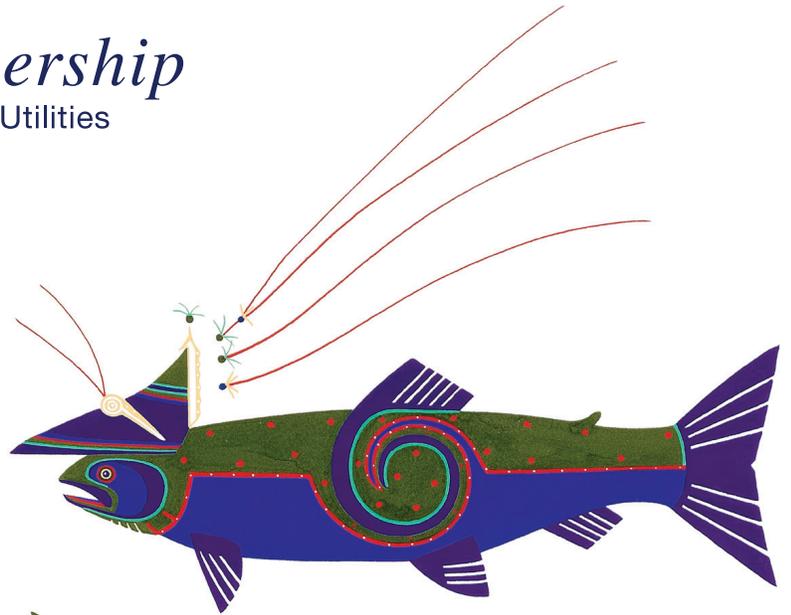




*Saving Water Partnership*

Seattle and Participating Local Water Utilities

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



*Saving water benefits people, salmon, and wildlife*

## Program Overview

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP) is a collaboration of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and 18 water utility partners that purchase water from Seattle. The SWP's conservation program emphasizes long-term water use efficiency for residential and commercial customers.

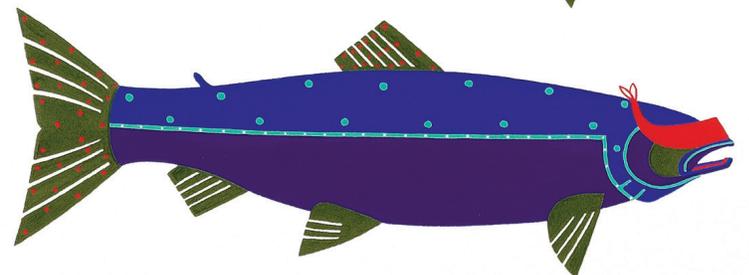
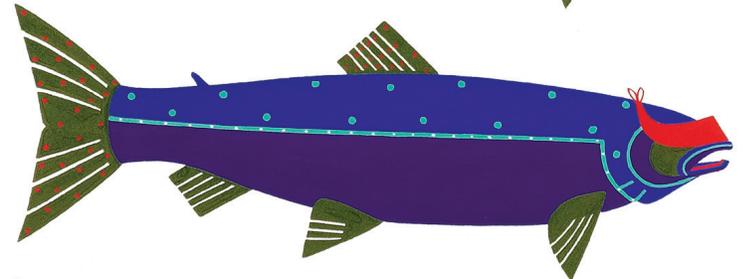
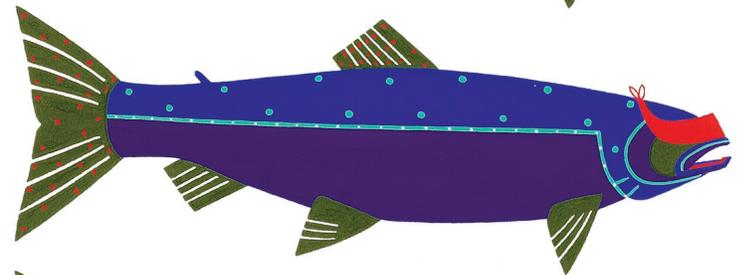
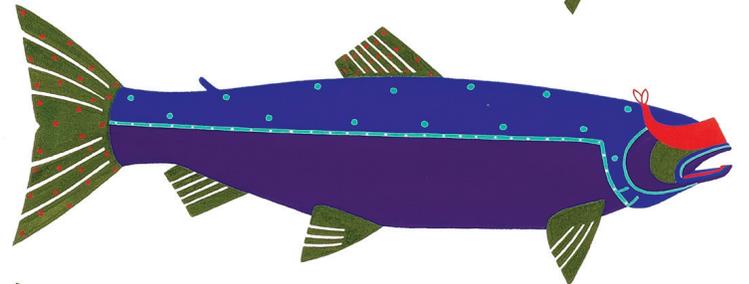
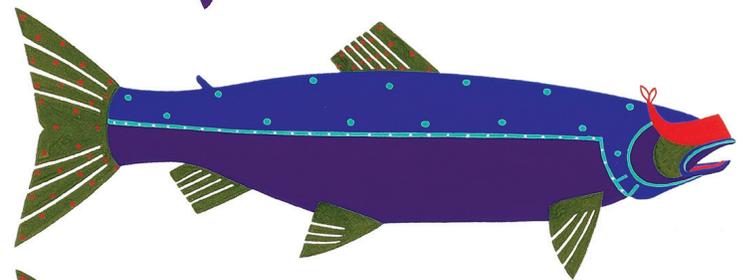
In 2013, the SWP renewed emphasis on community and youth education. The program continues to include educational campaigns for efficient water use in the landscape. The program also continues to include cost-sharing with customers who retrofit old water-using equipment with new equipment that is more efficient than required by national and state appliance and fixture codes.

