



WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT

Reporting Period: 1st quarter 2024

Report Date: April 30, 2024

EPA Grant No. XA-99T67301-0

Regardless of funding source, all of the projects and activities conducted by WESTAR are consistent with and intended to achieve the purposes of the organization spelled out in Article 2 of WESTAR's Articles of Association, including promoting the exchange of information related to air quality management, developing procedures to meet air quality objectives and to protect environmental resources, to establish workgroups to investigate specific topics, and to develop recommendations for the consideration of the membership. This report summarizes activities and outcomes for this reporting period.

Reporting Organization:

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1. EPA CORE GRANT 2017-2023

Note: Work on activities and spending against this grant began December 2017.

a. Budget Summary and Status

The following tables summarize the status of WESTAR's Core Grant budget, comparing cumulative grant awards from the current grant's inception (October 1, 2017) through the end of the most recent quarter.

**EPA Core Grant 2017-23
Expenses by Object Class through 3/31/24**

Object Class	Budget	This Quarter	Cumulative Expenses	Percentage
1. Personnel	3,005,769	127,546	2,698,564	90%
2. Fringe Benefits	728,002	27,244	618,739	85%
3. Travel	772,232	15,224	558,000	72%
4. Equipment	0	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	0	
6. Contractual	1,044,711	4,211	1,314,740	126%
7. Construction	0	0	0	
8. Other	1,053,973	32,296	1,001,984	95%
9. Indirect Expenses	1,830,594	48,639	1,695,223	93%
Totals	8,435,281	255,159	7,887,249	94%

a. Activity Summary: Operations Project

The purpose of the Operations project is to develop, implement, and support the policy and technical activities at WESTAR that benefit member states. Funding for this project comes entirely from member-state contributions. In addition, personnel from member states and federal land management agencies contribute their time and expertise to many of the tasks performed under this project.

1) Status of work plan activities – Operations Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<u>Results/Outcomes</u>	
	<i>2024 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
67 Air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	3	64
14 Business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	1	13
245 Committee and ad hoc workgroup conference calls	11	202
28 Trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities	2	25
6 Specialty conference on a high priority topic	1	6

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	Results/Outcomes	
	<i>2024 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
6 Meetings held to address emerging topics	0	3
21 Trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership	1	7

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Operations Project

* WESTAR staff, states, and Tribal air agencies are meeting together as an ad hoc committee to exchange information about implementing EPA’s oil and gas rules for methane. The discussion has centered around getting clarification from EPA on various aspects of implementation and on states’ plans to address existing sources.

* WESTAR continued participating in the National Residential Heating Task Force, including work groups formed to refine wood burning emission estimates and source classification codes, give input on how to revise the wood heating NSPS, and identify clean appliances for changeout programs.

* WESTAR staff are working with South Coast Air Quality Management District to create an online app to help air agencies create exceptional event demonstrations. Volunteers from air agencies across the Country are creating and reviewing the various parts of the app.

b. Activity Summary: Training Project

The purpose of the Training Project is to: (1) deliver high-quality training courses/workshops that meet the needs and expectations of state and local air agency staff within the fifteen-state WESTAR region; (2) develop needed, cost-effective, responsive, and western-states-focused training opportunities; and (3) act as the main point of contact for information and educational training opportunities related to air quality training.

1) Status of work plan activities – Training Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	Results/Outcomes	
	<i>2024 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
102 Educational opportunities delivered:	1	102
* Effective Permit Writing - Online		
3000 <i>Students trained</i>	30	2697

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2024 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
5750 Student training days	90	6592
1 Training course developed/updated	0	1

Other Activities this Quarter – Training Project

- WESTAR is working with state, local and tribal air quality government agencies in the fifteen Western United States on the logistics of the training priorities that agencies identified as important training need(s) for FY2024.
- WESTAR continues its leadership role on the National Joint Training Committee (JTC) Steering Committee. The Steering Committee oversees the operations of four work groups by providing guidance, evaluating resource needs, identifying priorities, assigning projects, providing assessments, and fostering communication. The four work groups are: 1) Communications; 2) Curriculum; 3) Training Delivery; and 4) Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- WESTAR staff continues to work with the JTC to move classroom training courses to online training, when appropriate, to serve better the current needs of state, local, and tribal air quality professionals.
- WESTAR staff is a committee member on the Communications workgroup, Learning Management System (LMS) workgroup, and the Curriculum workgroup.

c. Activity Summary: Regional Technical Support Project

The purpose of the Regional Technical Support project is to provide technical support to member agencies related to the analysis of monitoring data, analysis, and preparation of emissions inventories, regional modeling analyses, and operation and maintenance of web databases – all for member agencies to use in their air quality management and planning activities.

