



2025 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Program Overview	3
Water Use Efficiency Goal and 2025 Results	5
2025 Program Highlights	6
Youth Education	6
Community Outreach & Education	8
Single & Multifamily Indoor Programs.	10
Commercial Indoor Programs	11
Landscape Programs	12
2025 Program by the Numbers	13

**Future generations
are counting on us.**

*Each gallon you save helps
keep water in our rivers and
lakes to sustain salmon,
wildlife, and forests.*



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Who We Are

The Saving Water Partnership is an organization comprised of 19 water utilities in King and Snohomish counties working together to preserve our region’s shared water resources. Together, we provide tips, tools, and rebates to help residents and businesses use water more efficiently not just for today, but for future generations.

What We Do

We offer a range of programs and resources that encourage residents and businesses to use water wisely, helping foster a regional conservation ethic:

Education & Outreach: Engaging the public and sharing information through school presentations, trainings, community events, and other resources that promote water stewardship.

Technical Assistance: Helping residents and businesses assess their water use, find and fix leaks, communicate with employees and tenants, and identify ways to reduce water use and implement efficiency upgrades.

Financial Incentives: Offering rebates to replace older fixtures and equipment with efficient products such as toilets and sprinkler timers.

Why Using Water Wisely Matters

Water is a precious, shared resource. While the Pacific Northwest is surrounded by water and known for its rainfall, our summers are generally very dry. In fact, the Seattle area gets less rain in July and August than Tucson, Arizona.

Our water supply depends on spring rains and snowpack in the Cascade Mountains. The snowpack gradually melts, refilling our reservoirs and providing drinking water through the dry summer months until the fall rains arrive again. As climate patterns shift, using water wisely is one of the most impactful everyday actions people can take to support a resilient future.

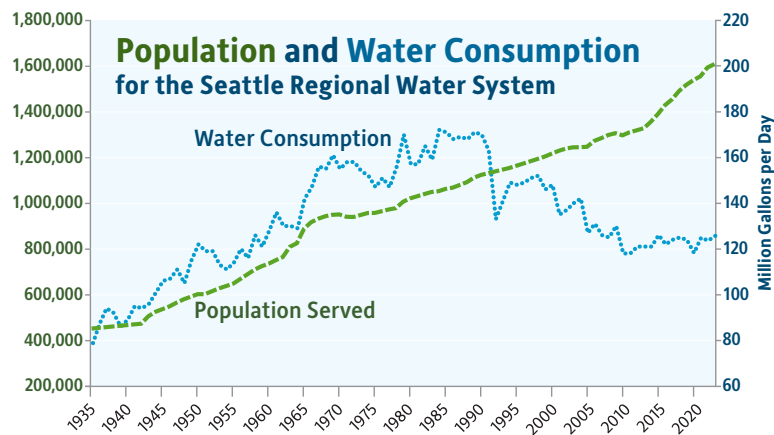
Members of the Saving Water Partnership toured the Tolt Watershed and filtration plant in July.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

