



SEPA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Worksheet

Introduction

The Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires environmental review of development proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. If a proposed development is subject to SEPA, the project proponent is required to complete the SEPA Checklist. The Checklist includes questions relating to the development's air emissions. The emissions that have traditionally been considered cover smoke, dust, and industrial and automobile emissions. With our understanding of the climate change impacts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, King County requires the applicant to also estimate these emissions.

Emissions created by development

GHG emissions associated with development come from multiple sources:

- The extraction, processing, transportation, construction and disposal of materials and landscape disturbance (Embodied Emissions)
- Energy demands created by the development after it is completed (Energy Emissions)
- Transportation demands created by the development after it is completed (Transportation Emissions)

GHG emissions worksheet

King County has developed a GHG Emissions Worksheet that can assist applicants in answering the SEPA Checklist question relating to GHG emissions.

The SEPA GHG Emissions worksheet estimates all GHG emissions that will be created over the life span of a project. This includes emissions associated with obtaining construction materials, fuel used during construction, energy consumed during a buildings operation, and transportation by building occupants.

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The SEPA GHG Emissions worksheet should not be used to estimate GHG emissions from large, complex projects, such as urban planned developments, major infrastructure projects, or projects that require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SEPA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Worksheet, continued

Using the Worksheet

1. Descriptions of the different residential and commercial building types can be found on the second tabbed worksheet ("Definition of Building Types"). If a development proposal consists of multiple projects, e.g. both single family and multi-family residential structures or a commercial development that consists of more than one type of commercial activity, the appropriate information should be estimated for each type of building or activity.
2. For paving, estimate the total amount of paving (in thousands of square feet) of the project.
3. The Worksheet will calculate the amount of GHG emissions associated with the project and display the amount in the "Total Emissions" column on the worksheet. The applicant should use this information when completing the SEPA checklist.
4. The last three worksheets in the Excel file provide the background information that is used to calculate the total GHG emissions.
5. The methodology of creating the estimates is transparent; if there is reason to believe that a better estimate can be obtained by changing specific values, this can and should be done. Changes to the values should be documented with an explanation of why and the sources relied upon.
6. Print out the "Total Emissions" worksheet (page 1) and attach it to the SEPA checklist. If the applicant has made changes to the calculations or the values, the documentation supporting those changes should also be attached to the SEPA checklist.

Resources

Department of Local Services, Permitting Division

Permit application forms listed by packet

[See the SEPA packet: also see Greenhouse Gas Emissions Worksheet](#)

[Hours and location](#)