



Over the next few decades our region will spend billions of dollars to protect water quality.

Actions in the Clean Water Plan

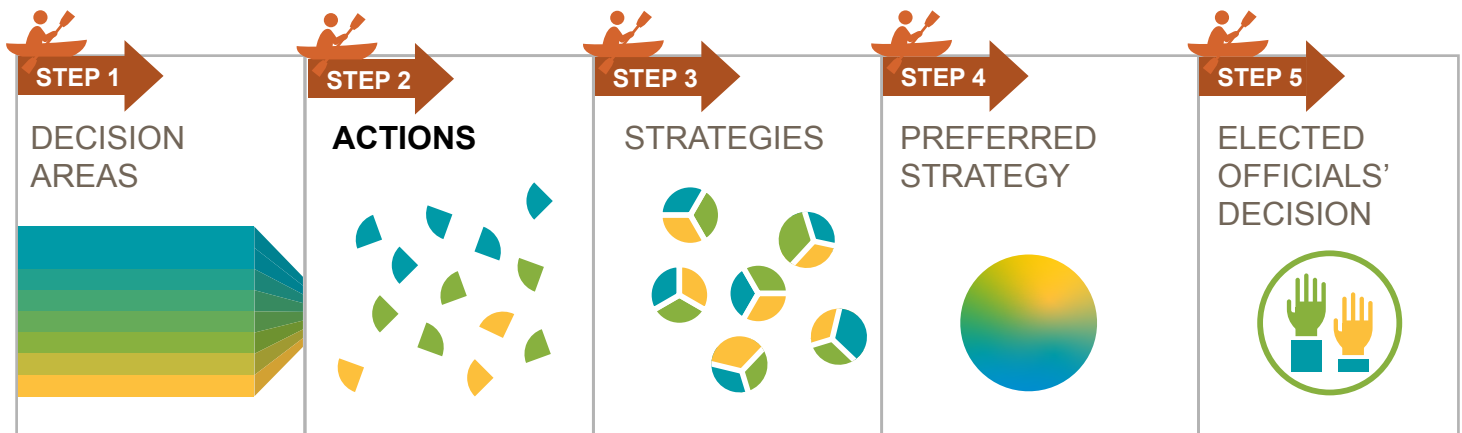
Welcome to the Clean Water Plan

King County needs to update its wastewater plan so that we make the right investments at the right time for the best water quality outcomes. We feel strongly that when the County hears from everyone, we all benefit.

King County is using an exploratory process to create the Clean Water Plan and working with communities at every step to:

- Identify the Decision Areas we need to consider.
- Develop a range of Actions we could take for each Decision Area.
- Combine Actions into Strategies that address multiple Decision Areas.
- Assemble a Preferred Strategy for elected officials to consider.

Here's how the process works:



What are “Actions” in the Clean Water Plan?

Actions are specific programs or sets of projects that address one of the Decision Areas the Plan needs to consider. Actions are designed to address particular wastewater or water quality challenges. As we move through the planning process, we are evolving and fine-tuning the Actions based on what we learn, and on what we hear from the community, local agencies, and elected officials.

Actions are not standalone water quality solutions; rather, they are building blocks that will be shaped and combined in different ways throughout the planning process.

We are exploring a wide range of Actions to help inform a deeper understanding of the choices and opportunities we face. Some Actions would require significant changes in how we do things, others are consistent with our current practices. The range of Actions reveals the breadth of options to consider and the decisions that will need to be made for the Clean Water Plan.

CLEAN WATER PLAN DECISION AREAS

- Wastewater treatment plants capacity and level of treatment
- Capacity in sewer pipes and pumps
- Aging sewer systems, natural disasters and climate change
- Recycling resources from wastewater
- Stormwater and combined sewer overflows
- Preventing pollution at the source
- Pollution from historical activities



Examples of Actions for the Decision Area that explores pollution removal at treatment plants

These Actions have to do with how much pollution we remove at a treatment plant. (These are examples only, there are more Actions under consideration in this Decision Area.)

- Continue to remove the same level of pollution at all treatment plants.
- Add treatment to remove nitrogen at one, more, or all of our treatment plants.
- Add very high treatment at one treatment plant so that, instead of sending the treated wastewater to Puget Sound, we can recycle all of the water from that plant.



DECISION AREAS – Existing and emerging issues that the King County Wastewater Treatment Division needs to consider in order to make choices and to plan for the future. The Clean Water Plan focuses on seven Decision Areas.

Examples of Actions for the Decision Area that explores aging sewer systems

King County’s regional wastewater system includes many facilities that are more than 50 years old. These Actions have to do with updating and replacing aging infrastructure like pipes, pumps, and treatment plants. (These are examples only, there are more Actions under consideration in this Decision Area.)

- Investing enough to update or replace all critical infrastructure by the end of the 2030s, 2040’s, or beyond.
- Minimal to no investment in planned updates and replacement. Instead, make investments when failures occur.



3 REGIONAL TREATMENT PLANTS

Built in 1965, 1966, and 2011

47 PUMP STATIONS

Average age: 38 yrs
Oldest: 86 yrs

400 MILES OF SEWER PIPES

...enough miles for a trip to Portland and back

Average age: 45 yrs
Oldest: 100 yrs

Characterizing Actions

For each action, King County is asking questions like: What is the pollution reduction potential? How much would it cost? Would it affect how we operate the wastewater system and our sustainability goals? What would be the effect on local communities and advancing equity?

For example, some Actions may produce more greenhouse gases, or have large energy requirements, or have additional community benefits, like creating more green spaces.

Initially, we are characterizing each Action individually. Then, some Actions will go on to become part of a Strategy and others will not. Actions may be molded and refined as they move forward in the process.

Find detailed information about all of the Actions on our webpage: www.kingcounty.gov/cleanwaterplan.

Public Input on Actions

We continue to welcome your input on Actions as they are developed, shaped, and combined into Strategies. As the County, regional partners, and the community review the Actions, we build understanding of the tough choices we are likely to face at the next stage of the planning process.

Since 2018, King County has been talking with people about the Clean Water Plan in meetings, workshops, fairs and festivals, and online events. We have been using people's priorities and input to identify and characterize the Actions.

What Comes Next: Strategies

After characterizing Actions individually, King County combines and shapes Actions into Strategies. Strategies are complete investment approaches to our wastewater and water quality challenges. Strategies address multiple Decision Areas and consider the timing, sequencing, and inter-relationships of the Actions. King County invites everyone to explore and evaluate the alternative Strategies during our Strategies exploration phase.

STRATEGY –
A group of multiple Actions. Each Strategy reflects a complete investment approach the County could take for water quality and the regional wastewater system.



Your Voice Matters

Stay up-to-date on the Clean Water Plan:

We will continue to inform and consult with the community to shape the Plan, and to hear new and diverse perspectives.

- Visit our website for more information and to sign up for our newsletter at www.kingcounty.gov/CleanWaterPlan. You will find all the latest, detailed information on engagement opportunities here.
- Email cleanwaterplan@kingcounty.gov.
- Share this topic sheet with others in your community; visit our website for an electronic or print version to share.

Alternate formats
available upon request.

206-477-5525 or TTY: 711.

Clean Water Plan

Making the right investments at the right time



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division