PUGET SOUND
National Estuary Program

SKAGIT COUNTY POLLUTION IDENTIFICATION & CORRECTION PROGRAM

Our team works to protect public health and water quality by finding and fixing sources of bacterial pollution in the Samish Bay and Padilla Bay watersheds.

WHAT WE DID

NEP funding allowed us to accelerate our Clean Water Program and use a greater variety of tools to assist in identifying sources of pollution. We investigated 29 water quality hotspot areas with a combination of windshield surveys, water quality monitoring, a sewage-sniffing dog, and property visits. Investigations led to the identification of 55 pollution problems on 41 properties. With the help of property owners, we fixed 35 problems on 30 properties.

We also collaborated with the University of Washington to use chemicals found in surface water to identify human and livestock sources of bacteria.

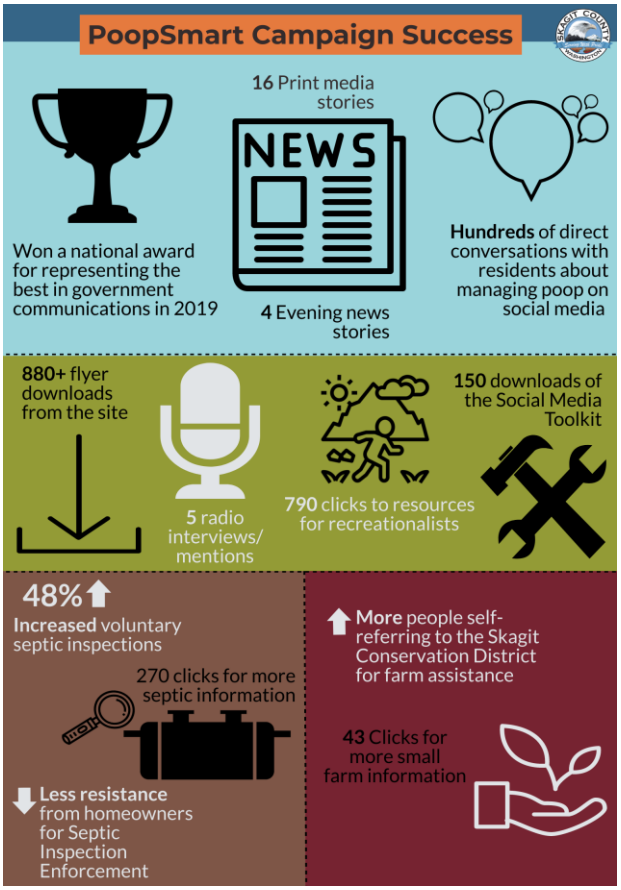
Lastly, we created the PoopSmart campaign to get the word out about our pollution problems and encourage residents to adopt pollution-preventing behaviors.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT

Clean water is important for the health of Skagit County citizens who fish and play in and around surface water, as well as for our economy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Practice good pasture and manure management, fence farm animals away from creeks and ditches, inspect septic systems regularly and fix problems promptly, scoop dog poop both at home and on trails, and use



portable toilets or otherwise appropriately manage your own waste when recreating.

ABOUT SKAGIT COUNTY

Skagit County and its Clean Samish Initiative partners are working to upgrade over 4,000 acres of shellfish beds in Samish Bay, and ensure that our rivers, creeks, and beaches are safe for our citizens to fish from and swim in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://www.skagitcounty.net/cleanwater

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