

DID YOU KNOW?

Winning 'Gold'

Skagit PUD's Water Treatment Plant was awarded a Gold Certificate of Achievement from the Washington State Office of Drinking Water for meeting and exceeding strict water quality standards for the past 10 years. Only four water treatment plants statewide received the Gold award.

Mobile-Friendly

Now you can access news, information and eventually manage customer accounts from your cell phone. Skagit PUD has launched a mobile-friendly version of its website, which is a ramp-up to a major overhaul of our financial billing and customer service software system starting this fall.

Letterbox Trail Party Time

It is time to celebrate the Letterbox Trail with an end of season party/potluck on **Thursday, October 13, from 6 - 8 p.m.** at Skagit PUD. Bring your scrapbooks to share some of your favorite letterbox memories from this summer. There will be activities and games for the whole family. See who made it to all the letterboxes this year. For more info and to RSVP, please contact **Steve Olsen** at steveo@skagitcleanwater.org or (360) 419-3161.



WATER CYCLE

Water's journey from land to sky and back again



Would you believe that your last drink of water could have once been used by a dinosaur?

Water on earth today has been here for millions of years. Because of the water cycle (hydrologic cycle), water moves from the earth to the air

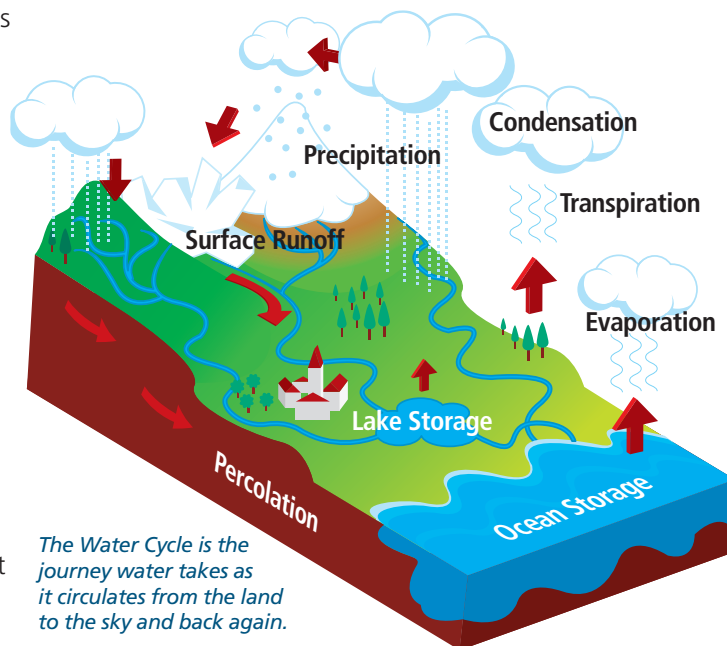
to the earth again. It changes from solid to liquid to gas, over and over again.

aquifers under the ground. As we all know, some places such as the Pacific Northwest, receive more precipitation than others. These areas are usually close to oceans or large bodies of water that allow more water to evaporate and form clouds. Other areas receive less. Often these areas are far from water or near mountains. As clouds move

What is the water cycle?

The water cycle keeps the amount of total water on the globe constant. Water **evaporates**. 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.

Precipitation creates runoff that travels over the ground surface and helps to fill lakes and rivers. It also **percolates** or moves downward through openings in the soil to replenish



The Water Cycle is the journey water takes as it circulates from the land to the sky and back again.

up and over mountains, the water vapor **condenses** to form precipitation and freezes. Snow falls on the peaks.

Water Cycle > [SEE BACK PAGE](#)

WATER CYCLE VOCABULARY

- Evaporation** – liquid water becoming gas
- Transpiration** – evaporation of water from plants
- Condensation** – water vapor becoming a liquid
- Precipitation** – rain, snow, sleet or hail
- Aquifer** – a large water source under the ground
- Percolation** – movement of water through soil

Dreaming of a Better Bathroom?

Remodel It With WaterSense



BATHROOMS ARE BY FAR THE LARGEST WATER USERS IN the home, accounting for more than half of all the water that families use indoors. If you are planning to remodel your bathroom, did you know plumbing fixtures are available in a wide variety of colors, models, and prices to help you save water and money?

Advances in plumbing technology and design mean that faucets, showers, and toilets can use significantly less water than standard models while still delivering the rinse, spray, and flush you expect.

Skagit PUD is a partner in the EPA's WaterSense program, which encourages customers to look for WaterSense labeled products. The products have been independently certified for efficiency and performance, and promote water-saving techniques that reduce stress on water systems and the environment. Just look for the WaterSense label to find products at retailers in our area.



Giving your bathroom a high-efficiency makeover by replacing older, inefficient bathroom fixtures with a WaterSense labeled toilet, faucet, and showerhead can help your household save in more ways than one.



Water: 7,000 gallons annually. Enough to wash six months' worth of laundry.



Electricity: 200 kilowatt-hours annually. Enough electricity to run a refrigerator for two months.



Money: \$60 in utility bills annually. Enough that the fixtures will pay for themselves in as little as 2½ years.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Here to help!



Questions about your water account? We are here to help. Make your payment using a debit or credit card. Simply call our customer service line at (360) 424-7104 and a representative will process your payment over the phone. If you are unable to pay all or part of your bill, suitable arrangements may be made by immediately contacting customer service.

The Water Cycle: Never-Ending Process Critical to All Life

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What if the water cycle stopped?

Without it all life on earth would end. Without this never-ending cycle, plants would die. Underground sources would soon be emptied. Rivers, lakes and oceans would overflow and flood large areas of land. The whole ecologic cycle would end.



Pollution of water sources

Water can be polluted with human and/or chemical wastes. Even deep underground aquifers can be polluted from the surface. For example, oil thrown on the ground or in the sewer can pollute water and is very hard to remove.

Everyone must do their part to keep water sources clean.

Public utilities must clean water very carefully. We test water and measure pollutants to make sure the water is safe. We can measure very small amounts of pollutants in bodies of water—parts per million, parts per billion, and even parts per trillion. The water that we deliver to people must meet strict rules of purity. It is hard to imagine but:

- One part per million would be equal to one drop in 10 gallons.
- One part per billion would be equal to one drop in 10,000 gallons.

- One part per trillion would be equal to one drop in 10 million gallons.

At Skagit PUD, we are committed to providing you the safest and most reliable drinking water possible. Annually, we mail every customer a copy of our water quality report. The report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. For additional reports, please visit our website at SkagitPUD.org or pick up a copy in our Mount Vernon office.

Sources: Plain Talk About Drinking Water; The Story of Drinking Water; American Water Works Association