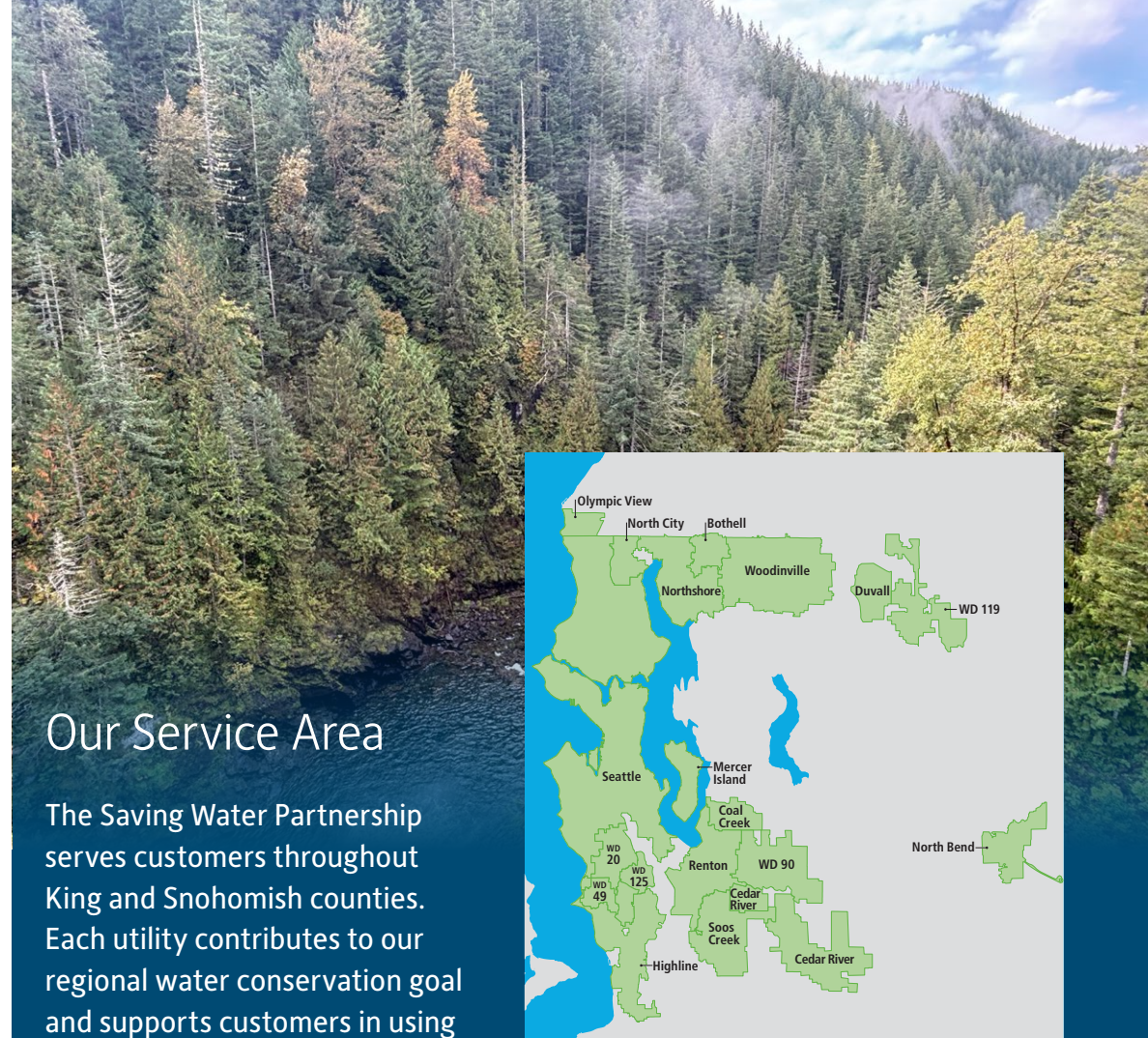
Working Together as a Region

Members of the Saving Water Partnership have been committed to saving water since the 1980s. **Thanks to conservation efforts over the decades, the Seattle region uses about as much water today as it did in the 1950s, despite a population that has more than doubled.** Today, we serve 1.4 million customers. This collective effort demonstrates that by working together, our actions add up to make a big difference.



Looking Ahead to 2026

As we build on decades of conservation success, we will continue partnering with our customers to use water wisely while crafting thoughtful solutions to emerging challenges.



Our Service Area

The Saving Water Partnership serves customers throughout King and Snohomish counties. Each utility contributes to our regional water conservation goal and supports customers in using water more efficiently.



Saving Water Partnership Members

Cedar River Water & Sewer District, City of Bothell, City of Duvall, City of Mercer Island, City of North Bend, City of Renton, Coal Creek Utility District, Highline Water District, King County Water District 20, King County Water District 90, North City Water District, Northshore Water District, Olympic View Water & Sewer District, Seattle Public Utilities, Soos Creek Water & Sewer District, Water District 49, Water District 119, Water District 125, Woodinville Water District

Water Use Efficiency Goal and 2025 Results



The Saving Water Partnership has set a 10-year regional Water Use Efficiency Goal for 2019-2028: to keep the total average annual retail use of Saving Water Partnership member utilities under 110 million gallons per day through 2028, despite projected population growth, by reducing per capita water use.

