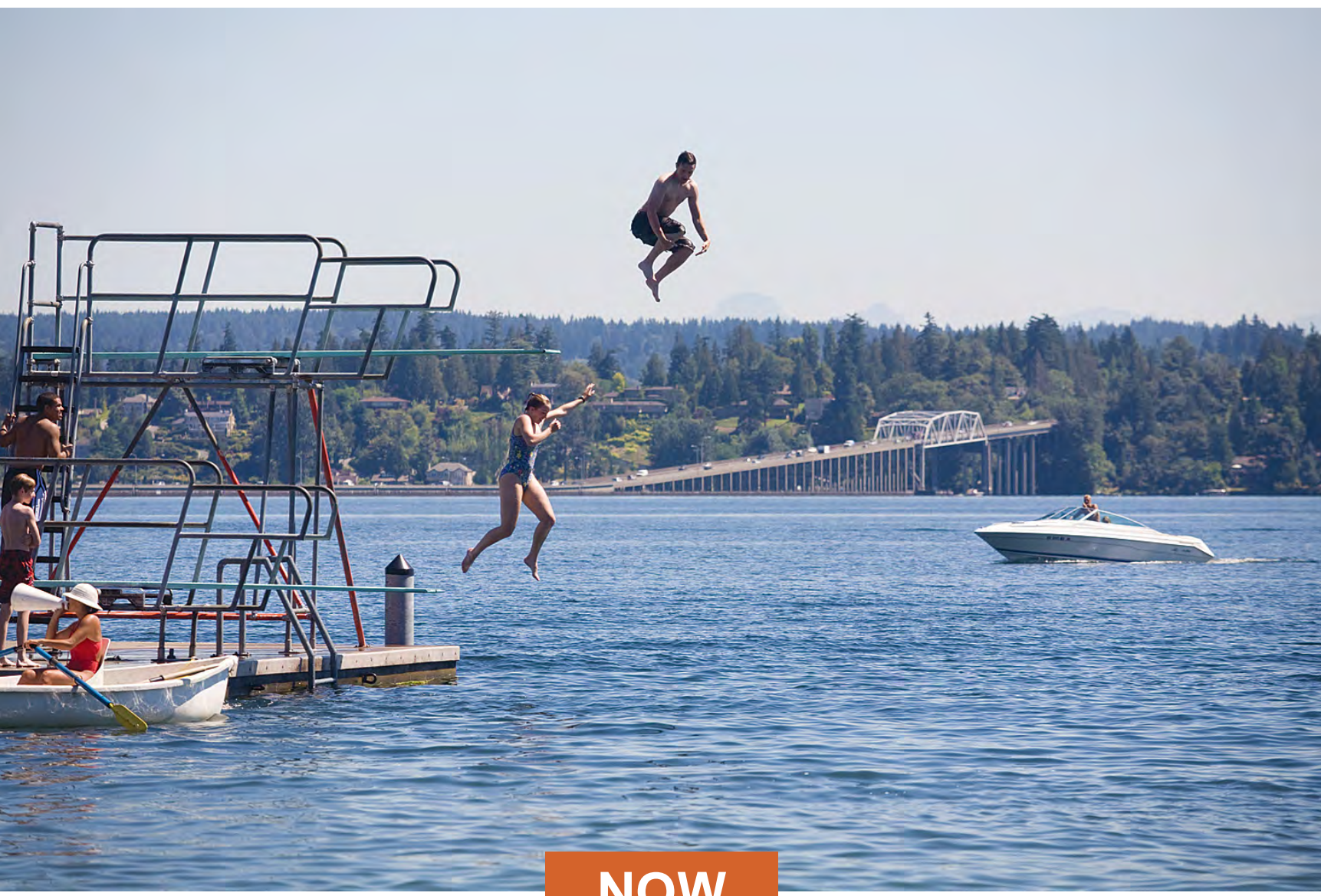


Water quality is improving, and we have more to do

In the 1960s, Lake Washington was too polluted for swimming.
Now, it is one of the cleanest urban lakes in the country.






THEN






NOW

Data from the last 40 years show:

Past investments have improved water quality.

-  Less bacteria that can make people sick.
-  Fewer nutrients that can cause toxic algae blooms.
-  More dissolved oxygen for fish to breathe.

