



Environmental Data

Objective:

Protect and restore water quality, biodiversity, open space, and ecosystems

Strategy:

Use water quality and quantity monitoring data to inform and prioritize investments in clean-ups and stormwater retrofits

Why is this strategy important?

Fresh and marine water quality is a key indicator of King County's environmental health and well-being. King County Department of Natural Resources uses water quality and quantity criteria to prioritize drainage, flooding, and restoration projects. This information is made available to decision-makers to guide the prioritizing of investments and resources to protect and restore aquatic conditions.

How is our performance?

Currently, King County monitors the efficiency of stormwater and restoration project development, but we do not currently have a good measure for this strategy. King County plans to develop a ranking system that includes water quality and quantity along with other factors to assist with prioritizing and evaluating drainage, restoration, and flooding projects.

The ranking system will focus high concern sites to improve water quality. This can involve constructing or engineering a solution, identifying where or how pollutants are entering the stream, and/or education adjacent property owners about the impacts of pesticides and fertilizers on streams.

Moving forward

For future years, King County will:

- Use data from sampling analysis plans (SAP) to ascertain the conditions of receiving water resources.
- Use data from Quality Assurance Project Plans to ascertain water quality and quantity for project design and development.
- Use post-construction monitoring plans to evaluate project performance.

Water quality and quantity data will then be used to help determine project impact on the following criteria:

- The level and threat to human health and safety
- The level and threat to infrastructure, including homes, business, and transportation
- Potential for a repeat occurrence
- Potential damage to natural resources, including biological and aquatic life
- The nature and severity of the potential impact

Related Links

King County KingStat Performance Measurement for Aquatic Environment

Stormwater Management

King County Flood Control District

Moving forward

Data collected by King County Water and Land Resource Division for the 2012 Scorecard.

King County Water Quality Compliance for State and National Standards

	2011 Compliance	Target
Compliance with air quality limits and conditions as regulated via Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) permits on regional wastewater plants and offsite stations	99.90%	100%
Wastewater (Effluent) Limit compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits for the county's major regional wastewater treatment plants	100%	100%
Reclaimed water permit compliance	98.90%	100%
Storm water System National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit	100%	100%

King County Combined Sewer Overflow Events

	Combined Sewer Overflow Events	Volume of Wastewater (Millions of Gallons)
2011 actual	196	666.4
2011 predicted (based on Hydraulic modeling)		800
1980s		2,300