In 2025, total water use was 97.9 million gallons per day. Thanks to the collective efforts of our residential and commercial customers, we successfully met the goal. The cost of implementing the water conservation program in 2025 was \$1.5 million.

The regional goal aligns with the State of Washington Municipal Water Law (RCW 70.119A.180) and the Water Use Efficiency Rule (Chapter 246-290-800-WAC). It is set by the Seattle Regional Water Supply System Operating Board and adopted by all Saving Water Partnership member utilities.

How We Achieve the Goal

We achieve the Water Use Efficiency Goal when customers make intentional choices. This could be changing habits, adopting water-wise behaviors, and installing water-efficient fixtures. Motivations for making these choices vary: concern for the environment, financial savings, and commitment to future generations.

Water savings fall into three key categories:

Conservation Program Savings: These are achieved through our programs that promote water-efficient equipment and behaviors, going beyond state and federal codes, and including measures not covered by existing standards.

Codes and Standards Savings: These result from replacing older fixtures with new, efficient models that meet federal or state codes, as well as water-efficient equipment in new construction.

Independent Savings: These are achieved by customers making efficiency choices on their own, without direct influence from programs or regulatory standards.



2025 Program Highlights

Students map connections between salmon, humans, and ecosystems.



Youth Education

The Saving Water Partnership's youth education program continues to inspire the next generation to value the environment and use water responsibly. By connecting students to the natural world, our programs are helping to foster a lifelong water conservation ethic.

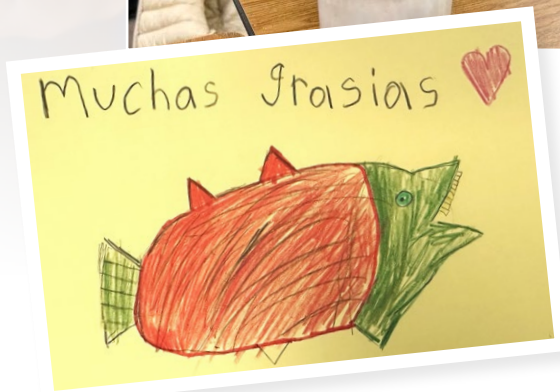
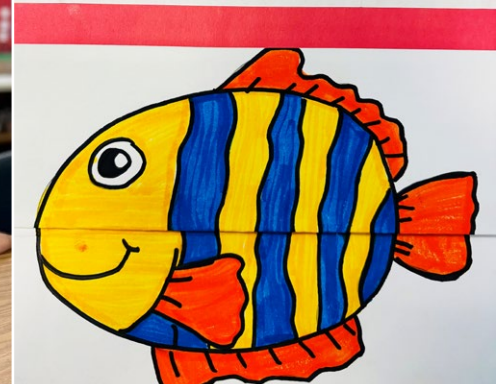
Students in kindergarten through eighth grade discovered how water moves through the environment, why healthy soil supports healthy ecosystems, and the incredible journey salmon take from stream to sea and back.

Through hands-on, inquiry-driven lessons, program educators helped spark curiosity and encouraged students to think like scientists and environmental stewards.

In 2025, we reached 14,458 students through 631 presentations across the Saving Water Partnership's service area. This program continues to receive strong support and enthusiasm from students and teachers alike.



Dear Nature Vision,
Thank you for teaching our class about salmon. I learned ^{how salmon go} to the ocean. I liked the Puppets. Love, Jamina



Top left: Student learning about water retention in different soil types.

Drawings: Thank you notes from students who participated in the Salmon Cycle presentation.



Students explore the life cycle of the Pacific salmon and its role as a keystone species in the Pacific Northwest.



New Nature Vision educators tour the Cedar River Watershed to learn about one of the sources of our drinking water.



Thank you notes from students showcase lessons learned from youth education presentations.



