King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Ratepayer Report

Creating Resources from Wastewater

A message from the Division Director...

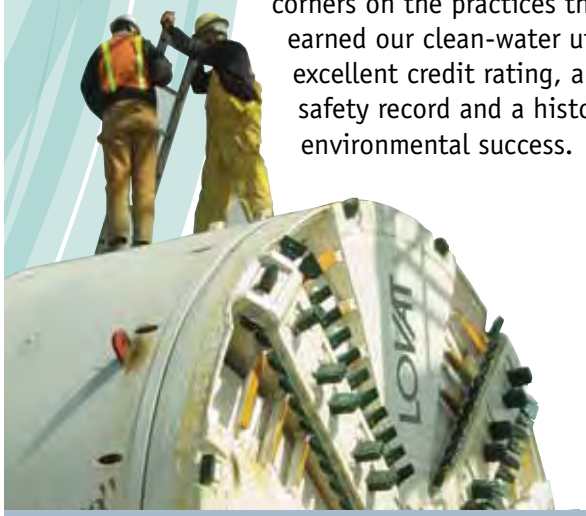
Dear Community Members:

Thanks for your interest in our 2010 Ratepayer Report. King County's Wastewater Treatment Division produced this newsletter to share information about its 24/7 mission to protect public health, the environment and the quality of life we enjoy as Puget Sound area residents.

We also want to make you aware of changes in the monthly sewer rate recently adopted by the King County Council. Beginning Jan. 1, 2011, the current monthly wholesale sewer rate of $31.90 will increase to $36.10. The monthly capacity charge rate paid by newly connecting customers will increase from $49.07 to $50.45.

Given the current state of our regional economy, we recognize these are considerable increases. Like the ratepayers we serve, we too are watching our budget and making efforts to do our best with less.

The Wastewater Treatment Division is curbing costs and increasing efficiencies by reprioritizing non-critical projects and maintaining year 2000 staffing levels despite the addition of several new facilities. What we can't afford to do is cut corners on the practices that have earned our clean-water utility an excellent credit rating, an outstanding safety record and a history of environmental success.



The 2011 sewer rate ensures that the Wastewater Treatment Division continues to meet regulatory requirements and fiscal commitments. It provides funding to operate, maintain and improve the system so we can continue complying with state and federal environmental laws, supporting Duwamish and Puget Sound cleanup goals and safeguarding the health of our residents. It protects our bond rating so we can obtain favorable interest rates on money we borrow to make capital improvements. It also ensures continued funding for programs to recycle resources, reduce pollution and regulate the disposal of industrial waste to keep dangerous substances out of the environment.

Your investment in our clean-water utility through your monthly sewer bill is vital in supporting our mission to protect public health, the environment and our regional economic goals. I hope this newsletter provides you with a solid understanding of our service to you.

Sincerely,

Christie J. True

Christie True, Division Director
King County Wastewater Treatment Division

Contents

The History of our Mission

From this...

To this...

In 1994, King County assumed authority of Metro and its legal obligation to treat wastewater for 34 jurisdictions and local sewer agencies throughout the Puget Sound region.

Today, King County's Wastewater Treatment Division continues its clean-water mission, treating wastewater and recycling its byproducts to create valuable resources such as energy, reclaimed water and biosolids. The division's investments and commitment the environment will help to ensure our natural resources are protected for the next generation to enjoy.

The natural beauty of the Puget Sound region provides an enviable quality of life for our residents and attracts thousands of visitors and newcomers each year.

But just a generation ago, our water quality was in serious peril. Millions of gallons of untreated sewage flowed daily into Lake Washington, Puget Sound and local rivers, fouling our waterways and recreational beaches.

Tired of pollution and frustrated by the lack of a regional authority to address it, the voters in 1958 established the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, better known as Metro. Construction on our two regional treatment plants – South Treatment Plant in Renton and West Point Treatment Plant in Seattle – was completed in the mid-1960s. Within just a few years, water quality began improving and today Lake Washington is one of the world's cleanest urban lakes.

King County's Wastewater Treatment Division – a clean-water agency

Our mission is to protect public health and enhance the environment by treating and reclaiming water, recycling solids and generating energy.

Fast Facts About the System

Population served – 1.5 million

Area served – 420 square miles

Sewage treated – about 200 million gallons per day

Septic waste treated – 22 million gallons in 2009

Regional treatment plants – 2

Local treatment plants – 2 (Vashon Island & Carnation)

Treatment plants in construction – 1

Wet weather treatment plants - 4

Pump stations – 42

Regulator stations – 19

A regional system– serving our local partners and you

Under the regional system established by voters in 1958, the 34 sewer utilities inside King County's wastewater service area (listed at right) no longer build and operate individual treatment plants.

Instead, they contract with King County to treat wastewater at regional plants in Seattle and Renton, and beginning in 2011, at Brightwater north of Woodinville. These jurisdictions and sewer utilities also protect public health and the environment by operating and maintaining more than 5,100 miles of pipelines and numerous pump stations that collect wastewater from homes and businesses and send it to King County's regional system for treatment.

The clean-water utilities charge each customer a monthly rate to cover their costs to manage, maintain and upgrade their local sewer collection systems. In addition, they also charge customers the current monthly wholesale sewer rate of $31.90, which covers King County's costs to collect and treat wastewater from each of these individual agencies across our 420-square-mile service area.