Collectively, the SWP is working to achieve the region's adopted Water Use Efficiency Goal in compliance with the State of Washington Water Use Efficiency Rule. SWP program direction and the regional Goal are set by management from member utilities.

*Conservation prepares the region for potential water supply challenges, helps customers use water wisely, and preserves the ethic of stewarding natural resources.*

AUGUST 2014

SEATTLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM  
REGIONAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM



# REGIONAL WATER USE EFFICIENCY GOAL AND 2013 RESULTS

The Saving Water Partnership has adopted a six-year regional Water Use Efficiency Goal: reduce per capita use from current levels so that the Saving Water Partnership's total average annual retail water use is less than 105 million gallons per day (mgd) from 2013 through 2018, despite forecasted population growth.

In 2013, the Saving Water Partnership, with the support of residential and commercial customers, met the goal, using 93.1 mgd. The cost of implementing the SWP program in 2013 was \$2.2 million.

The following elements contribute to achieving the regional Water Use Efficiency Goal:

**Programmatic Savings:** Savings from customers who change their behavior or install efficient equipment as a result of SWP programs.

**Code Savings:** Savings that occur as customers replace older, less-efficient water-using fixtures with new more-efficient models required by federal or state codes or standards. These savings are also achieved as new buildings are built using efficient code-compliant equipment.

**Other Savings:** Savings from customers who switch to more efficient behavior or equipment on their own. These actions are motivated by cost, concern for the environment, price signals from utility rates, and the increasing availability of fixtures and appliances that are more efficient than required by code.

## 2013 Program Highlights

- A new youth education program was launched, curriculum developed, and 50 in-classroom presentations conducted for nearly 1,300 K-12 grade students. Topics included water efficiency, the water cycle, the salmon life cycle, waterwise gardening, and the water supply system. Additionally, 5,200 students from 12 schools in North City Water District participated in the Fix-A-Leak-Week challenge, searching for leaks at home.



*The Saving Water Partnership launched new in-classroom programs for schools. These programs support water conservation and science learning standards.*



*Jaime Placencia of North City Water District encourages students to check for leaks at home during Fix-A-Leak-Week.*



*King's Schools students in Shoreline form a giant water drop to celebrate Fix-A-Leak-Week.*

- The SWP provided materials for more than a dozen community festivals and staffed six festivals in Bothell, Renton, Seattle, Shoreline, and Woodinville, attended by 6,300 customers.



*Aparna Khanal from the City of Bothell talked with customers stopping by the SWP/Bothell booth at the Sustainamania Festival. 350 people attended the event.*

- The Savvy Gardener program presented 17 gardening classes in spring and fall 2013 to 300 residential customers. These classes were designed to inspire, create, and maintain healthy, water-efficient landscapes.

- The SWP sponsored a new local gardening TV show, "Seattle Dig In", and produced four videos with Marianne Binetti, celebrity garden writer and radio show host. The 3-5 minute videos, **Plant in Fall for a Stronger Garden; Mulch Your Soil; Go Natural with Your Lawn; How to Use a Soaker Hose**, are available at [www.savingwater.org/LawnGarden/index.htm](http://www.savingwater.org/LawnGarden/index.htm).



*The Saving Water Partnership produced four new gardening videos featuring Marianne Binetti.*

## 2013 Program Activities

- A new and improved regional website, [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) was launched. Usability testing confirmed that the new site is customer-friendly.
- The SWP began promoting in mid-year the new 1.06 gallons per flush (gpf) Premium WaterSense toilets for residential and commercial customers. These toilets use at least 20% less water than a regular WaterSense toilet.
- 65 apartment & condominium buildings upgraded nearly 1,600 toilets to 1.06 gpf Premium WaterSense models and nearly 1,300 toilets to 1.28 gpf regular WaterSense models.
- Water efficiency projects were completed at 81 businesses. Two of these projects replaced nearly 400 toilets with Premium WaterSense models. A particularly innovative project was Valley Medical Center in Renton which re-commissioned equipment and installed new toilets, urinals, showerheads, and faucet aerators using a water and energy conservation performance contract. Many smaller businesses benefited from SWP projects as well.



*Juan Montiel, owner of El Quetzal Restaurant, took advantage of incentives and behavior change information to help his business use water more efficiently.*

- The Water Smart Technology Program introduced “Cool Tunes,” a program to upgrade equipment and monitor the efficiency of cooling towers, long a significant source of water waste.
- Six large commercial customers benefited from water-efficient irrigation projects. Trainings for irrigation professionals were increased from once a year to quarterly.