I thought the lesson was planned out beautifully. The students were highly engaged and the lesson provided a multitude of learning with independent packets, hands-on creating, and whole group instruction. They were excited to practice ways they can conserve water. I even had a student come back the next day to share that he is taking ‘7-minute showers’ so he can save water.”

— 2nd grade teacher at Brookside Elementary, North City Water District

After the visit, several students began making real-world connections between water and soil. They started asking questions like, ‘Does water help the roots breathe?’ and ‘What happens if it rains too much?’ During recess, many of them now explore the ground, looking closely at plants, puddles, and bugs. It’s clear the lesson sparked a sense of wonder and understanding about how important water is to all living things.”

— East African Community Services, Seattle Public Utilities

Several days after the presentation, students were sharing ways they were saving water at home — faucet off when brushing teeth, taking shorter showers, encouraging families to use car washes instead of washing cars at home.”

— 4th grade teacher at North Hill Elementary, Highline Water District



Community Outreach & Education

Saving Water Partnership members participated in 42 community festivals and outreach events, sharing water conservation information with residents across the region. These events engaged more than 35,000 attendees and included: Emergency Preparedness Fair (Cedar River Water & Sewer District), Sustainamania (City of Bothell), Touch a Truck (City of Duvall), Summer Celebration (City of Mercer Island), North Bend Block Party (City of North Bend), Earth Day/Arbor Day Neighborhood Picnic (City of Renton), Newcastle Days (Coal Creek Utility District), Water Conservation Calendar Contest (Highline Water District), Celebrate Shoreline (North City Water District), Kenmore Summer Concert Series (Northshore Utility District), Planet Protector Summit (Soos Creek Water & Sewer District), Big Day of Play (Seattle Public Utilities), The Mayor's State of the City Address (Water District 125), Burien Farmer's Market (Water District 20), and Celebrate Woodinville (Woodinville Water District).

We also continued sponsoring and promoting Salmon SEEson, which is hosted by King County/Water Resource Inventory Area 8. Salmon SEEson connects community members with local streams and rivers during the fall and winter spawning season, highlighting opportunities to observe salmon in their natural habitat. The program also encourages simple, everyday actions that help protect salmon and support healthy watersheds.



City of Bothell's model toilet demonstrates how much water is used per flush at Sustainamania.



Above: Salmon SEEson promotional materials

Right: Highline Water District's annual conservation calendar contest, with artwork by Mayselinna E.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Our website, savingwater.org, remained a trusted source for conservation guidance. Site visitors can explore practical tips, how-to resources, and seasonal advice on topics such as weekly watering guidance, identifying and fixing common household leaks, and making water-wise choices indoors and outdoors.

We offer over-the-phone interpretation services and provide translated conservation materials in multiple languages. These materials are distributed to Saving Water Partnership members and community organizations to better serve our diverse customer base.

To support consistent messaging across the region, we developed and distributed an annual marketing kit for Saving Water Partnership members. The marketing kit included ready-to-use newsletter content, bill inserts, graphics, and social media posts designed to promote rebates, gardening classes, water use assessments, and conservation tips, making it easier for members to engage customers throughout the year.



At Big Day of Play, kids made miniature terrariums and learned how the water cycle works.



Soos Creek Water & Sewer District shared water conservation materials at the Maple Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair.



Northshore Utility District attended Shoreline Fire Department's Open House and Pancake Breakfast.



North City Water District talked with Lake Forest Elementary students at their science fair.



Single & Multifamily Indoor Programs

Toilet Rebate Program

We continued to support water-efficient upgrades in homes through our toilet rebate program. Available to single-family and multifamily customers, it offers a \$100 rebate to replace older, high-water-use toilets with efficient 1.1 gallon-per-flush (or better) MaP PREMIUM models. These fixtures exceed EPA WaterSense standards and deliver meaningful, long-term water savings.

In 2025, we replaced 44 toilets in 36 households, helping reduce indoor water use throughout the service area. Participation in this long-standing program has declined in recent years. Some of this decline is a result of past success—we've replaced a lot of toilets over the years, leaving fewer to replace. To help customers who are still using older toilets, we are exploring program modifications to increase awareness and participation.