Why a regional system?

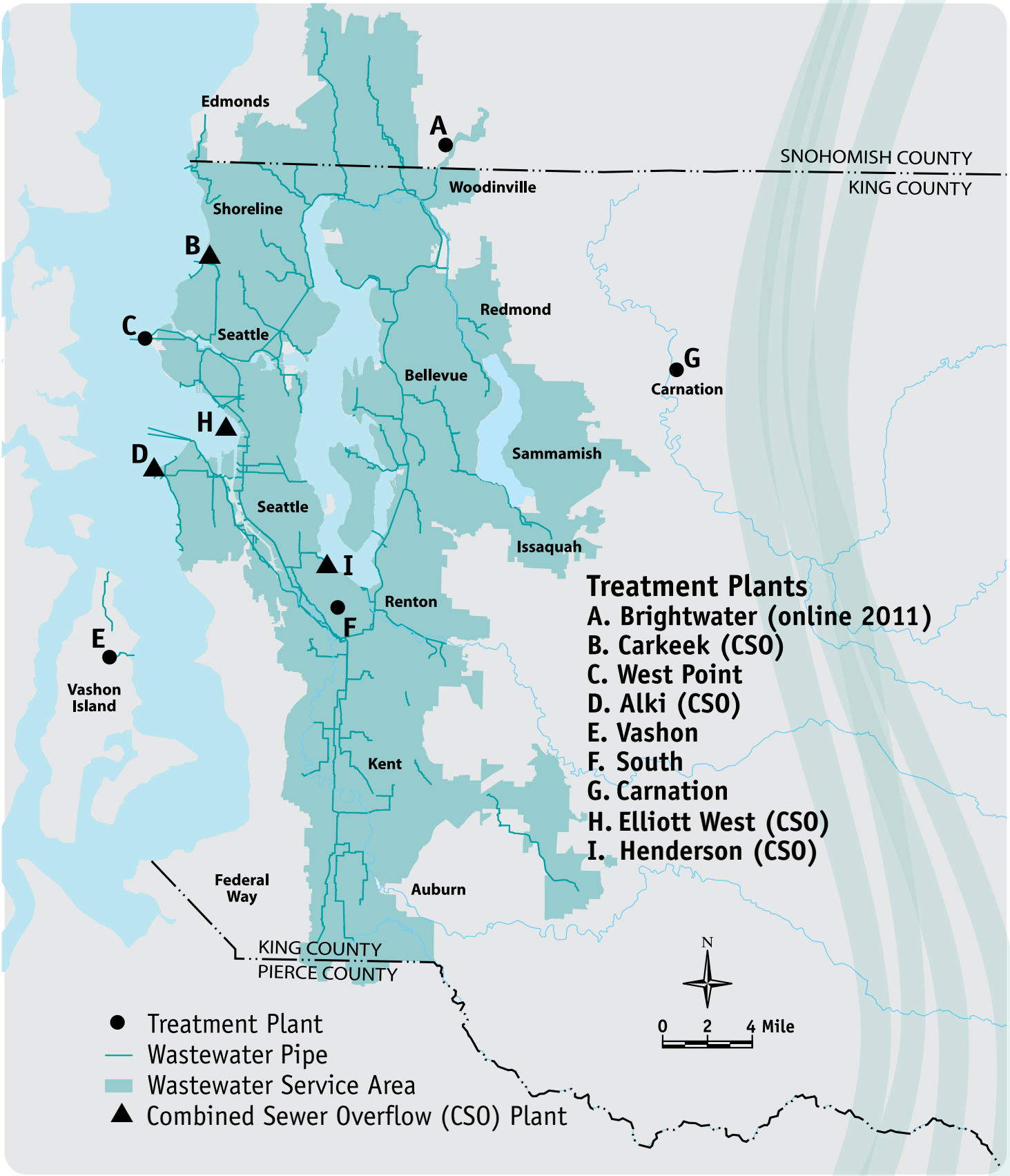
There are several advantages to our current system. First, it's less expensive overall to build and operate a few large facilities rather than several smaller ones. A regional system also enables costs to be spread out over a larger customer base, keeping rates stable while providing high quality service. Finally, the regional system provides flexibility because flows can be directed to other portions of the system during storms or emergencies.

Clean water starts here. An employee at work at South Plant in Renton.

The customer agencies served by King County

Alderwood Water & Wastewater District
City of Algona, Public Works
City of Auburn, Public Works
City of Bellevue, Utility Services
City of Black Diamond, Public Works
City of Bothell, Public Works
City of Brier, Public Works
City of Carnation, Public Works
Cedar River Water & Sewer District
Coal Creek Utility District
Cross Valley Water District
Highlands Sewer District
City of Issaquah, Public Works
City of Kent, Public Works
City of Kirkland, Public Works
City of Lake Forest Park, Public Works
Lakehaven Utility District
City of Mercer Island, Maintenance
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Northeast Sammamish Sewer & Water District
Northshore Utility District
Olympic View Water & Sewer District
City of Pacific, Public Utilities
City of Redmond, Public Works
City of Renton, Public Works
Ronald Wastewater District
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District
City of Seattle, Public Utilities
Skyway Water & Sewer District
Soos Creek Water & Sewer District
City of Tukwila, Public Works
Valley View Sewer District
(formerly Val Vue Sewer District)
Vashon Sewer District
Woodinville Water District

Our service area and facilities



The wastewater treatment process

That flush may be the end for you, but for us, it's only where we get started.

