



October 2019

Your ideas about the Clean Water Plan

[Online clean water questionnaire](#) closes Nov. 1 -- tell us what you think

Since spring 2019, we have been talking with people about the [Clean Water Plan](#) and listening to their priorities for our rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound.

King County Wastewater Treatment Division has important water quality investment decisions to make. The decisions will have benefits and tradeoffs for regional water quality and public spending for decades to come. The investments could cost billions of dollars over the coming decades. The Clean Water Plan is part of King County's focus on [Clean Water, Healthy Habitat](#). It will help us make the right investments at the right time for the best water quality outcomes.

We are asking community members to share what is important to them when thinking about the future of our communities, our health, and our environment. We want to hear about the best ways to use and take care of our water for decades to come.

The Clean Water Plan [online questionnaire will close on November 1](#). Please take a moment to tell us what you think.

People value our water bodies

In our conversations, people have emphasized how much they value our region's water bodies. These are the major themes we are hearing:

- Protect and restore our rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound
- Prepare for and fight climate change
- Avoid sewer system failures
- Protect public health
- Support healthy habitats for fish and wildlife
- Keep rates affordable for a growing region
- Ensure benefits and impacts are experienced equitably
- Communicate with the public about the plan
- Maintain an effective wastewater treatment workforce
- Increase collaboration between agencies and departments
- Prioritize the best water quality outcomes for our investments



People want to be involved

We are committed to a fair and inclusive planning process. One goal is to break down barriers to involvement and hear from all kinds of people – including long-time participants in water quality discussions and new, interested parties.

To do this, we offered a range of opportunities to get involved. We invited people to join us in the ways that worked for them.

- Interviews/briefings with community leaders and community based organizations
- An advisory group with members representing diverse communities and perspectives
- A workshop for long-time participants in water quality discussions and new, interested parties
- Online open house, questionnaire, webpage, and fact sheet
- Presentations and conversations with communities, employees, and youth
- Booths at fairs and festivals in diverse communities staffed by multicultural teams

What happens next

After the online questionnaire closes on November 1, you will still find information from our online open house on the [Clean Water Plan website](#). We will also post a full summary of what we heard in our [online library](#).

This fall we are preparing technical reports and materials that describe the issues King County Wastewater Treatment Division is facing and some of the decisions we have to make. We are reviewing the priorities we heard to make sure we have covered the issues people care about.

We will have more opportunities to be involved in 2020.

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