

IC2 is currently recruiting peer reviewers to conduct a review of the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) second alternatives assessment on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food packaging. Below are the details of the peer review process (most of the review time and meetings will be in September). If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer, please email Melissa Lavoie <mlavoie@newmoa.org> as soon as possible, or by Friday, August 20, since we will be working within a tight timeline.

Background

In 2018, Washington State passed a law to prohibit all per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) in plant fiber-based food packaging [[RCW 70A.222.070](#)]. The ban takes effect following the identification of safer alternatives by Ecology through an alternatives assessment process. The findings of the alternatives assessment must be supported by an external peer review of the alternatives assessment.

Qualifications for potential peer reviewers

IC2 will be facilitating the peer review of Ecology's second alternatives assessment. We are looking for three to five individuals who are from IC2 member organizations or are members from the Association for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment (A4) to serve on the committee. The reviewers must be external to Ecology and the Washington State Department of Health and should not have been a significant participant in the first alternatives assessment process.

Process for peer review

The peer review period will be from September 6 – September 27th, 2021.

Peer reviewers will be asked to attend three meetings during and around the peer review period.

- A first meeting prior to the beginning of the peer review process with Ecology to introduce the alternatives assessment and related project work (on or before September 6).
- A second meeting with Ecology during the peer review process (between September 6 – 27) where peer reviewers can ask clarifying questions about the alternatives assessment.

- A third meeting with Ecology following delivery of the peer reviewer comments to Ecology, to enable Ecology to ask clarifying questions about the peer reviewer comments (after September 27).

Following the end of the peer review period, reviewers will be asked to provide comments on the findings of the draft alternatives assessment document. A set of comments from each peer reviewer will be included in Ecology's report to the legislature, with Ecology's responses.

Thank you in advance for considering becoming one of the peer reviewers.

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