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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wenatchee Valley selected for industrial symbiosis assistance

State legislature established program to develop "Industrial Symbiosis Parks" that boost local economies and reduce greenhouse gases

WENATCHEE — The Wenatchee Valley is among seven communities that will receive technical assistance to develop industrial symbiosis parks or hubs, the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure and the Washington State Department of Commerce announced today.

Funding for the technical assistance comes from \$1.8 million awarded to the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure (CSI) from the Washington State Department of Commerce through its Industrial Symbiosis Technical Assistance Program (ISTA), with funds derived from the State's Climate Commitment Act in the 2025-2027 budget. The Legislature created the program to provide communities with expert analysis of resources, waste streams, and sustainable infrastructure solutions for local industrial symbiosis parks, to spur economic development, conserve resources, and reduce climate pollution.

Our Valley Our Future (OVOF) applied for the technical assistance on behalf of the Wenatchee Valley Industrial Symbiosis Initiative, a cross-sector multiorganizational group that has been convened and facilitated by OVOF since January. Other organizations chosen to receive assistance in developing industrial symbiosis parks and hubs include: Port of Moses Lake, Port of Bellingham, Port of Camas-Washougal, Port of Pend Oreille, Thurston County Economic Development Council, and Biomethane LLC of Spokane. CSI received a total of 22 applications from cities, ports, businesses, tribes, and economic development councils in the state.

Industrial symbiosis is an innovative approach to infrastructure and economic development in which one facility's waste streams — energy, water, materials, and residuals — become valuable inputs for other businesses. This model maximizes resource efficiency, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulates economic growth. Industrial symbiosis parks are typically shared sites or properties where organizations co-locate and partner to use resources more sustainably by

integrating waste streams, such as waste materials, wastewater, or waste heat, into production processes.

Since January, OVOF has facilitated 15 meetings of the Wenatchee Valley Industrial Symbiosis Initiative, a collaborative made up of 10 businesses, 10 public agencies, and eight non-profits. Support for the collaborative has come from the [Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority](#), [City of Wenatchee](#), and [Sustainable NCW](#). The initiative's goal is connecting entities and launching. The Initiative is a part of OVOF's Post-Carbon Economy game changer from the 2022-26 Action Plan.

In May, the Wenatchee Valley Industrial Symbiosis Initiative settled on an initial list of potential industrial symbiosis projects and asked OVOF to seek technical assistance from CSI to determine anticipated inputs and outputs from the projects, which projects should be close to each other or connected in some manner, and how to design and fund an industrial symbiosis park or parks.

The potential projects under consideration would:

- Serve as a hub for organic waste reuse and the collection and the transfer of a variety of other materials such as glass, plastics, and waste sheetrock;
- Produce food grade CO₂ and hydrogen power from organic waste;
- Recover heat from data centers for use in nearby businesses and facilities;
- Create new products from plastic food packaging waste;
- Reclaim clean soil for use in developments and hazardous site clean-ups;
- Recapture large-scale building materials from demolition and remodels for reuse; and
- Add an online resource recovery platform to link businesses and organizations with recovered resources.

"The Wenatchee Valley Industrial Symbiosis Initiative aims to create a more sustainable and thriving community by promoting economic development, creating new jobs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, maximizing the use of local resources, diverting waste from the regional landfill, building up recycling and reuse infrastructure, and promoting soil health," said OVOF coordinator Steve Maher, who has been facilitating the collaborative's meetings. "CSI and the ISTA Program will help the Wenatchee Valley further solidify existing partnerships, attract new partners, and move key projects forward to meet these goals."

Two locations have been initially identified as potential sites for industrial symbiosis parks: the Olds Station area in Wenatchee and the Baker Flats area just north of East Wenatchee in Douglas County. Property owners in both areas are actively exploring co-location opportunities to further industrial symbiosis.

CSI's team of engineers, industrial ecologists, infrastructure planners, and implementation experts — including the world's leading industrial symbiosis experts from Denmark — will

provide comprehensive technical assistance to the Wenatchee Valley and the other communities as they develop industrial symbiosis parks or hubs. The end-goal of CSI's technical assistance is for each selected community to emerge with a first-in-line, prioritized industrial symbiosis capital project that is ready to advance into preliminary design, environmental review, and the pursuit of capital funding.

CSI will implement the ISTA Program in a four-phase approach over about 10 months, with all work to be completed no later than June 30, 2027.

"We're thrilled to be able to help more Washington communities turn waste into wealth," said Rhys Roth, CSI executive director. "This is a golden opportunity to help local leaders apply industrial symbiosis principles to develop industrial hubs that make energy, water, and material resources more reliable, exchangeable, affordable, and sustainable."

Local businesses that are part of the Wenatchee Valley Industrial Symbiosis Initiative include Stemilt Growers, Godot Solutions, Sustained Use Disposal Service (SUDS), ReCapturIt Inc., Winton Manufacturing, Icicle Brewing, Yonder Cider, TekniPlex, Salcido Group of Companies, and Ameresco.

The public agencies involved are the Chelan-Douglas Regional Port Authority, City of Wenatchee, Chelan County Solid Waste Department, Chelan-Douglas Health District, Wenatchee Valley College, Douglas County, Douglas County Solid Waste Department, Douglas County Sewer District, Chelan County PUD, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

In addition to OVOF, nonprofit organizations that are part of the initiative include Sustainable NCW, Cascadia Conservation District, Eastside Rebuild, Good Business Network of Washington, Methow Recycles, Repair x Reuse Washington, and 911 Glass Rescue.

On Sept. 17, OVOF will host a regional Industrial Symbiosis Summit at Wenatchee Valley College.

More about the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure

The nonprofit [Center for Sustainable Infrastructure](#) works to support and accelerate the development of sustainable infrastructure centered on industrial symbiosis solutions in communities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

CSI is the Pacific Northwest's leader in industrial symbiosis policy development and the delivery of technical assistance. CSI has galvanized broad bipartisan support in the Washington and Oregon legislatures to direct over \$16 million toward industrial symbiosis innovation.

More about Our Valley Our Future

[Our Valley Our Future's](#) mission is to empower people and organizations to co-create and achieve our region's shared vision. OVOF is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that conducts community outreach, visioning and planning work, and guides the development of a community-generated Action Plan every five years. OVOF convenes and facilitates community gatherings around various topics, and provides learning opportunities for residents. It also serves at the designated Coalition for Health Improvement in Chelan and Douglas counties.

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