On an average day, you'll likely use about 75 to 100 gallons of water. After you flush a toilet, brush your teeth, wash clothes, or take a shower, that "used" water leaves your house, but it doesn't go away.

King County works with your local sewer agency to take the sewage from your home or workplace, clean it, recycle it, and return it safely to the environment.

Sewage travels through miles of pipelines before entering a treatment plant.

Once at the treatment plant, trash and dirt are removed and taken to a landfill.

The organic solids, made up of human waste and food waste, are removed from the water through natural biological processes that use bacteria, oxygen and settling tanks to separate the water from the solids.

Overflows of sewage and stormwater can sometimes occur in older areas of Seattle during heavy rains. Though these combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are 90 percent stormwater, they can impact water quality and pose public health risks. King County has a program to control CSOs and meet water quality standards set by the Department of Ecology.

All organic solids removed from the water are treated in a separate biological process that creates nutrient-rich biosolids, which can be used as a fertilizer and soil amendment. Waste gas from the digester process is captured, scrubbed and turned into natural gas or electricity.

The treated water is then disinfected and either returned to Puget Sound or treated further for industrial or irrigation uses.

Protecting water quality starts with you

Don't trash the system. Putting trash in toilets and drains can clog our pipes and damage our pumping equipment.

Think "green" when you can. Choosing environmentally friendly, biodegradable household cleaning and personal care products minimizes the entry of harmful chemicals into the environment.

Disconnect. Too much water in the system creates overflows and pollutes the environment – disconnect downspouts from the sewer system and redirect them to lawns and gardens.

Conserve. Conserving water reduces your monthly bill and prevents excess water from entering the system, so there's less to treat.

Our services

West Point Treatment Plant in Seattle

South Plant Treatment Plant in Renton

Treatment

Each day, King County treats 200 million gallons of wastewater, enough to fill 300 Olympic-sized swimming pools. During severe storms, peak flow volumes can easily exceed 700 million gallons in a day.

Regardless of weather conditions or flow volumes, the county is required to protect public health and the environment by meeting its water quality permit standards – 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

King County operates two regional treatment plants, two small local plants and four wet weather plants that treat combined flows of stormwater and wastewater during heavy rains.

The new Juanita Pump Station began operating in early 2009 with increased capacity and improved odor and noise control to better serve this growing Kirkland community.

Conveyance

The county's regional wastewater treatment system includes 353 miles of pipelines, which is just about the distance from Vancouver, B.C. to Salem, Ore.

The conveyance system also includes 42 pump stations and 19 regulator stations that operate around the clock to get the wastewater we generate to a treatment plant.

Division employees continually inspect, monitor and maintain these facilities to ensure reliable operation in all types of weather and flow conditions.

Sewer system pipe diameter ranges from 12 inches to 14 feet. Some pipes in the regional system are more than 100 years old.

Reducing Infiltration and Inflow

Keeping water out of the pipes

It's estimated that 75 percent of the peak flows during stormy weather began the journey as clean water that entered the system through cracked pipes, leaky manholes, or improperly connected down spouts. Referred to as "infiltration and inflow," or I/I, most of this water originates in the local sewer system or on private property.

All this extra water takes up capacity and costs money to treat, which is why the county is working with local sewer utilities on cost-effective ways to better control sources of I/I.

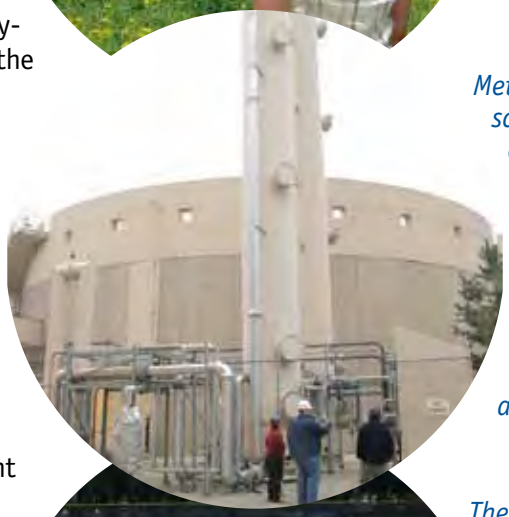
Resource Recovery – Taking the "waste" out of wastewater

In addition to treating wastewater, King County also creates resources such as energy, reclaimed water and biosolids from byproducts of the treatment process. Investments in resource recovery can benefit ratepayers while keeping pollution and waste out of the air, landfills and local water bodies.

Last year, King County produced more than 116,000 tons of biosolids, enough to fertilize 7,000 acres of farms and forests, and make compost for home gardens and landscapes.

Source control – keeping pollution out of the system

Employees with the division's Industrial Waste Program enforce pollution control regulations and educate companies about the importance of pretreatment to prevent dangerous substances from getting into the sewer system, where it can harm the treatment process, contribute to polluted water and kill marine life. The program was the first of its kind in the nation when it was introduced in 1969, and its success in protecting our water quality, our workers, and our facilities has served as a model to other sewer agencies throughout the United States.



