

Skagit County Public Health

# Schedule of Charges Update



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# General Overview - Fees

- Public Health is funded by grants, fees and general fund dollars.
- Last major revision 2019
- Drinking water added 2021
- Partial updates April 2023



# Affected Programs

- Retail Food Safety
- Living Environment (pools, spas, camps)
- Liquid Waste - On-Site Septic Systems
- Drinking Water – Quality & Quantity
- Solid & Hazardous Waste



# Program Work

- Review & approve facility plans and applications
- Require operating permits
- Provide education & enforcement through technical assistance, routine inspections and follow up inspections
- Investigate complaints and potential food and water borne illness cases and outbreaks



# Resources Needed - People

Our most valuable resource!

- 14 FTE in Environmental Health
  - 4.5 EHS in Food Safety & Living Environment
  - 4 EHS in Liquid Waste & Drinking Water
  - 2.5 EHS in Solid & Hazardous Waste
  - 2 FTE dedicated administrative support
  - 1 EH Manager
- Initial & ongoing training to assure competency



# Resources Needed - Equipment

- Computers
- Mobile devices
- Vehicles
- Inspection tools
- Sampling & testing supplies



# Numbers:

## Drinking Water & On-Site Sewage

	2023 Permits	2024 Permits (YTD)
Drinking Water Reviews *	78	85
OSS - Site Evaluations	66	70
OSS - New or Repair	293	284

\* Water reviews – not including large Group A water reviews



# Numbers: Food & Living Environment

	2023		2024	
	Inspections	Permits	Inspections	Permits
Food Establishments	1570	873	1353	864
Temporary food events	286	373	289	350
Pools & Spas	93	54	66	52
Youth camps	8	9	6	9

	2023	2024
Change of Ownership	32	47
Remodel	28	29
New Construction	17	28
Complaints	113	165





# How we cover costs

- Fees assessed based on cost to provide the service
- 2024/2025 fee schedule updates based on:
  - Actual costs of program services
  - Risk posed to the public
  - Time required to assess and inspect for these risks

Fees based on Risk & Time spent to permit and inspect



# Fee Update Overview

- EH permit fees - designed to support program costs
- Clarify some permit categories
- Propose moderate increases across most fees in all the programs
- Update the hourly rate
- propose annual COLA increases with periodic review



# Review & Decision Process

- Solicit comments and input from public and business community
- Notify all establishments with permits of proposed changes via mail, email and website
- Hold public meetings and public hearing
- Tentative review and decision process occurring now through early 2025



# Contact Information

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