There is more to do to achieve water quality goals.

-  Water temperature is getting warmer, which is worse for fish.
-  Water does not always meet state standards for bacteria and dissolved oxygen.
-  Historically contaminated sediments need to be cleaned up or contained.



Pollutants can have harmful impacts on our waters, aquatic life, and health.

How do pollutants get into water?

Try to match pollutants to the pathways listed below.

Stormwater

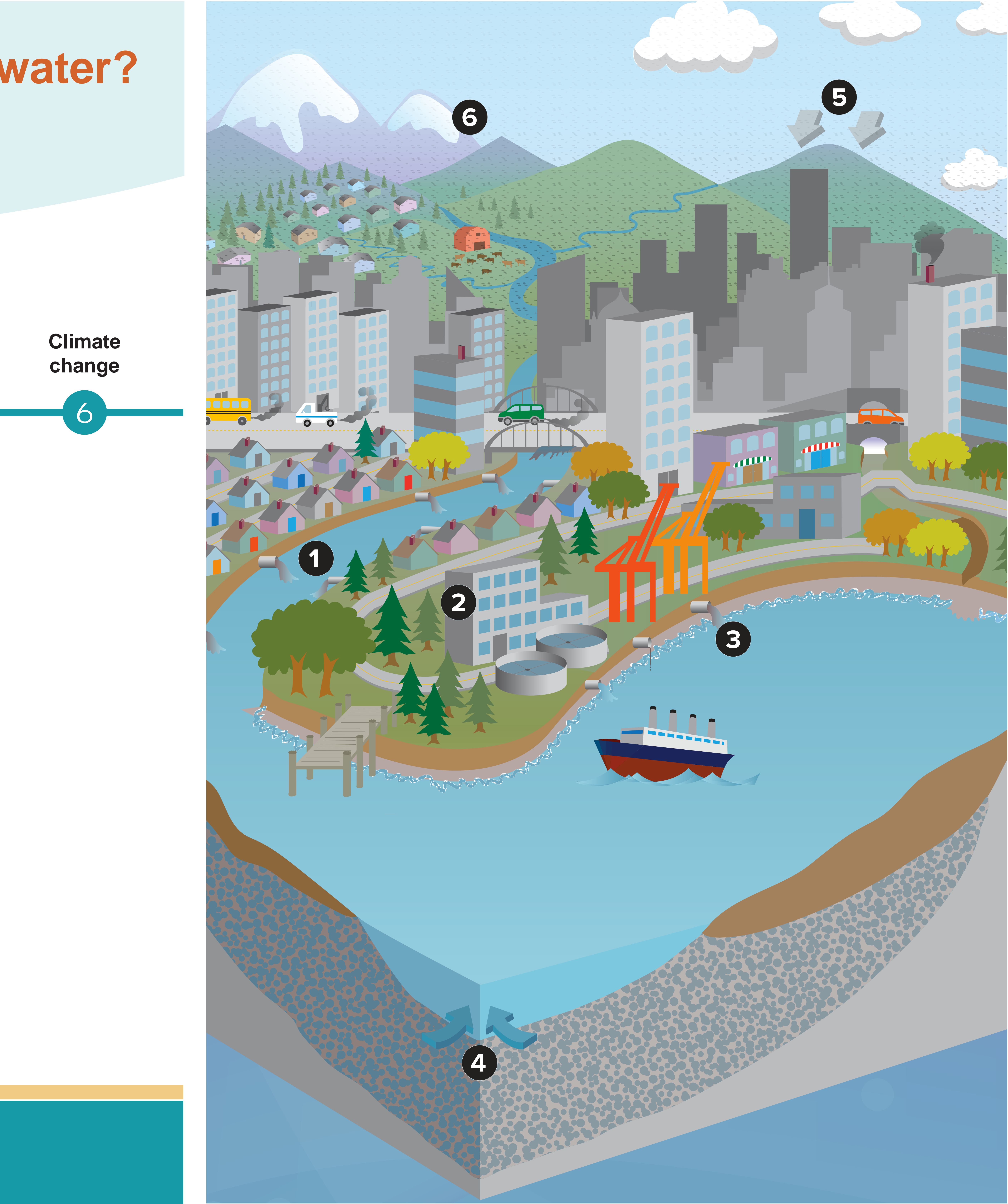
Wastewater treatment plant discharge

Overflows of untreated wastewater and stormwater

Contaminated sediments

Air pollution that settles on waterbodies

Climate change



Community engagement and the Clean Water Plan

Goals of regional engagement

- Robust dialog
- Constructive working relationships
- Confidence in the public process
- Understanding of key project decisions
- A plan that reflects regional priorities



Community priorities and the Clean Water Plan

Understanding priorities will help us answer:

- What is important for our water quality future?
- How can our investments in water quality support the priorities that are revealed through this effort?

