

Environmental Benefits Spending Guidance

Public Comment Period Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is there a public comment period for the Environmental Benefits Spending Guidance (EBSG)?

Vermont's Environmental Justice Law (VT EJ Law) from 2022 requires that this guidance be shared with the public for input and transparency before it's finalized. This gives the public a chance to share thoughts on how the state should report on environmental investments.

2. What is a public comment period?

A public comment period is a set time when people can review a draft government document and give input. This helps make the government's work more available and responsive to the public.

3. What is "Environmental Benefits Spending"?

It's how state agencies use money to support things that improve the environment and community well-being. Examples of these things are clean water, healthy food and access to public transportation.

4. What is the "Environmental Benefits Spending Guidance (EBSG)"?

This document explains how agencies should report the environmental benefits of their investments – especially for communities most affected by environmental issues. It focuses on how agencies document and explain those investments.

5. Who is this guidance for?

It's mainly for state agencies that need to follow the VT EJ Law. However, we want the public to give input to make it better.

6. Why should I comment?

Your voice can help improve how agencies report on their environmental investments. If you care about where state money goes or who benefits from them, this is a chance to share your thoughts.

7. What can my comments do?

Your comments can help:

- ▶ Make the guidance clearer or easier to follow
- ▶ Point out confusing terms or steps

8. What can't my comments do?

Your comments can't:

- ▶ Change the VT EJ Law
- ▶ Decide how agencies spend their money
- ▶ Guarantee changes

10. How do I comment?

Comments may be submitted through an [online form](#), by attending a [public comment meeting](#), or by mail at:

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Unit
Attention: Karla Raimundi
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3901

11. What if I need help submitting a comment?

We're here to help. If you need assistance to submit your comment, whether that means help understanding the process, using a computer, or getting materials in another language, we can support you.

If you need this information in a different language or format (like large print), or if you need help because of a disability, please contact ANR's Nondiscrimination Coordinator at ANR.CivilRights@vermont.gov. We will provide reasonable accommodations and language access services at no cost to you.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. To file a discrimination complaint, for questions, free language services, or requests for reasonable accommodations, please contact ANR's Nondiscrimination Coordinator at ANR.CivilRights@vermont.gov or visit [ANR's online Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).