Methane gas is captured, scrubbed and turned into energy that's used to power plant processes or sold to local utilities. King County's plants produce 5.3 million therms of natural gas, enough to heat 16,000 homes a year.

The county's treatment plants produce about 300 million gallons of reclaimed water each year that's mainly used on site for irrigation and industrial processes. Reclaimed water can help conserve drinking water and reduce the amount of treated wastewater discharged to Puget Sound.

Since 2003, local dentists have kept nearly 400 pounds of mercury out of the environment by complying with regulations established by the county's Wastewater Treatment Division and its Industrial Waste Pretreatment Program.

System investments

Regional Wastewater Services Plan Treatment Plant Projects

COMPLETED

1. Upgrades to Vashon Treatment Plant
2. Carnation Treatment Plant (2008)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

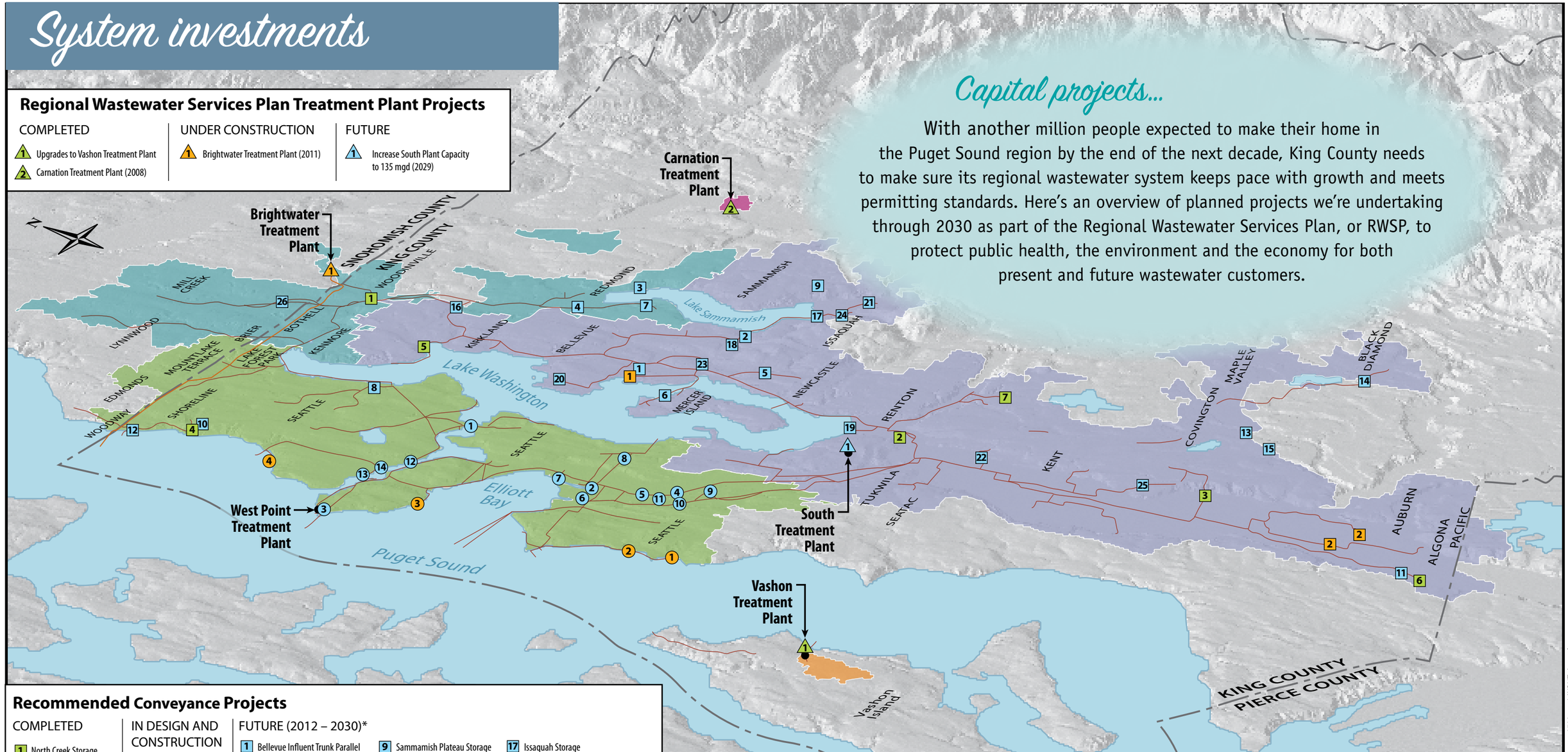
1. Brightwater Treatment Plant (2011)

FUTURE

1. Increase South Plant Capacity to 135 mgd (2029)

Capital projects...

With another million people expected to make their home in the Puget Sound region by the end of the next decade, King County needs to make sure its regional wastewater system keeps pace with growth and meets permitting standards. Here's an overview of planned projects we're undertaking through 2030 as part of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan, or RWSP, to protect public health, the environment and the economy for both present and future wastewater customers.



