

NEWSLETTER



*Dan Sulak,
Water
Quality
Analyst*

NEW CLEAN WATER PROGRAM MEMBERS

Introducing our new members, Dan Sulak, Water Quality Analyst; and Leanne Ingman, Natural Resource Technician. They both have valuable experience to add to our Pollution Identification and Correction team and we are excited to see what they can do.

You will most likely see them out and about taking water samples. Water samples help to track water quality and to identify locations with high levels of bacteria.

Feel free to stop and say hi.

WORK FROM HOME FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The Clean Water Program could use your help. Healthy communities start with each and everyone of us. This is why we are asking you to look at your yard to see what you can do to reduce harmful bacteria getting picked up by rainwater and brought into our waterways.

Harmful bacteria can come from plant, animal and human waste. Look inside this newsletter for tips on what you can do around your yard.



*Leanne
Ingman,
Natural
Resource
Technician*

HEALTHY WATERWAYS START WITH YOU

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP:

① **MANAGE YARD WASTE**

Managing yard waste is one way that you can stop pollution. As piles of yard waste degrade, bacteria and nutrients can contribute to water quality problems like algae blooms and fish kills.

- **LEAVE IT AND MULCH IT-** leave grass clippings and mulched leaves on your lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- **COMPOSTING-** collect your yard waste in a compost bin and reduce it into useable soil.
- **REMOVE-** For information on locations and pick up services, visit: bit.ly/YardWasteLocations



*Never
dump yard
waste near
a stream or
ditch*

② **SEPTICS: INSPECT IT TO PROTECT IT**

To keep up with regular maintenance, onsite septic systems (OSS) should be inspected every year, or every three years if you have a gravity system.

You can also maintain your system with these simple tricks:

- **Don't Strain the Drain.** Fix leaks to prevent wasted water and spread out water use to reduce stress on your system.
- **Don't Overload the Commode.** Only pee, poo and toilet paper down the toilet. Even items labeled as "flushable" can clog pipes, build up in your system, and prompt more frequent pumping.
- **Think at the Sink.** Limit the use of a garbage disposal and don't rinse coffee grounds or grease down the drain.



*Septic
Inspection*

Rebates for inspections are available!

————— *For more information on rebates, tips and a Septics 101 course visit:* —————

skagitcounty.net/septic

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PICK UP PET POOP AND PUT IT IN THE TRASH

We played the poo toss game at the fair! We had lots of fun meeting everyone. You all did such a great job picking up the poo and getting it in the trash.

Leaving pet poop on the ground can make your pet sick. It is important to remember to throw it away when you are recreating and at home. Pet poop should be double bagged and put in the trash - not the yard waste.

You can also flush pet poop, but remember that this adds another "person" to your household septic system, and you'll have to pump more often. Call your inspector to make sure your system can handle it.

Visit Poopsmart.org for more information.

Kids playing the Poo Toss game at the Skagit County Fair.



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MANAGE MANURE

We all love our farm animals, but we have to admit that manure happens, and it happens a lot. It is very important to manage manure for the health of our animals and the health of our waterways.

Scoop it, Store it, and Shield it.

Scoop it- clear manure at least every 2-3 days, especially in your heavy use area.

Store it- Store manure in a designated location such as a manure bin. Your storage should be convenient but out of the way of your heavy use area. Keep in mind storage capacity, as it will continue to fill until you can share compost or spread it on your pastures.

Shield it- Cover your manure with a tarp or roof to shield it from rainwater.



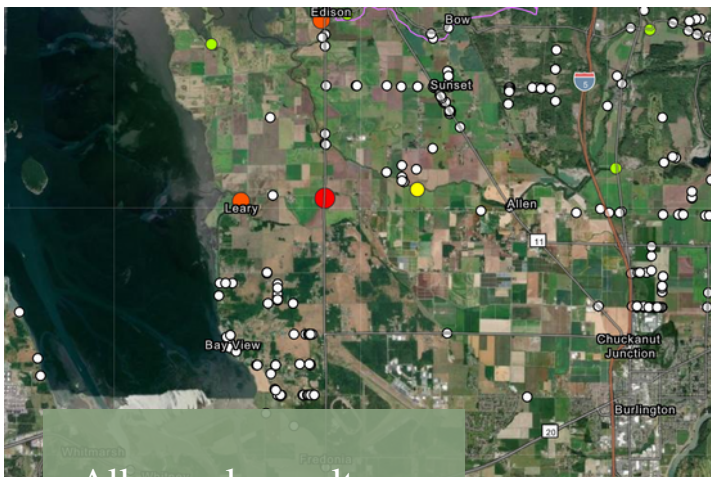
Covered manure storage

Contact the Skagit Conservation District for information about available resources to construct a manure storage bin.

skagitcd.org/farming-resources



Skagit County Public Works Department
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



All sample results are
uploaded to this map

FOLLOW ALONG WITH OUR SAMPLING

The Clean Water Program will continue to work towards a healthier waterways in your area. You can follow along with our sampling efforts by checking in with our water quality map.

Find the map at bit.ly/SkagitWQ

Learn More!

skagitcounty.net/cleanwater

Find us on 

@SkagitCountyCleanWater

 YouTube

bit.ly/CleanWaterYouTube

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER 12, 7-9pm: ELECTRIC FENCE CLASS:

Facts, Myths and Troubleshooting. Call 360-395-2370 to register.
WSU Extension and the Skagit Conservation District

NOVEMBER 5: SALMON SIGHTINGS AT OYSTER CREEK

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, <https://skagitfisheries.org/events>