Equity and social justice

- Committed to a fair and inclusive process
- Breaking down barriers to involvement:
 - Long-time participants
 - New, interested parties
- When we hear from everyone, we all benefit
- Preliminary interviews* affirmed the importance of:
 - Accessible and equitable outreach
 - Education
 - Engagement with tribal communities

* Organizations interviewed represent: community development, economic development, environmental, equity & social justice, immigrant & refugee support, native peoples, public advocacy, public agency, and youth/student advocacy.



What we've heard so far about community priorities

We've reviewed public opinion research and conducted preliminary interviews to get an initial sense of priorities for planning water quality investments.

- Many residents are proud of local water quality and have a connection to local waterways
- Residents are most concerned about industrial pollution in the Duwamish River
- Residents think more positively about Lake Washington and Puget Sound water quality
- Housing affordability, cost of living, & transportation rank higher than water quality as concerns for residents
- The public believes the government should invest in water infrastructure
- The public is willing to pay for water quality investments within reason
- Climate change and extreme weather add uncertainty to water management and perception of needs

Preliminary interviews identified the following eight priorities as important:



Affordability & cost of living



Climate change & justice



Distributional equity



Improving environmental regulations



Protecting public health



Improving water quality



Species protection



Sustainable solutions

These findings are based on a review of local, regional, and national public opinion research from 2011-2018 and preliminary interviews with 23 local organizations conducted for the Clean Water Plan project.

Do these reflect your priorities? What is missing? We want to hear from you.

Continue the conversation

What is your relationship to Puget Sound and the rivers and lakes in our region?

Add your ideas here:



Word cloud from interview responses on priorities

What priorities are most important to consider when planning our water quality future?

Add your ideas here:

What suggestions do you have for community organizations, meetings, or events to include in the conversation?

Add your ideas here:

Why the Clean Water Plan?

Our region has important decisions to make.

King County needs to update its wastewater plan to make the right investments at the right time.



A history of success

Our region's history provides proof that we can pull off huge feats to benefit our people and environment. We have a strong track record for tackling tough water quality problems.



Water quality is critical to our region

Our relationship to water is part of what makes this region special. Our health, safety, cultures, economic and employment opportunities, and natural resources are all connected to how we use and treat our water. King County is committed to protecting public health and the environment.



An important investment

King County is undertaking this large planning effort because it is facing critical—and expensive—decisions that will affect the region's water quality.

The Clean Water Plan represents a community investment that is a major opportunity to contribute to the economic, social and ecological health of the region.



A need to maintain and repair infrastructure

King County has hundreds of miles of pipes, pumps, tanks, treatment plants, and other equipment to carry and treat wastewater, some of which is over 50 years old, that needs to be upgraded or replaced to prevent system failures and pollution events.



Serving the people who live here

Our region is experiencing rapid growth and a changing climate. The plan must focus future investment on actions that bring the greatest gains to orcas, salmon and the people who live here.



Goal of the plan

With many pressing water quality priorities, King County needs to update its wastewater plan so that we make the right investments at the right time for the future of our communities, our health, our environment, and how we use and take care of our water for decades to come.

