

GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

This Gift Acceptance Policy outlines the conditions under which Washington Conservation Action (WCA) will accept gifts from donors. Gifts are voluntary transfers of assets from a person or an organization to Washington Conservation Action, where no goods or services are expected in return to the donor. Gifts usually take the form of cash, securities, or personal property.

Terms and Conditions for Gifts

The principal reason for making a gift should be the desire on the part of the donor to support Washington Conservation Action's current mission and programs. We consider the context surrounding the gift and the intent of the donor or grantor in determining whether to accept individual donations. Accepting a gift does not mean Washington Conservation Action is aligned with a donor, organization, or viewpoint.

Washington Conservation Action reserves the right to refuse or return any gift, for any of the following reasons:

1. The gift is inconsistent with Washington Conservation Action's mission.
2. The gift provides a donor with unwarranted influence or oversight regarding the activities of our team or partners.
3. The gift creates unreasonable expectations to perform work that is outside the scope of our planned initiatives, or restrictions that are too narrow to support Washington Conservation Action's overall mission.
4. The gift could introduce a conflict of interest or could expose us to legal liability.
5. The gift is illiquid or includes tangible physical assets or personal property which could introduce administrative burdens outweighing the value of the gift. These include (but are not limited to):
 - a. Gifts such as art, boats, jewelry, and vehicles such as cars and motorcycles.
 - b. Crypto currencies, life insurance policies, and real estate outside of a bequest administered by a financial advisor.
 - c. Gifts with complex legal implications or that present liquidity issues.
6. Evidence suggests the gift is intended for greenwashing or reputation laundering—to help an individual or corporation falsely promote itself as environmentally friendly.
7. The gift is associated with wealth from energy reserves and production, oil refining or services, energy equipment and services, oil and gas exploration and production, oil, gas and combustible fuels, private prisons, or other corporate industries not aligned with Washington Conservation Action's values.
8. The gift is made from an unlawful or unethical source or is prohibited by law.
9. The gift could undermine Washington Conservation Action's credibility with partners, policymakers, or the public.
10. A donor harasses, threatens, or harms the property, safety, security, or wellbeing of others, including our board, staff, or volunteers.

Use and Applicability

The team at Washington Conservation Action uses this policy to determine whether gifts align with our values and with the fundraising conditions established for the organization. If a staff member flags a gift from a particular source, the CEO is responsible for final decisions on any gifts that may conflict with the terms or conditions for gift acceptance. The CEO may involve the Executive Committee or Board of Directors for consultation if they deem it necessary.

This policy applies to all gifts to Washington Conservation Action, including individual contributions, grants, and event revenue. This policy governs the gift acceptance terms and conditions for Washington Conservation Action, as well as our 501(c)3 organization, Washington Conservation Action Education Fund, our Political Action Committee, Washington Conservation Votes, as well as all our fiscally sponsored projects and initiatives.

We also accept gifts donated to our original brands—Washington Conservation Voters and Washington Environmental Council—and gifts made to People for Puget Sound, an organization whose work we took over in 2013.

Washington Conservation Action will not give legal or financial advice to prospective donors and strongly encourages them to seek their own professional counsel.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Washington Conservation Action will honor all requests by donors for anonymity where anonymity would not violate any legal requirements for disclosure. We will accept anonymous gifts if made from a trusted source and given without stipulations or specifications. Our processes ensure gifts are made in support of the organization's goals, and that receiving them would not otherwise violate any gift acceptance policies.

All parties involved in soliciting, accepting, and managing gifts—including but not limited to the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers—will abide by the terms of the donation and make all reasonable efforts to respect confidentiality and privacy requests from donors.

Date Adopted

This Gift Acceptance Policy was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Directors for Washington Conservation Action on April 30, 2024. The Board of Directors must approve any changes to or deviations from this policy.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this policy or contributions to Washington Conservation Action or Washington Conservation Action Education Fund, contact David Gorton, Vice President of Development, at david@waconservationaction.org or (206) 631-2600.