Recommended Conveyance Projects

COMPLETED

1. North Creek Storage Facility
2. Eastside Interceptor Section 1
3. Mill Creek Relief Sewer
4. Hidden Lake Pump Station and Sewer Improvement Project
5. Juanita Bay Pump Station Replacement Project
6. Pacific Pump Station
7. Fairwood Interceptor Sewer Project

IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

1. Bellevue Pump Station Upgrade

FUTURE (2012 – 2030)*

1. Bellevue Influent Trunk Parallel
2. Heathfield/Sunset Pump Station Replacement and Force Main Upgrade
3. Sammamish Plateau Diversion
4. Northwest Lake Sammamish Interceptor Parallel
5. Coal Creek Siphon and Trunk Parallel
6. North Mercer and Enatai Interceptor Parallels
7. Lake Hills Trunk Replacement
8. Thornton Creek Interceptor Parallels
9. Sammamish Plateau Storage
10. Boeing Creek Storage Expansion
11. Algona Pacific Trunk Stage 1
12. Richmond Beach Storage
13. Soos Pump Station D with Conveyance
14. Soos Pump Station H with Conveyance
15. Soos Pump Station B with Conveyance
16. York Pump Station Modifications
17. Issaquah Storage
18. Eastgate Parallel Pipe Storage
19. Bryn Mawr Storage
20. Medina Storage
21. Issaquah Creek Highlands Storage
22. South Renton Interceptor Parallel
23. Factoria Pump Station and Trunk Diversion
24. Issaquah Interceptor Section 2 Parallel
25. Kent/Auburn Conveyance System Improvement Project
26. North Creek Pipeline

* Modifications or changes to future projects may occur based on new information gathered in future years.

Recommended Combined Sewer Overflow Control Projects

IN DESIGN
(TO BE COMPLETED IN 2015)

1. Barton Street
2. Murray Avenue
3. South Magnolia
4. North Beach

PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION DURING 2015 – 2030*

1. University/Montlake
2. Hanford #2/Lander
3. West Point Treatment Plant Improvements
4. Michigan
5. Brandon Street
6. Chelan Avenue
7. King Street/Kingdome
8. Hanford at Rainier Avenue
9. 8th Avenue S
10. West Michigan
11. Terminal 115
12. 3rd Avenue W
13. Ballard
14. 11th Avenue W

* Modifications or changes to future projects may occur based on new information gathered in future years.

- Brightwater Service Area
- West Service Area
- South Service Area
- Carnation Service Area
- Vashon Service Area
- Existing Wastewater Pipeline
- Brightwater Conveyance

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Clean water projects now under way

Investments in clean-water infrastructure that protect public health, the environment, and support regional economic growth will remain a priority for King County's Wastewater Treatment Division through the coming year.

Here are some of the larger projects King County is planning in 2010.

Construction on the Brightwater treatment plant is about 70 percent completed, and contractors have completed mining on 10 of the 13 miles of tunnel.

Brightwater: The county continues to make significant progress on the Brightwater Treatment System project, the largest expansion of the regional wastewater system in almost 50 years.

Seventy percent of construction is complete on the treatment plant facilities, and contractors will spend 2010 finishing major electrical work and beginning the initial testing of treatment facility components.

Contractors have completed mining on 10 miles of the 13-mile treatment system conveyance tunnel and recently resumed work on the eastbound central tunnel, referred to as BT-2. The machine has less than a mile of tunneling to go and is scheduled to finish in 2011. The county is working with its contractors to complete the remaining two miles of the westbound BT-3 tunnel. The county has budgeted $228 million for Brightwater construction in 2010.

Kirkland Pump Station: The county has budgeted $4 million in 2010 to upgrade a pump station and replace aging pipelines in downtown Kirkland to ensure safe and reliable wastewater service to this growing neighborhood. To reduce costs and community impacts, the county is coordinating with Sound Transit on the first part of the upgrade to replace a sewer line located near a new transit center.

Bellevue Pump Station: In 2010, WTD plans to invest $2.5 million to complete construction on upgrades to the Bellevue Pump Station, which pumps about 8 million gallons wastewater each day from west Bellevue to King County's South Treatment Plant in Renton. In addition to adding capacity, the project also includes replacement of the facility's major mechanical and electrical equipment.

Bothell-Woodinville Interceptor: To protect public health and ensure system reliability, the county will invest $1.6 million to reline a sewer pipe that parallels the Sammamish River Trail just south of the Woodinville Pump Station. The project is part of the county's ongoing efforts to address corrosion in pipelines systemwide.

Puget Sound Beach CSO Control: King County is making it a priority to control combined sewer overflows, or CSOs, that occur during heavy rains near popular recreation beaches in West Seattle, North Beach and Magnolia. Project alternatives will be evaluated in 2010 and community members will have opportunities to participate in the decisionmaking process. The county has budgeted $2.3 million on planning and design in 2010.

Ballard Siphon: King County has budgeted $9.7 million to begin construction on a project to replace a 75-year-old wood stave pipe that extends across the Lake Washington Ship Canal. A new pipe will replace the 36-inch-diameter sewer pipe that was installed in 1935 and currently conveys up to 60 million gallons a day of wastewater across the canal.

