Simple Winter Water-Saving Tips

Every drop counts! Save water this winter with these conservation tips:

1. Winter is the perfect time for making plans to add or modify your landscape to use less water. Consider low-water gardens that attract wildlife, such as butterflies or birds. Or work around themes such as fragrance, edible, ornamental or native plants.

2. Check indoor fixtures for leaks and fix right away. A small leak left unattended can account for hundreds of gallons of good, clean water lost.

3. Consider replacing an existing toilet with a high-efficiency model, which uses 1.28 gallons per flush or less. Save water and protect the environment by choosing WaterSense labeled products in your home and business.

4. Insulate your water heater and water pipes. Doing so will save energy and also will cut down on the amount of water that goes down the drain while waiting for hot water to flow.

5. Install a low-flow showerhead. Skagit PUD sells high-efficiency showerhead and faucet aerator kits for just $11.

Announcing Online Bill Pay

The payment option that many customers have been asking for is now available at Skagit PUD. We are excited to announce that online payment is up and running on our website: SkagitPUD.org.

Using the Customer Portal, you will be able to link and pay multiple accounts, view your billing history, and set up automatic payments. “The program will provide a more convenient payment option and will help customers avoid late fees by offering 24/7 access to view their account information and/or pay their bill,” Community Relations Manager Kevin Tate said.

Watch for information as we roll out more features, including an automated phone payment system and a paperless billing option with email bill reminders.

Lots of Flashes
Inside the typical household, toilets use the most water. The average person flushes over five times per day (household or work). That totals nearly 2,000 flushes per person annually.

Family of Four Water Use

- Toilet Flushing: 40%
- Bath & Shower: 32%
- Laundry: 14%
- Dishwashing: 6%
- Cooking & Drinking: 5%
- Bathroom Sink: 3%

Miles of Pipe
Approximately one million miles of pipelines and aqueducts carry water in the United States and Canada. That’s enough to circle the earth 40 times. Skagit PUD has over 650 miles of pipe.

Leaks add up
Little leaks add up in a hurry. A faucet drip or invisible toilet leak that totals only two tablespoons a minute comes to 15 gallons a day. That’s 105 gallons a week and 5,406 gallons of water a year.

MV Utility Tax Increases
Effective January 1, 2016, Skagit PUD water customers who reside within the city limits of Mount Vernon will see a 1 percent increase in their city water utility tax. The new tax rate will be levied at 7 percent.
Skagit PUD is governed by three commissioners that are elected by the residents of Skagit County and serve six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis. The PUD Commissioners establish policy, approve budgets and expenditures, establish rates for services, retain the utility management, and provide oversight of the utility. PUDs are self-regulated and as such, are not regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Water service is provided on a non-profit basis, reflecting the actual cost of service.

As with any decision before the Board, citizens have numerous opportunities to comment on actions concerning the utility. As elected commissioners, they have a responsibility to ensure that provided services are financially feasible and in the best interests of the customer.

As a Skagit PUD customer-owner, you have the ability to voice concerns during every commission meeting. We hold open meetings each Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., where members of the public can observe and participate in decisions made by the Board of Commissioners.

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Making your water safe to drink

Why do we treat your water?
Water treatment is the process of cleaning water. Treatment makes the water safe for people to drink. Because it’s a good solvent, water picks up all sorts of natural pollutants. In nature, water is not always clean enough for people to drink.

How it works
Throughout the year, rainwater and melted snow are collected from streams in the area surrounding Judy Reservoir and from the Skagit River, and then stored in the reservoir for use by customers. The stored water is pumped to the water treatment plant where impurities are removed, thus ensuring that the water delivered to customers is clean and safe.

Chemicals are added to the water to remove particles and provide disinfection. The water is then gently mixed in open basins that provide for the chemicals to react with the water. The water then passes through one of eight filters. The filter media consists of a layer of coal and sand supported on gravel. Impurities are trapped in the filter and removed periodically by pumping water through the filter in the reverse direction. The filter wash water is temporarily stored in two lagoons before being returned to Judy Reservoir.

After filtration, the water is disinfected once again and then flows by gravity to three steel storage reservoirs, called clear wells, near the treatment plant. The clean water then flows into the distribution system and eventually arrives at your home safe to drink.

In the flocculation basins, chemicals continue to react with natural particles in the water, allowing them to cling together and become large enough to be removed by the filters.