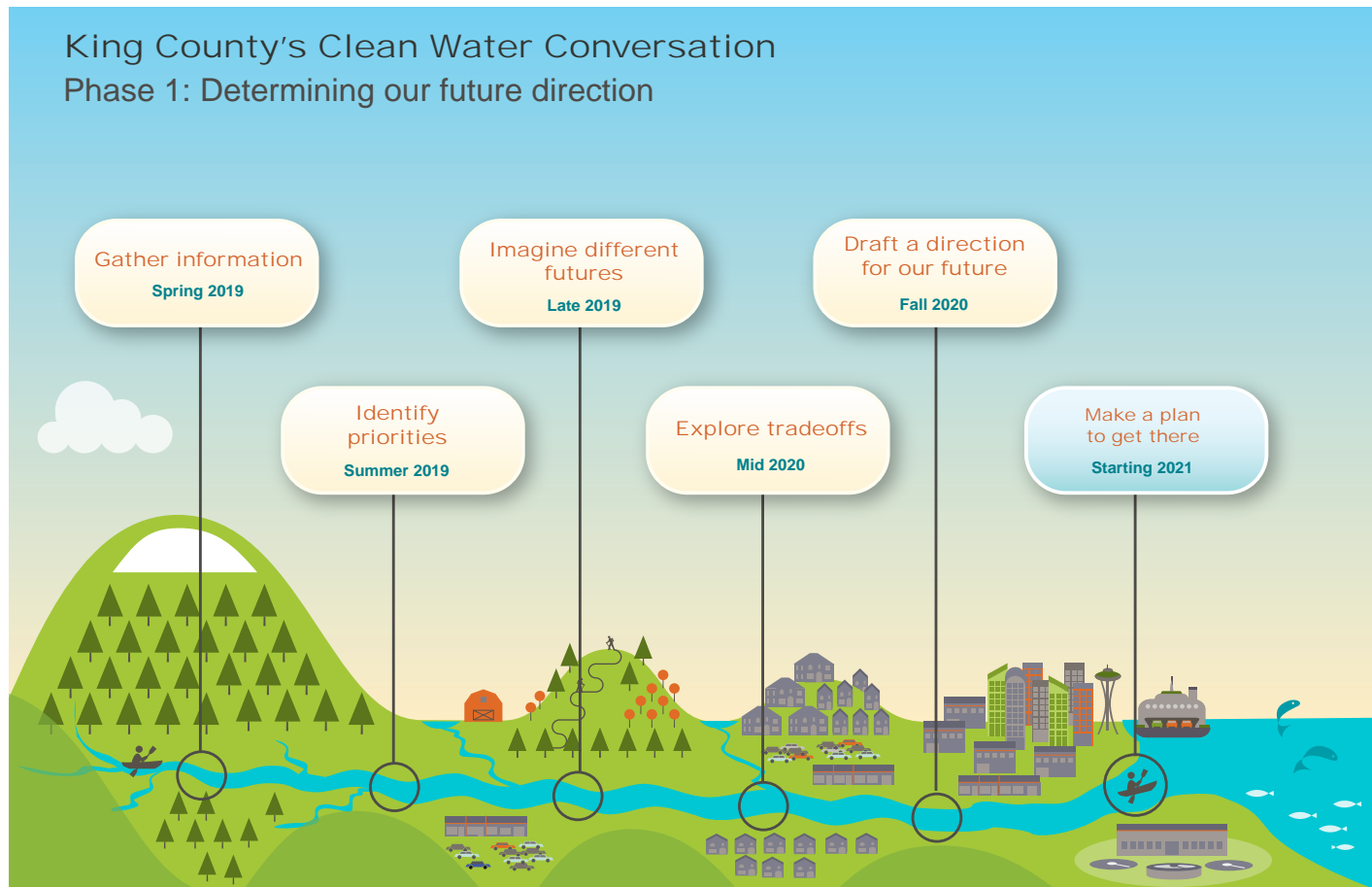


We are convening a conversation around the Clean Water Plan because we want to listen to you on the best ways to make these investments.

This is an opportunity for you to share what's important to you when thinking about the future of our communities, our health, our environment, and how we use and take care of our water for decades to come.

Why the Clean Water Plan?

King County is undertaking this large planning effort because it is facing critical—and expensive—decisions that will affect the region's water quality.



Preliminary water quality planning drivers

Water Quality



Environmental Indicators



Funding and Financing



Population Growth



Aging Infrastructure



Environmental Regulations



Climate Change



Technology



Other



Trends that can shape our future

Topic	Which of these topics and trends are most important to consider? Why? <i>Write your ideas or add post-it notes here</i>
 Water Quality Protection	
 Environmental Indicators	
 Funding and Financing	
 Population Growth	
 Aging Infrastructure	
 Regulatory Requirements	
 Climate Change	
 Technology	

Trends that can shape our future

What other topics and trends should we consider?

Add your ideas on post-it notes here.