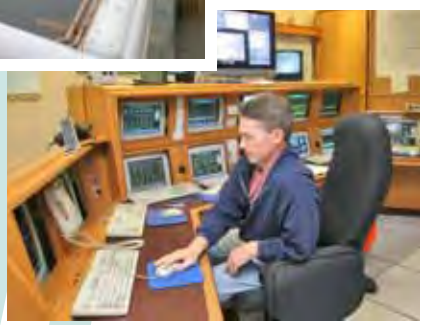
Upgrades to the Bellevue Pump Station will ensure the system keeps operating reliably.

Ravenna Creek Transfer Pipeline Extension Project: This project will protect public health and the environment by improving design of existing sewer lines to prevent overflows to University Slough that may occur during very heavy rain storms. The county has budgeted $770,000 in 2010 on this project.

Fremont Siphon: The county has budgeted $900,000 to evaluate alternatives and begin the initial phase of a project to replace the Fremont Siphon, which has been in service for more than 100 years.

Interbay Pump Station: King County is wrapping up final design on a project to replace pumping equipment and aging electrical systems at this critical pump station near Magnolia. The county has budgeted $2.9 million for the project in 2010.

West Point Disinfection Upgrades: To protect public health and plant workers, and to comply with new Ecology permitting requirements, King County has budgeted $1.2 million to convert the West Point Treatment Plant's disinfection system from chlorine gas to sodium hypochlorite. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010.



Upgrades at South Plant will modernize equipment, improve air quality and increase operating efficiency.

Waste-to-Energy: The division has budgeted $9.8 million to begin construction on West Point Treatment Plant's Waste-to-Energy project to construct a facility that will convert digester gas into a source of heat and electrical power.

Sediment Management Program: This program enables King County to proactively address sediment contamination near CSO locations in Puget Sound. The county has budgeted $1.3 million in 2010 to continue its efforts to remove historic CSO contamination and restore habitat at locations in Elliott Bay and the Duwamish Waterway.

South Treatment Plant improvements: In 2010, the county has budgeted $12 million for projects at the South Treatment Plant in Renton to improve system reliability, increase efficiency and ensure continued compliance with permits. Projects include replacing outmoded control system software, replacing pumps and relining pipes, and improvements to disinfection and odor control systems.

Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund: King County continues its involvement in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group, which is currently working to develop a cleanup strategy for contaminated sediments in the waterway. In 2009, the group publicly released the first draft of a feasibility study that evaluated 11 potential cleanup alternatives. The public had opportunity to submit comments on the draft, and a second draft is scheduled to be released in 2010. The county has budgeted nearly $1 million on these efforts.

Being a good neighbor...

Protecting our regional quality of life isn't our only goal. We also take pride in building and operating facilities that are good neighbors in communities that host our facilities. Odor control, landscaping, attractive architecture, construction mitigation and even public art help our facilities blend in and meet community standards.

Protecting our assets

It would cost about $20 billion to build King County's wastewater system from the ground up today, and the value of our facilities as they now stand is estimated at about $4 billion.

Naturally, we put a high priority on managing and maintaining our buildings, treatment plants, pump stations, manholes, pipelines, as well as the property surrounding them.

The county's Asset Management Program oversees inspection of the regional treatment system, repairing and replacing aging facilities and developing plans to address ongoing system issues.

Sonar inspections and closed-circuit cameras help inspection crews detect pipe deterioration.

One of our biggest ongoing asset management challenges is directly related to the age of the system – pipe corrosion. Investments in repairing and rehabilitating these aging pipes will help prevent system failures, overflows and costly emergency repairs.

Employees install coatings, linings and sealants to extend the life of our pipelines and equipment.

Planning for growth

Planning and building new wastewater infrastructure is extremely complex. It can easily take a decade or more to go from identifying a project need to cutting the ribbon on a newly completed facility.

Because investments in wastewater infrastructure are significant, the Wastewater Treatment Division's system planning has checks and balances to ensure decisions reflect the interest of the regional ratepayers, who ultimately pay for these investments.

King County carefully reviews local comprehensive plans and compares growth projections to census data and population forecasts prepared by the Puget Sound Regional Council. The county also looks at its own wastewater flow and monitoring data, which has historically proved highly accurate and reliable.

The Wastewater Treatment Division regularly delivers reports on the status of its comprehensive plans to the King County Council and other stakeholders. On very large projects, such as Brightwater for example, the council might appoint its own independent monitoring consultant to review project plans, schedules and associated cost trends during construction. Additionally, the King County Council presides over the budget process and votes to set sewer rates, providing additional oversight on financial matters.

Though clean water is our ultimate goal, the Wastewater Treatment Division also defines success by running an agency that is well-managed, fiscally responsible and compliant with its state and federal pollution control requirements.

Where does your money go?

Investing in clean water

Wastewater infrastructure plays a vital role in protecting our quality of life, supporting jobs and growth while maintaining the health of our beaches, lakes, rivers and Puget Sound.

King County's wastewater utility is entirely funded by the ratepayers who invest in our programs and services through their monthly rate and capacity charge bills. We take seriously our obligation to provide the highest levels of service and accountability to our ratepayers.

Bond ratings

In 2009, Moody's and Standard & Poor's affirmed the King County Wastewater Treatment Division's favorable credit ratings, which will reduce the utility's costs to finance its capital improvement program.

