



WESTAR and WRAP Joint Operating Agreement

approved by WRAP Board on February 2, 2022

approved by WESTAR Council on February 9, 2022

Administrative Relationship

The WESTAR Council is a partnership of 15 western States formed to promote the exchange of information between the western States, serve as a forum to discuss western regional air quality issues of common concern and share resources for the common benefit of the member states.

The purpose of the WESTAR Council is to:

- Promote the exchange of information related to the control of air pollution for use in State and federal activities as authorized by air quality statutes and regulations;
- Develop processes and procedures for consideration by western States, federal land managers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in order to meet air quality objectives and to protect the environmental resources;
- Discuss air quality issues of common concern;
- Report on the status of efforts undertaken to achieve air quality objectives;
- Establish work groups, task forces, etc., to investigate specific topics and to recommend a course of action for Council members;
- Adopt resolutions and policy statements for implementation by Council members or for their use during the development of local, State and federal programs, regulations and laws.

The Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) is a voluntary partnership of States, Tribes, local air agencies, federal land managers, and the EPA whose purpose is to understand current and evolving regional air quality issues in the West.

These issues include but are not limited to:

- Implementation and future planning for the Regional Haze Rule; as well as visibility improvement and protection strategies;
- Air quality issues related to wildfires; oil and gas development; ozone; particulate matter; deposition of nitrogen, sulfur, and mercury; critical loads; and other air pollutants;
- Emissions sources from all sectors, both domestic and international;
- Effects of air pollution transport; and
- Effects of climate change on regional air quality as well as associated mitigation and adaptation strategies as they may affect air quality management in the West.

To accomplish this, WRAP develops, maintains, and shares databases, supports technical analyses, and provides access to data and results from various information sources to produce consistent, comparable, and complete results for use by individual WRAP member jurisdictions and agencies.

WESTAR is a 501(c)(3) organization that administratively houses the non-incorporated WRAP. WESTAR has no authority to make decisions for the WRAP, and the WRAP has no authority to make decisions for WESTAR. The WESTAR Council approves WESTAR actions; the WRAP Board approves WRAP actions. WESTAR accepts grant funding for operations of both organizations, enters into contracts and performs all financial functions for the WRAP. WESTAR administers staffing for the WRAP. WESTAR and WRAP foster collaboration between state agencies, local agencies, federal agencies and tribal governments on issues related to air quality. The WESTAR and WRAP organizations coordinate with non-member agencies, regional and multi-jurisdictional organizations and national organizations on technical analyses and issues as appropriate. All WESTAR and WRAP member agencies retain their responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act specific to their agency, including the development and submittal of State and Tribal Implementation Plans.

Coordination on Position Papers and Comment Letters

WESTAR and WRAP will maintain fully separate processes for any positions or comments that either entity may develop regarding a particular topic. The overlap of membership between the WESTAR Council and the WRAP Board of Directors will be used to monitor and cross-inform both entities in any cases where both WESTAR and WRAP decide to advocate on a similar topic within a similar timeframe. Even when coordination is desirable and undertaken, both entities will make separate submissions, but both will be able to reference the submission of the other entity.

Joint Business Meeting

WESTAR and WRAP will hold a joint business meeting at least twice per year. At the business meeting, the treasurer of WESTAR will provide a financial report detailing the status of grants, contracts and expenditures for both WESTAR and WRAP. Additionally, WESTAR and WRAP workplans will be reviewed to enable collaborative technical efforts of WESTAR and WRAP where possible. Technical work products and deliverables will be presented and reviewed.

Committee Collaboration

WESTAR and WRAP staff will monitor activity within WESTAR and WRAP committees and work groups to avoid duplication, and enhance collaboration needed for efficient, effective, and timely preparation and delivery of work products. Periodic status reports and action recommendations for consideration by the WRAP Board and WESTAR Council will be made as needed. WESTAR and WRAP staff will emphasize efficiency and reduce redundancy within the context of regional analyses and regulatory planning processes by the member agencies of WESTAR and WRAP.