In the theme of program improvements, we updated and simplified eligibility requirements based on new data about toilet performance over time. Single-family homes and smaller projects (5 or fewer toilets) no longer have an age requirement for the existing toilet. For multifamily properties and larger projects (6 or more toilets), the toilet age requirement was updated from pre-2004 to pre-2011.

Toilet Leak Sensor Pilot

We offered rebates through a pilot program at a 103-unit apartment building to help install leak detectors on toilets. This technology alerts building management when a leak is detected. The data will help in designing effective water-saving programs.



While we love a good antique, older toilets can use up to 3.5 gallons of water per flush. Replace your older toilet to save water and money.



Left: Our rebate program offers a \$100 rebate for replacing older, inefficient toilets. Right: Flow rate bags are used to quickly measure how much water a shower uses so customers can identify opportunities to save water.

Resident Leak Sweeps

In multifamily properties, we offered Resident Leak Sweeps to identify and report hidden leaks. The program encourages residents to check for leaking toilets, understand the need for timely repairs, and report issues to property managers. Residents also often spot other inefficiencies in their units, further supporting conservation efforts.

In 2025, 59 households across 3 buildings participated, uncovering 4 leaking toilets. Since a single running toilet can waste 200+ gallons per day, early detection helps conserve water, reduce costs, and support efficient water use in our communities.

Water Use Assessments & Analyses

We provided 3 in-depth water use assessments for multifamily properties, including site visits and detailed building inventories to pinpoint efficiency upgrades and operational improvements. Participating properties included The Mill at First Hill, El Patio, and Villages at South Station. We also provided 5 multifamily properties with water billing and consumption analyses to assess water use intensity.



Commercial Indoor Programs

Saving Water Partnership members continued working with commercial customers to identify cost-effective opportunities to reduce indoor water use. **In 2025, we provided 7 in-depth water use assessments, including site visits and detailed building inventories to pinpoint efficiency upgrades and operational improvements.** Participating businesses included Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Four Seasons Hotel, and Grand Central Bakery.

These assessments identified more than 1,376,000 gallons of low- or no-cost “easy action” potential annual water savings, along with over 2,193,000 gallons of quick-payback efficiency upgrades. This totaled more than 3,570,000 gallons of potential water savings each year among participating businesses.

In partnership with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, we completed a custom rebate project projected to save 1,825,000 gallons of water annually. *Note: The custom rebate program is currently paused for evaluation, and new applications are not being accepted at this time.*

In addition, 60 unique businesses received in-person water conservation outreach. We prioritized equitable service delivery, expanding outreach to communities with significant Korean-speaking populations to help ensure program information was accessible and inclusive.

**SAVE WATER
SAVE MONEY**

Get a **FREE** leak detection kit for your business.

 **SAVING WATER
PARTNERSHIP**
Make a difference. Use water wisely.

One of the images from our 2025 Marketing Kit promoting free leak detection kits for businesses.

To support smaller-scale efficiency improvements, we continued distributing water conservation kits to local businesses. Faucet aerator kits help reduce fixture water use, while leak detection kits help employees, tenants, and customers identify and report leaks. **In 2025, we distributed 54 faucet aerator kits and 51 leak detection kits.**

We also collaborated with regional partners to promote commercial conservation programs and amplify the benefits of water efficiency. Partners included Building Potential, EnviroStars, and the Seattle 2030 District, helping extend our reach and leverage shared resources.



Landscape Programs

The Savvy Gardener program continued to bring neighbors, gardeners, and community partners together to build healthy, water-wise landscapes across the region. **In 2025, we hosted 27 in-person and virtual classes for 406 participants** in collaboration with the City of Mercer Island, City of Renton, Huckleberry Gardens, King County Water District 90, Magnolia Garden Center, New Start Community Garden, North City Water District, and West Seattle Nursery. Together, participants explored practical ways to improve soil health, choose climate-appropriate plants, and water landscapes efficiently.