Standard & Poor's assigned a AA+ rating to the utility's sewer revenue bonds, citing financial performance that exceeds policy targets, a consistent track record of progress on its major capital plan, and a commitment to strong management practices.

Moody's Aa3 (excellent) rating was based on the utility's continued positive financial results and a well-managed system.

These favorable credit ratings lower the cost of borrowing by reducing the amount of debt service, which, in turn, reduces impacts to the rate.

Revenues

King County's adopted wastewater budget for 2010 includes about $265.9 million in revenue from the monthly sewer rate and about $37.3 million in revenue from the capacity charge. The 2010 budget also includes about $5 million from investments and about $19.6 million from other income such as fees for industrial waste, sewage removed from septic tanks and rate stabilization funds.

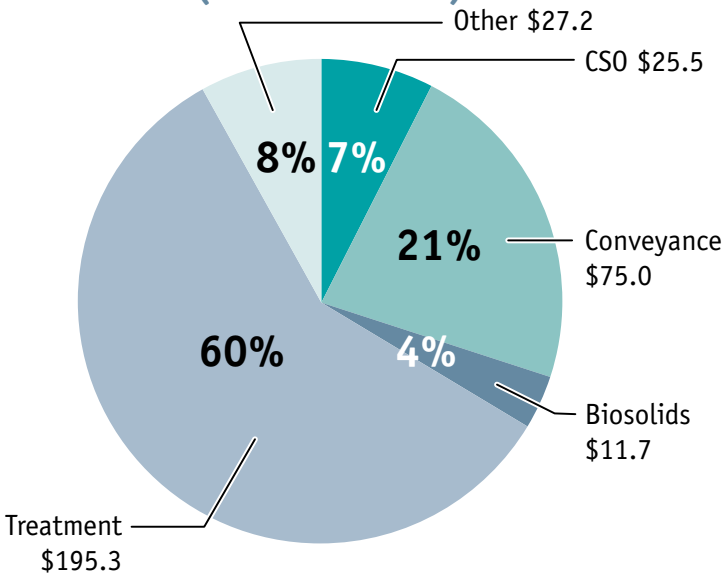
King County also borrows bonds to fund the cost of construction projects under its capital improvement program.

Expenditures

Of the total revenue (about $328 million), the Wastewater Treatment Division is budgeted to spend about $97.3 million to operate and maintain its facilities and about $230.7 million for planning, designing and building facilities.

In 2010, the $328 million in operating revenue is allocated as follows:

Uses of 2010 Planned Operating Revenues ($328 million)



Investments in our infrastructure– rate and capacity charge increases ahead

In June 2010, the King County Council adopted a monthly wholesale sewer rate increase of $4.20, raising the current rate of $31.90 to $36.10. They also adopted a monthly capacity charge rate of $50.45, which represents an increase of $1.38 over the current rate of $49.07. These new rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2011.

The rate increase will help cover the cost of the debt service on the bonds issued to pay for vital capital improvement projects and provide revenue to cover the cost of maintaining and operating our existing system. It will also enable repair and replacement of aging equipment and facilities so the system operates reliably and continues meeting stringent state and federal permit requirements.

The capacity charge increase will fund the cost to expand the system and build new facilities to serve our growing region.

One of the biggest drivers behind the rate increase is need to repay money borrowed to fund some of the most complex and expensive projects outlined in the 30-year comprehensive plan adopted by the King County Council in 1999, including the Brightwater project.

While these rate increases are significant, they're necessary to fund critical projects that protect our environment while supporting planned growth, which is especially important during an economic recovery.

Delaying critical projects could mean system failures, raw sewage overflows and fines from regulatory agencies.

Continued investment in our clean-water infrastructure will ensure it continues to operate reliably and meets environmental standards, protecting our natural resources and quality of life for the next generation to enjoy.

The rate and capacity charge – what's the difference?

The rate supports operation and maintenance

The monthly wholesale sewer rate paid by all customers generates the revenue needed to cover the cost of maintaining, operating and supporting our existing system and covering debt service on the bonds we issue to fund the capital improvement program.

The capacity charge supports system expansion

Since 1990, King County has levied a capacity charge on new connections to the sewer system that new customers pay in addition to their monthly sewer bill. The capacity charge covers the cost of new projects and system expansions to serve population growth. The Wastewater Treatment Division directly bills newly connecting customers for the capacity charge.

Elected officials, sewer utility representatives and jurisdiction officials were all involved in King County's decision to implement a capacity charge to ensure that "growth pays for growth".

Questions about the capacity charge?

Division employees are available to help property owners and real estate professionals better understand the capacity charge, when it might apply and the range of payment options available. Please call 206-296-1450 or 711 TTY, or visit us on the Web at http://www.kingcounty.gov/capacitycharge.

About us

Our agency and staff

Headquartered in downtown Seattle, King County's Wastewater Treatment Division has been committed to protecting and improving water quality for nearly 50 years. The agency employs about 600 people who plan, design, build and operate the treatment facilities.

Our employees also enforce regulations to reduce harmful waste discharged to the system, and we educate the public and businesses on ways to protect water quality.

To our agency, success means clean water. It means honoring our legacy of environmental success while keeping a promise to maintain it for another generation.

