

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Turn it down.

The average bathroom faucet runs at the rate of about two gallons of water per minute. Try running water at less than full flow. Turn the water off while you floss and brush your teeth.

### The right equipment for the job.

Water-efficient toilets, bathroom faucets, and accessories can save the average home more than 11,000 gallons per year.

### It's about more than just water.

If one out of every 100 American homes were retrofitted with water-efficient fixtures, about 100 million kilowatt-hours of electricity could be saved per year—avoiding 80,000 tons of greenhouse-gas emissions.

Source: EPA's WaterSense Program

### Join the hunt.

This summer get out and explore the natural wonders of Skagit County through letterboxing. Follow clues to 16 hidden letterboxes in the Skagit River Watershed. Letterboxes contain fun materials, along with a notebook and ink-stamp for trading stamps. Great FREE family activity. Clues available at public libraries, in the PUD lobby, or visit our Web site at [SkagitPUD.org](http://SkagitPUD.org) for more info.



Skagit PUD crews install a new section of 12-inch water main on 9th Street in Mount Vernon as part of our ongoing capital maintenance program. Several new projects are slated for this summer including: 1,500 feet of water main replacement in Clear Lake; installation of test wells to check groundwater levels along Josh Wilson Road; and a new pump station near La Conner.

## Using Water Wisely

Conserving today can defer costs into future

**As your water provider, we serve more than water. We provide value, public health, fire protection, reliability, and peace of mind.**

**Our job is to ensure that your water keeps flowing not only today, but well into the future.**

The United States uses some 450 billion gallons of water every day. Only about six percent of that—27 billion gallons—is taken by the public water supply systems. The

US daily average of water pumped by those systems is 185 gallons per person.

At least 30 percent of water used annually by a single-family household is for outdoor water irrigation. A large portion of that goes to waste through evaporation or runoff caused by over-watering. In the summer, the average daily demand for water can nearly double from Skagit PUD customers.

constant. Water from oceans, lakes, rivers, ponds, puddles, and other water surfaces evaporates to become clouds. The clouds make rain, snow, or sleet that falls to earth to make rivers and streams, some of which seeps into the ground to form groundwater. All of this water flows to the ocean to start the cycle over again. Before returning to the ocean, some of this water is taken for drinking water and then is discharged as wastewater. The cycle is never-ending.

### How does nature recycle water?

The water cycle keeps the amount of total water on the globe

### Why should I conserve?

Although the amount of water on the globe is



# Using Water Wisely

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constant, conserving is still important. Skagit County has seen steady population growth in recent years. As the population increases, so does the demand for water. This means that every so often, Skagit PUD must spend some money to find another source of water or augment its existing sources. These costs impact your water rates. Since 1996, Skagit PUD has invested \$55 million in construction and riparian mitigation to meet current and future water demands—

- New pump station on the Skagit River;
- Doubled water treatment plant capacity;
- Raised Judy Reservoir dams to increase storage levels;
- Upsized major transmission lines.



If people conserved, the water demand would not grow as fast as the population and the need to look for more water would be delayed. This permits the PUD to defer expenditures and to use the money for something else in the meantime—such as maintaining its 600 miles of pipeline. In addition, not all of the water taken as drinking water gets right back to the source. Thus, if communities are conserving water so that less is needed, more water will be left for fish habitat.

Water conservation is something we all should practice. Except for the air we breathe, water is the single most important element in our lives. It's too precious to waste. Please use it wisely.

Source: American Water Works Association

## RCM Program = Savings



Skagit PUD's facilities offer many opportunities for improved conservation and energy efficiency. The District, in collaboration with local jurisdictions, is participating in the Skagit Council of Governments' Resource

Conservation Management (RCM) program. The goal of the RCM program is to contain utility costs and reduce utility use, especially energy usage, by eight percent through no-cost or low-cost measures by 2011.

Zero-cost to low-cost conservation and energy efficiency measures encompass both behavioral changes for employees and operational changes.

Behavioral changes could include:

- Turning office equipment off at the end of the day.
- Dressing warmer/cooler rather than turning thermostats up or down.

- Turning lights off in unoccupied rooms.

Operational changes could include:

- Adding timers and/or motion sensors to lighting in in-frequently used rooms.
- Replacing inefficient lighting with efficient lighting.
- Choosing the highest efficiency replacement equipment.

According to a system-wide analysis, the greatest opportunity for cost-savings could be realized through improved energy efficiency measures at Skagit PUD's 63 pump stations, which consumed 668,545 kilowatt hours of electricity in 2009.

### Follow us online

You can now find Skagit PUD on **Facebook**, follow and chat with us on **Twitter**, or share a photo at **Flickr**. Join a discussion, give us some feedback, and let us know how we are doing. We are listening!



## Simple Steps to **SAVE** Water Outside

### WATER WHEN NEEDED

- Water your lawn or garden during the cool morning hours to reduce evaporation.
- Look for sprinklers that produce droplets—not mist—or use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation for trees and shrubs.
- Set sprinklers to water lawns and gardens only—check that you're not watering the street or sidewalk.
- Try not to overwater your landscaping—learn plants' water needs and water different types appropriately.

### GROW GREEN GRASS

- Don't overfertilize. You will increase the grass's need for water.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least three inches. Taller grass promotes deeper roots, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture better than a closely cropped lawn.

### GARDEN WITH CARE

- Plant climate-appropriate species. Try native plants, which don't require as much water, and group plants together by water requirements.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help reduce evaporation and control water-stealing weeds.



### Rain Barrels

If you would like info about our popular rain barrel program, please visit [SkagitPUD.org](http://SkagitPUD.org) or call 848-4477.