



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Office of
Compliance and
Enforcement**
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Supplemental Environmental Projects: Frequent Questions

What is a Supplemental Environmental Project, or SEP?

A SEP is a means through which a person or company assessed civil penalties for environmental law violations may reduce penalties owed to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality by agreeing to fund projects that benefit public health and the environment in Oregon. Penalties may be mitigated dollar for dollar up to 80 percent, depending on project cost and types of benefits derived from the project.

Who/what projects qualify?

To proceed with a Supplemental Environmental Project, several requirements must be met, and are listed below. Please note that DEQ prefers projects that relate to the same environmental program and geographic areas in which the violation occurred. For example, a penalty recipient in Central Oregon cited for illegally dumping wastewater into a river might choose a water quality improvement project in the county or region of the original violation.

- Project must primarily benefit public health or the environment in Oregon.
- DEQ must approve the project before it can begin.
- Penalty recipient's contribution to the project must be worth at least as much as the penalty reduction.
- Project must not be an activity or result that is already required by law or is set to become a future requirement.
- The portion of the project attributable to penalty reduction cannot be funded by government contracts, loans or grants.
- If the penalty recipient is doing the project work, its responsibilities under the SEP should align with its expertise and capabilities.
- The project cannot result in DEQ controlling the funds or implementing the project.
- A SEP cannot fulfill DEQ statutory obligations nor circumvent statutory provisions.
- Project must not create a significant market or economic advantage for the violator.
- Project must include a final report about the project, submitted to DEQ.

Are examples of past, successful projects or ideas available?

Yes. DEQ maintains and updates a list of possible project ideas. See the Office of Compliance and Enforcement's [Supplemental Environmental Projects web page](#) or call 503-229-5340 (toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011, ext 5340) to obtain a copy.

Can a third party conduct the project if I/the company commit the funds?

Yes. Many successful Supplemental Environmental Projects are the result of work of third-party nonprofit organizations, such as local communities, cities, watershed councils, etc. Before a penalty can be mitigated, however, a defined project must be approved by DEQ.

How do I get started?

Visit the Office of Compliance and Enforcement's web page to [obtain a SEP application](#) online. Alternatively, you can call the office at 503-229-5340 (800-452-4011, ext. 5340 in Oregon) to obtain an application. Next, identify a project, fill out the application form as completely as possible and submit it to the DEQ office of Compliance and Enforcement. Be sure to include the enforcement case name and number.

For more information please contact:

DEQ Office of Compliance and Enforcement, Portland, 503-229-5340.

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.