

# More of Washington's Wastewater Treatment Plants Achieve Perfection!

## Ecology recognizes top performing plants

In 2006, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) recognized 56 of the state's 321 wastewater treatment plants—about one fifth of them—for “perfect performances” to keep Washington's waters clean. The vast majority of wastewater treatment plants is in substantial compliance with their permits and does an excellent job. However, these 56 facilities deserve special recognition for achieving perfection.



According to Ecology records, the number is increasing every year. Ecology began keeping track of perfect performance in 1995. In that first year, only 14 plants were in full compliance with the requirements of their wastewater permits.

## What it takes to win

Wastewater treatment plants collect household sewage and industrial waste all day, every day. They treat the sewage and then discharge clean, treated water into waterways or spread the water onto land. Wastewater treatment plant operators must also make sure they spill no wastewater. Ecology issues permits that limit the contaminants the plants may discharge into lakes, rivers, marine waters, or onto the ground.

Plant operators must follow the requirements of their state permits by conducting thousands of water-quality monitoring tests during the course of a year.

Every year, Ecology reviews each treatment plant's tests, reports, and on-site inspections to determine which facilities meet all conditions of their permits. In 2006, Ecology determined that 56 wastewater treatment plants had perfect compliance.



## Award presentations

Representatives from Ecology presented "Outstanding Performance" awards to the plant operators at public events. The awards honored treatment plant operators who had no spills into Washington's waters during 2006. Award winners also passed every environmental test and analyzed all samples according to Ecology's requirements.

"Operators of wastewater treatment plants are unsung heroes who provide vital services behind the scenes that keep people and the environment healthy," said Dave Peeler, manager of Ecology's Water Quality Program. "Their work never stops, it never becomes unimportant, and it is a necessity for clean water in Washington." By meeting permit

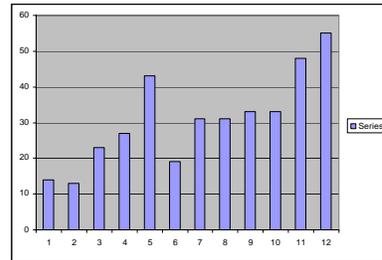
requirements, water quality in Washington State has improved.



## The number of winners is growing

Twenty of these plants are first time award winners! Here is a short glimpse of our trend. We must be doing something right!

1995 = 14 awards  
2004 = 33 awards  
2005 = 48 awards  
2006 = 56 awards!



## And the winners are...

The Manchester wastewater treatment plant in Kitsap County is the only plant in the state to earn the award consecutively for 12 years since 1995. The Port Townsend wastewater treatment plant in Jefferson County has earned the distinction 11 times.

### 2006 award winners:

Asotin County - Asotin Wastewater Treatment Plant

Benton County - City of Benton City Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, City of West Richland Wastewater Treatment Plant

Chelan County - City of Entiat Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

Clark County - City of Vancouver Marine Park Treatment Facility, City of Vancouver Westside Treatment Facility, City of Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant

Cowlitz County - City of Kalama Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, Port of Kalama Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, Toutle Sewage Treatment Plant

Douglas County - Douglas County Sewer District No. 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

Grant County - Ephrata Water Reuse Facility, George Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

Grays Harbor County - City of Ocean Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant

Island County - Oak Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant, Penn Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant

Jefferson County - City of Port Townsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, Olympic Corrections Center/Sewage Treatment Plant\*

King County - Miller Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Kitsap County - Bremerton Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant, Central Kitsap (Kitsap Co.), Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kingston (Kitsap Co.) Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, Manchester (Kitsap Co.) Wastewater Treatment Plant

Klickitat County - Town of Bingen Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, Community of Lyle Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

Lewis County - Lake Mayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant

Okanogan County - City of Brewster Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, City of Okanogan Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Omak Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Oroville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Pacific County - City of Ilwaco Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

Pend Oreille County - Cusick Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

Pierce County - City of Eatonville Wastewater Treatment Plant, Gig Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant #1, City of Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant #3\*, Taylor Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant, Washington Department of Corrections McNeil Island Sewage Treatment Plant\*

San Juan County - Eastsound Orcas Village Wastewater Treatment Plant

Skagit County - Mount Vernon Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sedro-Woolley Wastewater Treatment Plant

Skamania County - City of North Bonneville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Snohomish County - Edmonds Wastewater Treatment Plant, Lake Stevens Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant, Marysville Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, Monroe Wastewater Treatment Plant, Stanwood Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

Spokane County - Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District 1

Whatcom County - Bellingham Wastewater Treatment Plant, Newhalem Wastewater Treatment Plant

Yakima County - Community of Buena Publicly Owned Treatment Works\*, City of Grandview Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Moxee Wastewater Treatment Plant, Town of Naches Wastewater Treatment Plant, Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant\*, City of Zillah Wastewater Treatment Plant\*

\* First-time award winner.

## **For more information**

Poppy Carre

Municipal Unit

Program Development Services

360-407-6449

Email: [poca461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:poca461@ecy.wa.gov)

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