It also means being accountable to our ratepayers and operating a responsibly managed agency.

Productivity Initiative

In 2000, the Wastewater Treatment Division implemented its innovative Productivity Initiative Program, which created opportunities to increase efficiency by using some private-sector business practices in the management of the utility. The program establishes annual savings goals and offers incentives to increase efficiency and cut operating cost. Division employees and management have saved ratepayers more than $62 million through 2008.

Community Matters

The Wastewater Treatment Division offers many opportunities for people to be involved in upcoming projects and stay informed about clean-water issues.

Arrange a free tour of one of our treatment facilities for your school or community group, schedule a speaker for a neighborhood meeting, or get additional detail about projects or programs by visiting our Web site at http://www.kingcounty.gov/wtd or by calling us at 206-684-1280 or 711 TTY Relay.

Investing in employees by providing relevant training, proper equipment, access to technology and career advancement opportunities pays off by helping our division maintain a highly skilled, competent workforce.

2009 awards

The division continues to receive recognition for its operations as well as its project planning and delivery.

2009 Peak Performance "Platinum Award"
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
West Point Treatment Plant (Recognizes permit compliance in the 2008 calendar year)

2009 Peak Performance "Platinum Award"
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
South Treatment Plant (Recognizes permit compliance in the 2008 calendar year)

Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award
Structural Category, Brightwater Marine Outfall Project
American Society of Civil Engineers Seattle Chapter

Project of the Year Award
Brightwater Marine Outfall
American Public Works Association, Washington State Chapter

Award of Excellence
Brightwater Marine Outfall Project
Consulting Engineers of British Columbia

Project Achievement Award
Brightwater Marine Outfall Project
Construction Management Association of America

Best Heavy Civil Project
Brightwater Marine Outfall Project
Northwest Construction magazine

National "Best of the Best" Award – Civil/Public Works Category
Brightwater Marine Outfall Project
McGraw Hill Construction and Engineering News Record magazine

National Environmental Achievement Award – Public Information and Education
Ratepayer Report Newsletter
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Golden Gourd Award – Pride in Product
Biosolids Demonstration and Research Garden South Treatment Plant
Northwest Biosolids Management Association

Outstanding Performance Award
Vashon Island Treatment Plant
Washington State Department of Ecology

"What Makes it Green" Top 10 Regional Project
Brightwater Education/Community Center
American Institute of Architects Seattle Chapter Committee on the Environment

Best in State: Gold Award for Complexity
South Plant Administration Building and Water Quality Laboratory
American Council of Engineering Companies

Best in State: Engineering Excellence Silver Award in the "Future Value to the Engineering Profession" category
Bellevue Pump Station Force Main
American Council of Engineering Companies

National Finalist, Gold Award
Brightwater Marine Outfall
American Council of Engineering Companies

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King County

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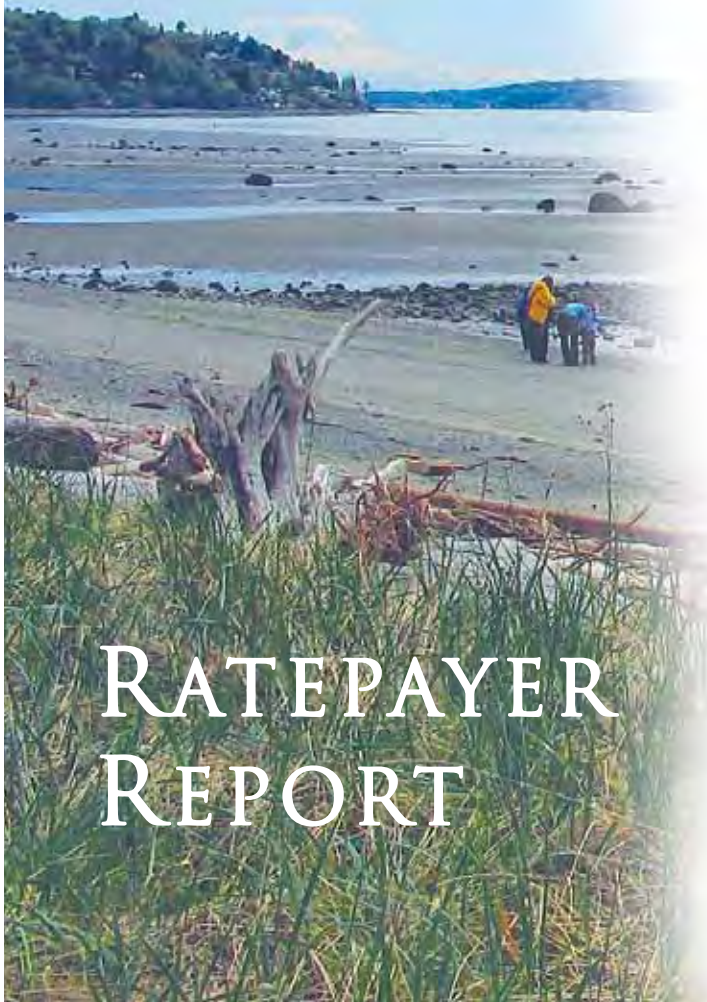
Wastewater Treatment Division
King Street Center
KSC-NR-0503, 201 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Creating Resources from Wastewater



Ratepayer Report