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY LEVEL
<b>Youth Education</b>	
Classroom Presentations	50 presentations / 1,300 students
<b>Community Outreach</b>	
Festivals and Events	6 festivals staffed / 6,300 attendees
<b>Residential Landscape Education</b>	
Savvy Gardener Classes	17 classes / 300 attendees
Garden Hotline	1,014 water efficiency questions 11,031 soil, lawn and plant questions (many relevant to water efficiency)
New Gardening Videos	4 videos produced
Natural Yard Care Guides and Fact Sheets	13,650 brochures distributed
<b>Residential Toilets</b>	
Multifamily WaterSense Toilets	35 buildings / 1,295 toilets
Multifamily Premium WaterSense Toilets	30 buildings / 1,580 toilets
Single Family WaterSense Toilets	994 homes / 994 toilets
Single Family Premium WaterSense Toilets	56 homes / 56 toilets
<b>Commercial Equipment</b>	
Kitchen Measures	49 projects
Restroom Measures	18 projects; 846 fixtures
Custom Projects	5 projects
Cooling / Refrigeration / Ice	5 projects
Laundry Systems	4 projects
<b>Irrigation Projects</b>	
Landscape Irrigation	6 projects
<b>Landscape Professionals Trainings</b>	
Irrigation Contractor Trainings	4 trainings / 141 attendees
Regional Collaboration (Local Hazardous Waste Management Green Gardening Program)	19 trainings / 524 attendees

### Supporting Elements

#### For Customers

- Technical assistance to residential and commercial customers on irrigation efficiency issues.
- Technical assistance to commercial customers on indoor efficiency issues.
- Regional website [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).
- Regional hotline 206-684-SAVE.
- Regional Language Line, offering language interpretation by phone.
- Take-home items including toilet leak detection kits and hose washers.

#### For Partner Utilities

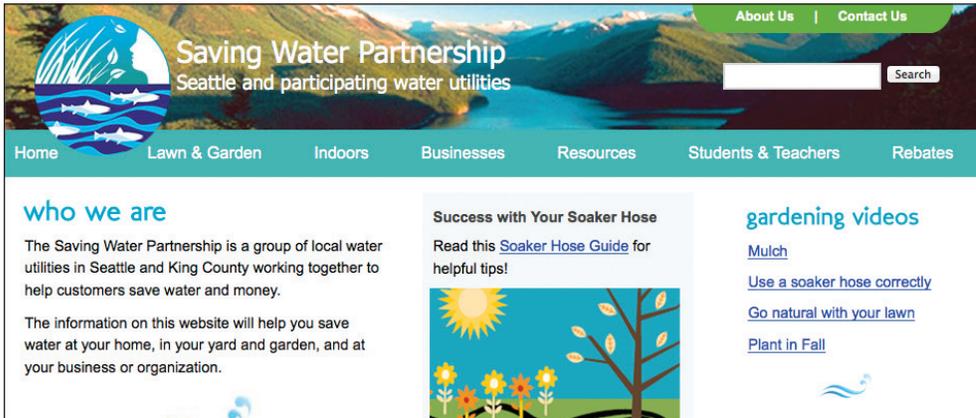
- Seasonal message repository for use in utility newsletters and other communications.
- Support for Water Use Efficiency Rule reporting.
- Saving Water Partnership annual report.
- Messaging on water conservation benefits for salmon, in fulfillment of resource agency and tribal agreements.



City of Renton's interactive aquifer is a hit with customers at community festivals.



1,300 students participated in the new youth education program.



The regional website, [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org), gets an average of 150 visitors a day in the summer.



## Seattle Regional Water Conservation Service Area



### Saving Water Partnership:

- Cedar River Water & Sewer District
- City of Bothell
- City of Duval
- City of Mercer Island
- City of Renton
- Coal Creek Utility District
- Highline Water District
- North City Water District
- Northshore Utility District
- Olympic View Water & Sewer District
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Soos Creek Water & Sewer District
- Water District Number 20
- Water District Number 45
- Water District Number 49
- Water District Number 90
- Water District Number 119
- Water District Number 125
- Woodinville Water District

## 2,000 Customers Can't Be Wrong

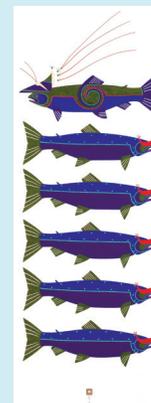
\$75 rebate on WaterSense toilets  
\$150 rebate on Premium Efficiency WaterSense toilets

### What Are You Waiting For?

- Save Money: reduce your water bill 15-25%
- Reduce Maintenance: WaterSense toilets are more reliable
- Property owners and managers love the program

Learn about the new 1.06 gallon per flush **Premium Toilets** at [bit.ly/PremiumToilets](http://bit.ly/PremiumToilets). For rebate information call 206-615-1282 or visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).

This ad for the Multifamily Toilet Rebate Program appeared in the Rental Housing Association and On-Site newspapers during 2013.



For TTY assistance please call (206) 233-7241. This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language assistance.

Cover art: "Upstream" (detail) By Thomas Stream 2006, print, 35" x 12"