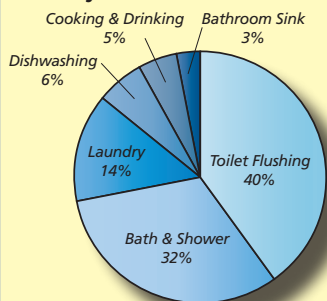


DID YOU KNOW?

Lots of Flushes

Inside the typical household, toilets use the most water. The average person flushes over five times per day (household or work). That totals nearly 2,000 flushes per person annually.

Family of Four Water Use



Leaks Add Up

Little leaks add up in a hurry. A faucet drip or invisible toilet leak that totals only two tablespoons a minute comes to 15 gallons a day. That's 105 gallons a week and 5,406 gallons of water a year.

Rate Increase 2024

All bills generated January 1, 2024, and thereafter include a 5% rate increase. The increase is approximately \$6.82 per billing cycle (60 days) for the typical residential customer, with the high consumption tiers at a greater rate. The amount of water you consume is measured in cubic feet. One cubic foot of water equals 7.48 gallons. Water rates are billed in units of 100 cubic feet of water used (1 unit equals 748 gallons).

10 facts about WATER

Water needs our help. We have the same amount of water today as when the Earth was formed. Constant use and pollution threaten our water resources. Experts estimate that nonpoint pollution, that is, agricultural and urban runoff combined with pollution by individuals, threatens our water resources more than industrial pollution.

We all can make positive decisions every day that affect drinking water. For example, whenever we notice a dripping faucet or see a sprinkler operating on a rainy day, we have an opportunity to conserve water by stopping waste. We can also conserve water by buying recycled paper products.

To help you learn more about water, here are 10 basic facts:

1. The first municipal water filtration works opened in Paisley, Scotland, in 1804.
2. Of all the earth's water, 97% is salt water found in oceans and seas.
3. Only 3% of the earth's water is fresh water. Two percent is currently frozen.
4. About two-thirds of the human body is water. Some parts of the body contain more water than others. For example, 70% of your skin is water.
5. Approximately 55,000 community water systems provide water to the public in the United States.
6. Public water suppliers process 44 billion gallons of water daily for domestic and public use.
7. Approximately one million miles of pipelines and aqueducts carry water in the United States and Canada. That's enough to circle the earth 40 times. Skagit PUD has 650 miles of pipe.
8. An automatic dishwasher uses approximately 6 to 10 gallons of water, while hand-washing dishes can use up to 27 gallons.
9. Each American uses about 80-100 gallons of water daily.
10. We can protect our water sources by properly disposing of household chemicals and pharmaceuticals, preventing them from contaminating our water sources.



Your **PUBLIC** Utility

Three commissioners — Andrew Miller, Joe Lindquist, and Corrin Hamburg — elected by the residents of Skagit County, govern Skagit PUD. Each serves six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis.

The PUD Commissioners establish policy, approve budgets and expenditures, establish rates for services, retain the utility management, and provide oversight of the utility. PUDs are self-regulated and, as such, are not regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Water service is provided on a non-profit basis, reflecting the actual cost of service.

As with any decision before the board, citizens have numerous opportunities to comment on the utility's actions. As elected Commissioners, they ensure that provided services are financially feasible and in the customer's best interests.

The Commissioners holds open public meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the PUD's Aqua Room, where members of the public can observe and participate in decisions made by the board. The public may attend in person or via Zoom. Meeting agenda packets, audio recordings, and minutes are available at www.SkagitPUD.org.



District No. 1

Andrew Miller

Tel: (360) 391-7579

miller@skagitpud.org

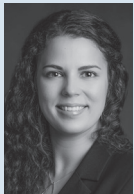


District No. 2

Joe Lindquist

Tel: (360) 630-1221

lindquist@skagitpud.org



District No. 3

Corrin Hamburg

Tel: (360) 333-0581

hamburg@skagitpud.org

7 Steps to Avoid Frozen Pipes

Frozen and burst water pipes can ruin your whole day. The best strategy in combating the cold winter months is a defensive one. By taking preventive measures to winterize your home, you can not only save money but also save water and reduce energy usage.

1. Know what areas of your home — like basements, crawl spaces, unheated rooms, and outside walls — are most vulnerable to freezing.
2. Search for pipes that are uninsulated or pass through unheated areas. Wrap them with pipe insulation available at hardware stores.
3. If you have heat tape installed on exposed pipes, ensure the tape is still operational and installed according to the manufacturer's specifications. Inspect the tape for cracks or fraying.
4. Everyone in your household should know where to locate the main water shut-off valve. Check the valve annually to ensure it's working correctly. If a pipe freezes or bursts, shut off the water immediately.
5. Covering or wrapping your outdoor faucets is a simple job that can save you significant expenses, both in water and plumbing fees.
6. Turn off and drain irrigation systems.
7. If no one is home for an extended period during extreme winter weather, consider turning off your main valve altogether and hiring a plumber to drain your system. That way, if your furnace quits working, there will be no water in your pipes to freeze.

Simple Winter Water-Saving Tips

Save water this winter with these conservation tips:

- Winter is the perfect time for making plans to add or modify your landscape to use less water. Consider low-water gardens that attract wildlife, such as butterflies or birds. Or work around themes such as fragrance, edible, ornamental or native plants.
- Check indoor fixtures for leaks and fix right away. A small leak left unattended can account for hundreds of gallons of good, clean water lost.
- Consider replacing an existing toilet with a high-efficiency model, which uses 1.28 gallons per flush or less. Save water and protect the environment by choosing WaterSense labeled products in your home and business.
- Insulate your water heater and water pipes. Doing so will save energy and also will cut down on the amount of water that goes down the drain while waiting for hot water to flow.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. Skagit PUD sells high-efficiency showerhead and faucet aerator kits for just \$11.

