Expanded PIC Program and OSS Management in King County

King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) will partner with Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC) to identify and address fecal pollution sources to maintain and expand the number of acres open to shellfish harvesting through reduced fecal pollution upstream of shellfish growing areas adjacent to Vashon Island, Washington, develop an efficient inspection reminder program, and if on-site sewage systems (OSS) are implicated, work to remediate failing OSS in the Poverty Bay Shellfish Protection District.

What we’re doing

- To ensure healthy beaches and open additional acres of commercial shellfish harvesting, identify and address fecal pollution sources from specified areas of Vashon Island
- Develop an efficient mechanism for reminding property owners with high-risk systems to inspect and maintain their OSS and enforcing inspection requirements when authorized by the King County Board of Health.
- When OSS are implicated as fecal pollution sources in the Poverty Bay Shellfish Protection District Area, work with local jurisdictions to investigate and remediate the pollution source and remind property owners of the need to inspect their system.
- In focus areas, the work includes educating community members about fecal pollution in their area, and work with the community to address fecal pollution.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Ensure your septic tank and drainfield are designed to treat sewage and protect Puget Sound. Have the septic system inspected to ensure it is function properly.

ABOUT KING COUNTY HEALTH DEPT

We focus our work on prevention of disease through sanitation, safe food and water, proper disposal of wastes and toxics, and promoting safe and healthy environmental conditions throughout King County. We work with Vashon Island property owners to ensure safe beaches for fishing, swimming, and shellfish harvesting. Property owners ensure their septic systems are working properly, they pick up pet waste, and ensure manure from farm animals is not causing pollution.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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