

WATER USE EFFICIENCY 2009

Skagit PUD Six-Year Water Use Efficiency Goals Update

In 2007, Skagit PUD established measurable water-saving goals for the next six years for both the supply- and demand-side of our distribution system. The goals provide a benchmark for achievement and play a significant role in defining the success of the PUD’s water use efficiency program. Our water use efficiency goals and the steps we are taking to meet those goals are as follows:

1. Reduce consumption per Equivalent Residential Units from 178 gallons per service per day to 175 gallons per service per day.

Billing data for 2009 indicates that our Equivalent Residential Units—water use for a typical single-family residence—was 175.3 gallons per service per day, which is a 1.69 percent reduction since 2006.

Skagit PUD continues to focus its public education efforts on providing customers with simple water-saving ideas to use at their home or business.

In 2009, Skagit PUD’s public outreach activities included staffed informational booths at local community events, fairs and trade shows. Skagit PUD staff shared ideas on how to identify and stop common leaks, conserve water, and ways to use water more efficiently.

Five-minute shower timers and toilet leak detection kits continue to be popular water-saving items at our education booths.

A number of customers participated in our Water Meter Monitor Program. Customers have the option to buy or borrow a water meter monitor to calculate their water use and be alerted in

the occurrence of a leak.

Skagit PUD is a conservation partner with the EPA’s WaterSense program to help customers decrease indoor and outdoor water use through water-efficient

products and simple water-saving practices.

The program encourages customers to look for WaterSense labeled products, which have been independently certified for

efficiency and performance, and promotes water-saving techniques that reduce stress on water systems and the environment.

2. Reduce the summer peak flows from 1.7 times Average Daily Demand to 1.6 times Average Daily Demand.

During summer months, about 30 percent of a family’s household water use per day is devoted to outdoor purposes. More than half of that outdoor water is used for watering lawns and gardens.

Skagit PUD’s summer peak flows for 2009 were 1.62 times the average daily demand (ADD). ADD is defined as the average quantity, over a one-year period, of daily water usage in the water system. In 2009, ADD for the Judy Reservoir system was 7.5 million gallons per day (mgd). Summer peak flows were 12.2 mgd. In 2008, the summer peak flows were 1.46 times ADD. The summer of 2009 was considerably warmer and drier than 2008, and we believe this significantly contributed to the greater demand for water.

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Water System Performance 2009	
Judy Reservoir Production	2,939,198/Kgals Produced
Judy Reservoir Billed	2,729,305/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	7.1% DSL
Alger Production	7,821/Kgals Produced
Alger Billed	6,972/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	10.9% DSL
Cedargrove Production	9,468/Kgals Produced
Cedargrove Billed	8,215/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	13.2% DSL
Fidalgo Island Production	55,529/Kgals Produced
Fidalgo Island Billed	55,087/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	0.8% DSL
Marblemount Production	2,300/Kgals Produced
Marblemount Billed	1,091/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	52.6% DSL (Faulty meter)
Potlatch Beach Production	576/Kgals Produced
Potlatch Beach Billed	575/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	0.2% DSL
Rockport Production	3,854/Kgals Produced
Rockport Billed	3,308/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	14.2% DSL
Skagit View Village Production	3,824/Kgals Produced
Skagit View Village Billed	3,600/Kgals Billed
% Distribution System Leakage	5.9% DSL
<i>Numbers calculated in thousands of gallons.</i>	

The chart above reports each system’s water production performance for 2009. All water that is not authorized consumption is considered distribution system leakage (DSL). Some examples of water use considered leakage include: water main breaks, theft, meter inaccuracies, meter reading errors, data collection and calculation errors.

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reduce summer peak flows, Skagit PUD is focusing on creating public awareness of the need to use water wisely. The PUD provides outdoor water-saving tips in each issue of our *Pipeline* newsletter. We also utilize special publication advertising,



the PUD's Web site, and social media tools (Facebook and Twitter) to encourage customers to be water-wise and let their lawns go dormant in the summer.

In October, Skagit PUD

introduced its rain barrel workshop program. Workshop participants learn

how to build, set-up and maintain a rain barrel. Collecting rainwater is an easy way to conserve water—and save money on your water bill. During the drier season, when water consumption often doubles, using collected rainwater also reduces the strain on the water supply and keeps more water available for fish and wildlife.

3. Reduce distribution system leakage by one percent.

Skagit PUD operates the most expansive water system in Skagit County with over 22,400 metered services, serving approximately 65,000 people. The majority of Skagit PUD's services are within the Judy Reservoir system; however, the PUD also operates seven remote water systems that we monitor for water quality.

All water services in Skagit PUD's water

systems are metered. The PUD tracks high use meters to check on accuracy and our meter technicians routinely replace service meters that show signs of inaccuracy or failure.

In 2009, Skagit PUD completed a multi-year project for replacing its manual-read water meters with an automatic meter reading system. The new meters provide improved leak detection. Each one is equipped with a leak alarm that can alert the meter technician that an account may have a potential leak.

Finding water leaks can save you water, which means saving money on water and sewer bills. If ignored, a water leak could also result in costly property damage.

Please see the table on the front for Skagit PUD's water system production performance for 2009.