2527-Redmon-00033

Project location: 8450 161st. AVE. NE Redmond, WA 98052

Engagement Plan

When answering the following questions, consider the community impact of your project, the strategies you will use for engagement, and how you can build relationships within your community to ensure your project's success.

1. Identify the communities that will be affected by this project (example: drivers and operators, nearby neighborhoods, Tribal communities, schools, community organizations, etc.). Please include a description of the values and demographics (such as social and economic demographics) of those communities. Please also identify the specific Tribal communities, with current and historic connections to the area, that may be impacted by this project.
 - a. The new electric fire engine will be assigned to Redmond Fire Department Station 11 (8450 161st Ave NE, Redmond). Station 11 serves neighborhoods that score "8" and "9" on the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map, identifying them among the areas most adversely impacted by diesel exhaust and cumulative environmental health burdens. Deployment of a zero-emission fire engine at this location directly advances environmental justice objectives by reducing diesel emissions in communities that experience disproportionate exposure.

2. Describe the potential impacts (both positive and negative) of this project on the communities identified in the previous question. How does your organization currently acknowledge and support the environmental, cultural, and economic values in these communities?

a. In September 2020, the City of Redmond formally declared a climate emergency, recognizing the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and criteria pollutants that adversely affect public health. Guided by the City’s Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP), Redmond adopted clear, measurable policies and performance targets, including:

- Achieving carbon neutrality from municipal operations by 2030
- Divesting from fossil fuels
- Implementing a comprehensive system to monitor and report the full carbon and energy footprint of all municipal departments and capital projects

These policies directly align with the intent of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW EMT), which prioritizes the reduction of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and diesel-related emissions through the replacement or repowering of older diesel engines with zero-emission alternatives.

b. The deployment of an electric fire engine also helps reduce exposure to loud noise during its routine/non-emergency travels throughout the community.

3. What steps will you take to build relationships with the communities identified above? Examples could include attending community events, producing educational materials, distributing press releases, sharing information with industry-specific outlets, etc.

The City of Redmond is committed to broad public outreach and transparent reporting on the outcomes of this grant. The City’s Communications Division—a six-person team reporting directly to the mayor—will integrate the project into existing outreach platforms, reaching a daytime population of 130,523 and an evening population of 73,256 through:

- Digital email newsletters (68,000 subscribers)
- Social media (73,000 total followers across City accounts)
- Redmond.gov (≈2,100 daily visitors)
- RCTV cable television station and video programming
- Media releases and earned media coverage
- *Focus* print newsletter (34,000 residents and businesses, three times annually)

- Citywide posters, brochures, and educational materials
- Unit showcased at regional climate impact meetings/events

Outreach related to Redmond’s first electric fire engine generated strong local and regional support, including engagement from:

- State and federal legislators
- Seattle & King County Public Health and EMS leadership
- Kiwanis Club of Redmond
- Amazon
- Microsoft

This project will continue to serve as a visible demonstration of how VW EMT funds produce tangible, community-level air-quality improvements.

4. Identify the person(s) in your organization responsible for community engagement related to the zero-emission equipment or vehicle(s).
 - a. The City’s Communications Division—a six-person team reporting directly to the mayor—will integrate the project into existing outreach platforms. In addition, the Fire Department’s public outreach program will continue to market the viability and benefits of EV fire engines, similar to the method used (and still used today) for the current EV fire engine already in service since March 2025.
5. What metrics will you use to track and demonstrate community engagement?
 - a. Annual public education events (number of community members contacted) will be the primary metric.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your community engagement plans?

- a. In March 2026, the Redmond Fire Department will initiate a community-driven strategic planning process where the current electric fire engine will be highlighted with hands-on demonstrations to the community members in attendance.
- b. The current electric fire engine is routinely profiled in media stories.

Reminder: if awarded a grant from Ecology under this grant program, you will be required to report to Ecology on outreach and engagement activities completed through the expiration of the grant period.