

Skagit County Public Health

Schedule of Charges Proposal 2025



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General Overview - Fees

- Public Health is funded by grants, fees and general fund dollars.
- Last major revision 2019
- Drinking water review 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 via technical assistance, routine inspections and follow up inspections
- Investigate complaints, potential illness cases and outbreaks
- Review and approve OSS and drinking water permits



Numbers:

Drinking Water & On-Site Sewage

	2023 Permits	2024 Permits (YTD)
Drinking Water Reviews *(individual & Grp B)	78	99
OSS - site eval, repair, new	378	420

* Water reviews – not including large Group A water reviews



Numbers: Food & Living Environment

	2023		2024	
	Inspections	Permits	Inspections	Permits
Food Establishments	1570	873	1400	870
Temporary food events	286	373	295	360
Pools & Spas	93	54	66	52
Youth camps	8	9	6	9

	2023	2024
Change of Ownership	32	50
Remodel	28	29
New Construction	17	28
Complaints	113	165



How We Cover Costs

- Fees assessed based on cost to provide the service
- 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 - support program costs
- Propose moderate increases across most fees in all the programs - 2025
- Update hourly rate- \$125 in 2025
- propose annual 3% COLA increases 2026 & 2027



Clarify Categories

- Food Establishment plan reviews
 - 3 tiers
- School Plan reviews
 - 4 types. Based on average time



Certified Food Protection Manager

- Add option to provide class and fee to cover expense
- Provide proctor and retest capability



Updates & New Categories Development Permits

- OSS
 - wet season review
 - system abandonment
 - reinspection
- Plan review for development permits
Residential Site Plan review



Solid & Hazardous Waste

- 15 permitted facilities
- Fees increased to:
 - cover costs of service
 - match neighboring counties
- Solid Waste Surcharge:
 - Respond to complaints, enforcement
 - Inquiries & technical assistance
 - Voucher program



Civil Penalties and Charges

- No increase proposed to the civil penalties
- Propose 3% charge to cover expense of credit card transactions
- Propose late fee increase from \$50 to \$75



Review & Decision Process

- Review and decision process occurring during 2024 through early 2025
- Work session November 4, 2024
- December 17, 2024 Board of Health Meeting. Discuss proposed fee updates



Review & Decision Process

- Solicit public comments and input from public and business community
- Proposed Public Hearing and potential decision. January 14, 2025
- Proposed effective date - February 2025



Contact Information and Comments

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