1) Status of work plan activities – Regional Technical Support Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2024 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
175 Work Group and Subcommittee Conference calls	1	397
70 Technical Steering Committee conference calls	2	66
14 Face-to-face WRAP Board meetings	0	8
72 Travel support provided to local agency and tribal WRAP Board members	0	37

7	Technical Steering Committee Face-to-face meetings	0	5
70	WRAP Board calls	2	57

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Regional Technical Support Project

- The WRAP Regional Technical Center provides access to all types of air quality data, made possible through the storage and dissemination capabilities built into the Air Data Management System (ADMS). Linked to the ADMS are the Technical Support System v2 and v3, which support Regional Haze analysis for the WESTAR/WRAP region. Moving forward, the WRAP Regional Technical Center framework can support additional regional modeling tasks and deliverables from WESTAR contracts.
- Staff continued to work with state and federal agencies, including regional EPA offices, to discuss and collect input on regional technical analysis needs in the western U.S.
- The WRAP Technical Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of WRAP Work Groups met in January and March, receiving updates from the work group co-chairs and covering updates on the 2022 Emissions Modeling Platform development.
- The Fire and Smoke Work Group Exceptional Event Support Team met once, covering progress on the EE Demo App and hearing a presentation about fire emissions inventories. The volunteer coders for the EE Demo App met once for a quarterly check-in, followed by another check-in of the larger group (planners, coders, testers). Additionally, the volunteer group met biweekly for 15 minutes to discuss any issues/questions, with follow-up meetings always an option if needed. The Tribal Data WG did not meet this quarter.
- The Oil and Gas WG co-chairs did not meet this quarter.
- The co-chairs of the Regional Haze Planning Work Group and the Regional Technical Operations Work Group also met to discuss potential direction for the groups in 2024 and outline work topics to update/include in the WRAP Board-approved topics list.

The Technical Steering Committee and Work Groups continue to implement the WRAP Board-approved “Future project prioritization topics” from the Board’s December 2, 2020, meeting. In September 2021, the Technical Steering Committee updated the Board-approved topics with a status report to track progress on those topics going forward and reported progress at the WRAP Board and TSC meeting on December 9, 2021. The TSC provided another update to the WRAP Board in December 2022 and January 2023. The work topic list was revised this quarter with the help of a few Technical Steering Committee members. The Technical Steering Committee reviewed the new format. The new format makes tracking, updating, and revising work topics in the WRAP easier. The revised format and updated topic tracking was presented to the WRAP Board in Q1 2024.

In February 2022, the WRAP Board approved proposed amendments to the WRAP charter. The proposed amended Charter was sent to the membership for approval on January 20, 2023. On

September 11, 2023, the necessary 2/3 vote of the membership was achieved, and the proposed amendments were accepted. The new charter is now in effect and posted to the WESTAR website as part of the WRAP organizational documents.

2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

WESTAR co-chairs the Federal/State Technical Work Collaboration Group and organizes monthly and quarterly conference calls to share information about EPA and MJO technical work.

WESTAR is working with its members to develop an application for exceptional events demonstrations.

A small group of WESTAR/WRAP members (MT, OR, USFWS) and WESTAR staff are developing a Desktop CAMx modeling approach that all WESTAR/WRAP members can use for multiple modeling projects.

WESTAR continues to assist in a lead role with the inventory collaborative group to develop the 2022 Emissions Modeling Platform.

3. CONSOLIDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY

Cumulative Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source through 3/31/2024 All Active Accounts

Object Class	EPA	
	Core Grant 2017-23	Totals
1. Personnel	2,698,564	2,698,564
2. Fringe	618,739	618,739
3. Travel	558,000	558,000
4. Equipment	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0
6. Contractual	1,314,740	1,314,740
7. Construction	0	0
8. Other	1,001,984	1,001,984
9. Indirect	1,695,223	1,695,223
Cumulative Expenses	7,887,249	7,887,249
Budget	8,435,281	8,435,281
Balance Avail	548,032	548,032

Current Quarter Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source – All Active Accounts

	EPA	
Object Class	Core Grant 2017-23	Totals
1. Personnel	127,546	127,546
2. Fringe Benefits	27,244	27,244
3. Travel	15,224	15,224
4. Equipment	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0
6. Contractual	4,211	4,211
7. Construction	0	0
8. Other	32,296	32,296
9. Indirect	48,639	48,639
Total Expenses	255,159	255,159