Additionally, **we provided 48 rebates to customers who upgraded their sprinkler timers to EPA WaterSense-labeled smart timers (also called irrigation controllers)**. These timers adjust watering schedules based on weather conditions, helping households and property managers reduce waste while maintaining thriving landscapes. The program offers \$10 per irrigation zone, up to \$100 per customer, and 54% of participants were in Saving Water Partnership service areas outside of Seattle.

We also offered 3 landscape water use assessments to help community members better understand their irrigation practices and identify opportunities to save water and reduce costs. Participating sites include the Island Lane Homeowners Association in Mercer Island, as well as Kindred Hospital and Cherrylane Townhomes in Seattle.



In partnership with the King County Housing Authority, we completed 2 custom rebate projects that replaced conventional irrigation timers with smart, weather-based timers.

These upgrades automatically adjust watering duration and frequency based on local weather conditions and are projected to save 290,972 gallons of water annually. *Note: The custom rebate program is currently paused for evaluation, and new applications are not being accepted at this time.*

Throughout the irrigation season, we shared 28 Weekly Lawn Watering Advice emails to help residents make informed watering decisions each week. These consistent reminders helped community members access timely watering guidance and practical conservation tips.

Additionally, we partnered with industry and community organizations, including the Washington Association of Landscape Professionals and the Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association, to expand outreach, share expertise, and strengthen our collective commitment to water-efficient landscapes.



Savvy Gardener class attendees learn about sustainable gardening techniques with experts Alex Soleil and Peggy Campbell.

2025 Program by the Numbers

Programs Provided to Customers	Activity Level
Youth Education	
Classroom Presentations	631 presentations 14,458 students
Community Outreach & Education	
Festivals and Events	42 festivals and events 35,289 attendees
Single & Multifamily Indoor Programs	
Single-family Premium Toilets	36 households / 44 toilets
Toilet Leak Sensor Pilot	1 building / 103 households
Resident Leak Sweeps	3 buildings / 59 households
In-depth Water Use Assessments Provided	3 assessments
Water Consumption Analyses Provided	5 analyses
Commercial Indoor Programs	
Custom Rebate Projects	1 project
Conservation Supplies Provided	54 aerator kits; 51 leak detection kits
In-depth Water Use Assessments Provided	7 assessments
Business Site Visits	60 visits
Landscape Programs	
WaterSense Timer Rebates	48 timers
Custom Rebate Projects	2 projects
Water Use Assessments Provided	3 assessments
Savvy Gardener Classes	27 classes / 406 attendees
Weekly Lawn Watering Advice	28 emails / 110 subscribers

Supporting Elements for Customers

- Technical assistance to residential and commercial customers on irrigation efficiency issues
- Technical assistance to residential and commercial customers on indoor water use efficiency issues
- Regional website www.savingwater.org
- Regional message line 206-684-SAVE
- Regional Language Line account, offering language interpretation by phone
- Outreach materials for customers including toilet leak dye strips, seed packets, faucet aerators, and more

Supporting Elements for Partner Utilities

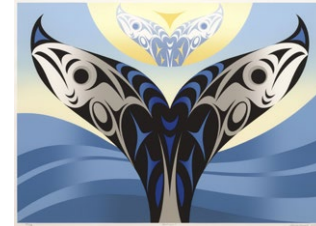
- Annual marketing kits with social media and print messages for use in utility newsletters and other communications
- Online repository of photos and graphic design tool to customize conservation messages
- Support for Water Use Efficiency Rule reporting
- Saving Water Partnership annual report
- Messaging on water conservation benefits for salmon, in fulfillment of resource agency and tribal agreements

**Saving Water Partnership
administered by:**

Seattle Public Utilities

For more information: savingwater.org

Copyright 2026 Seattle Public Utilities



Cover image: *Reflect*

Artist: Kelly Cannell, Coast Salish

Steinbrueck Native Gallery

Dimensions: 30" x 22"

Description: This shows the tail of an Orca whale and includes salmon in the tails to illustrate the relationship.

**This information can be made
available on request to accommodate
people with disabilities and those who
need language assistance.**

April 2026



**SAVING WATER
PARTNERSHIP**

Make a difference. Use water wisely.