DID YOU KNOW?

Shape Your Future
The 2020 Census is happening now. The census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories. The distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.

Census data are being used all around us in Skagit County. Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Taking part is your civic duty. Completing the census is mandatory: it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I COUNT!” Be counted at 2020census.gov or call (800) 923-8282.

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Tips for Using Water Wisely Outdoors

IN SKAGIT COUNTY, we live in a beautiful, thriving area and water is one of our most important resources. We must manage this limited resource carefully to ensure there is adequate water for human needs and the environment.

It’s easy to take water for granted with our plentiful rainfall, but it’s important that we each do our part to use water wisely. Doing so not only benefits the community, but also the plants, animals and fish that depend on water for survival.

Most water conservation is simple and inexpensive—just a little common sense goes a long way. Please choose the conservation tips that work best for you and start saving water today!

Outdoor Conservation Tips
Outdoors is a great place to focus on water conservation. Landscape watering, whether it's a traditional lawn, shrubs, or a garden, consumes the largest percentage of outdoor water. Thankfully, there is a lot you can do to cut down on landscape watering. The following tips can help you reduce your water use and ensure a healthy, beautiful landscape.

Water Effectively
• Water only when needed. One inch of water a week, including rainfall, is all your lawn needs.
• Match sprinklers to the area being watered to avoid watering streets and driveways.
• Water in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
• Install drip irrigation or soaker hoses in your garden areas. These provide a slow, steady supply of water to the root zone.
• Use watering timers that automatically shut-off sprinklers.
• Collect rainwater in a barrel and use it to water non-edible plants. Skagit PUD makes and sells rain barrels for $60.

Soaker Hose Benefits. The main advantage of a soaker hose is its ability to wet the soil evenly and slowly. No precious water is wasted by evaporation, and water is delivered directly to the roots. Soaker hose irrigation keeps the soil moist but never waterlogged, and the foliage remains dry. Plants are healthier and root rot and other water-related diseases are minimized.

Gardening with soaker hoses is convenient because the hoses remain stationary, which eliminates the need to drag heavy hoses every time you want to water.
Every Time You Turn On the Tap in Your Home, You Receive One of the World’s Most Precious Commodities—Fresh, Clean Drinking Water. At Skagit PUD, We Are Committed to Providing You the Safest and Most Reliable Drinking Water Possible at an Affordable Price.

Each year, Skagit PUD provides its customers with an annual Water Quality Report to let them know how our water quality stacks up against established federal and state drinking water standards. We encourage you to review this report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to your community.

To view the reports, visit https://www.skagitpud.org/media/hxflclcht/ccr2019.pdf. If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from our website or you can receive a printed version by contacting our Water Quality department at (360) 848-2135.

Everyday Conservation: TIPS FOR USING WATER WISELY OUTDOORS

Improve Soil
- Improve your soil by adding compost. Compost increases the ability of soil to hold water.
- Apply surface mulch (organic matter) around plants. This reduces evaporation.
- Aerate your lawn annually if you have compacted soil. This allows water to get to the roots.

Plant Smart
- Use native, water-wise plants. These plants require less water and less care.
- Match plants to your yard conditions. Many plants die because they are planted in the wrong location.
- Group plants according to water needs. This makes watering much more efficient.
- Plant in the spring or fall when watering requirements are lower.
- Minimize the amount of lawn. Lawns require at least twice as much water as most plants.

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Everyday Conservation: Tips for Using Water Wisely Outdoors