



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.

ECOLOGICAL BUSINESS (ECOBIZ) AND SAFER ALTERNATIVES TRAINING FOR CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN IN THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN (OR)

The **Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)** received \$88,304 from EPA's inaugural Columbia River Basin Restoration Grant Program. PPRC is a nonprofit organization that provides pollution prevention information and works collaboratively with businesses, government, non-government organizations, and other sectors to promote environmental protection. This grant's project activities are located within the Portland Metro area, focused on the jurisdictions of key local partners: **Clean Water Services, City of Portland, City of Gresham, and Clackamas County Water Environment Services.**



This project expands the PPRC's support to two programs: the **EcoBiz Program**, which provides pollution prevention assistance and certifies environmentally friendly landscaping, car wash, and automotive businesses in Oregon; and the Safer Chemicals Alternatives Training Program, which is overseen by the **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**. This effort focuses on multiple

pollutants produced by the automotive sector (e.g., oil products, solvents, and metals) and the landscaping sector (e.g., pesticides and herbicides). This project supports grant Priority 4—Promoting Citizen Engagement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- PPRC has contacted and offered technical assistance to 105 businesses within the automotive and landscaping sectors in the Portland Metro area to assist with implementation of best practices, including reduction or elimination of toxic chemicals and prevention of spills.
- Six EcoBiz evaluations have been completed within the first year of this project. EcoBiz certifies Eco-Friendly auto repair and body shops, landscapers, and commercial car washes in Oregon. Certified businesses meet high standards to reduce toxics, prevent pollution, and protect the environment. Each certified location has been visited and evaluated by EcoBiz program staff and certified by the Oregon DEQ and a local water authority. Visit the **EcoBiz website** and interactive map to discover EcoBiz certified businesses located near you!
- PPRC shared eco-friendly landscaping tips and highlighted their work in an article for the Chinook Book, **Tips for creating a low-maintenance and eco-friendly landscape.**

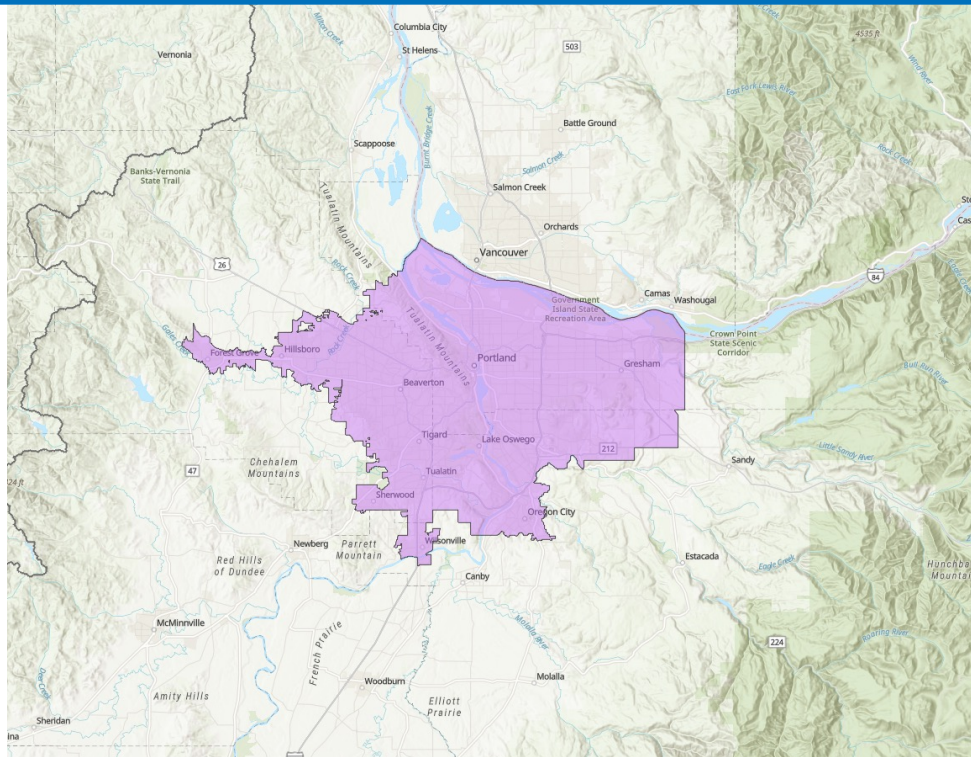


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“With support from this grant, PPRC has reached and offered technical assistance to over 100 businesses to prevent pollution and participate in the EcoBiz Certification program.”

*– Brittney Wendell,
Associate Director PPRC*



Lower Columbia River Basin Project Area

- PPRC hosted four Safer Chemical Alternatives Trainings, including the **Finding Toxic-Free Products** recorded webinar. PPRC partnered with Washington County staff to host this Safer Choice training for their business community and the public and conducted a follow-up interview on Safer Choice and selecting fewer toxic chemicals.
- PPRC has held four Pollution Prevention Outreach (P20) meetings to discuss regional and statewide P2 efforts. Each P20 meeting was attended by approximately 20 participants from governments and organizations throughout Oregon.
- PPRC convened three landscaping sector advisory committee meetings and updated the EcoBiz landscaping checklist to make the program more accessible to small businesses.

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

- 20 total EcoBiz evaluations will be completed by the end of the project.
- 80 employees will be trained in pollution prevention and spill response by June 2022.
- 40 Spill Kits will be distributed to businesses.
- Three EcoBiz trainings and four more Safer Chemical Alternatives training events will be available soon!

To Learn more, visit the **Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center website: <https://pprc.org/>.**