

# Seattle Public Utilities

Department Overview

Parks, Public Utilities & Technology Committee

*February 28, 2024*





# Seattle Public Utilities



**4th largest City Department  
1400 employees**

**14% of  
City Employees**



**2nd largest City budget  
\$1.35 billion**

**20% of City  
Operating Budget**



**2nd largest capital program  
\$294 million**

**26% of City Capital  
Construction**





**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**

Seattle Public Utilities fosters healthy people, environment, and economy by partnering with our community to equitably manage water and waste resources for today and for future generations

**Community Centered, One Water, Zero Waste**

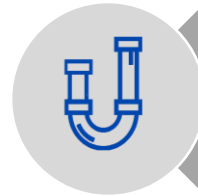
## Four primary services



**Drinking Water**



**Drainage**



**Wastewater**



**Solid Waste**



# Climate Action Strategies

## Justice

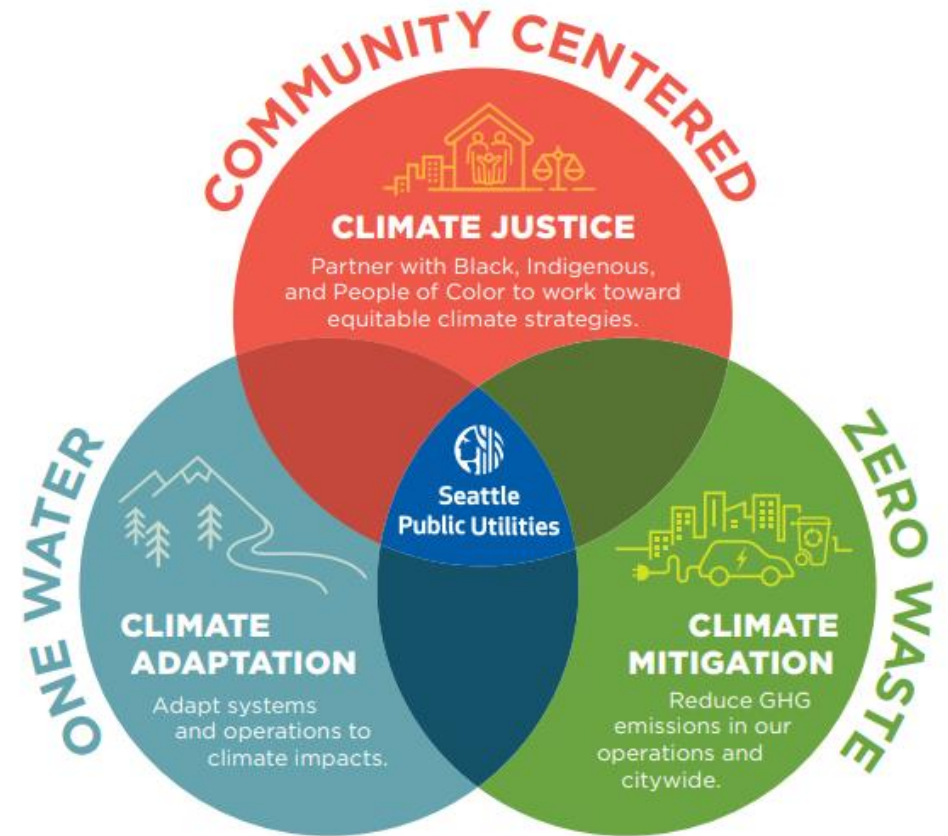
Partner with Black, Indigenous and People of Color to work toward equitable climate strategies

## Adaptation

Adapt systems and operations to climate impacts

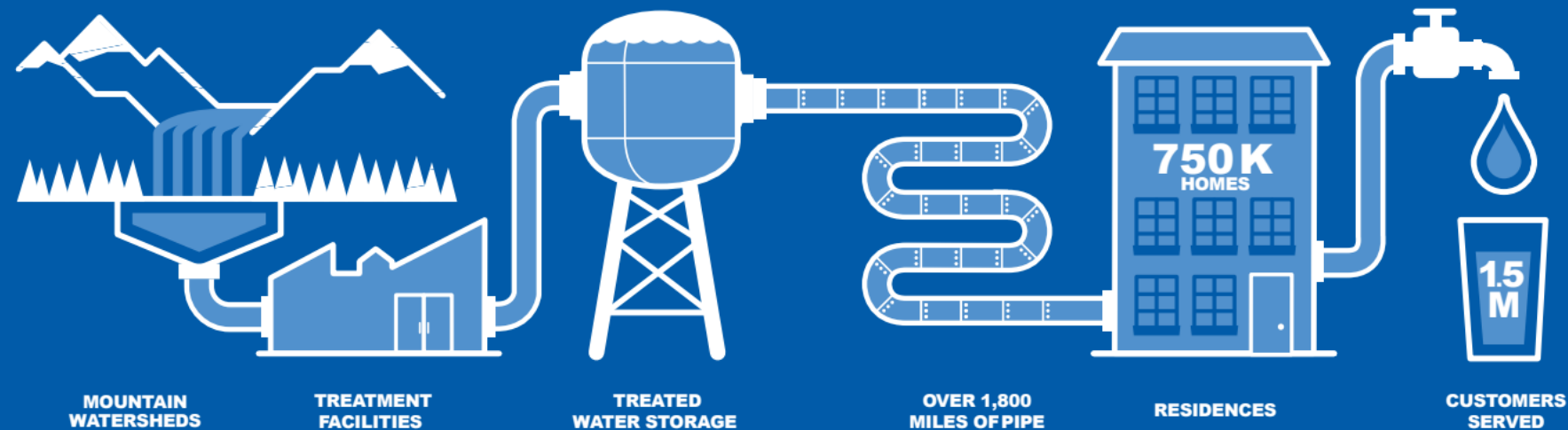
## Mitigation

Reduce GHG emissions in our operations and citywide



# Drinking Water System

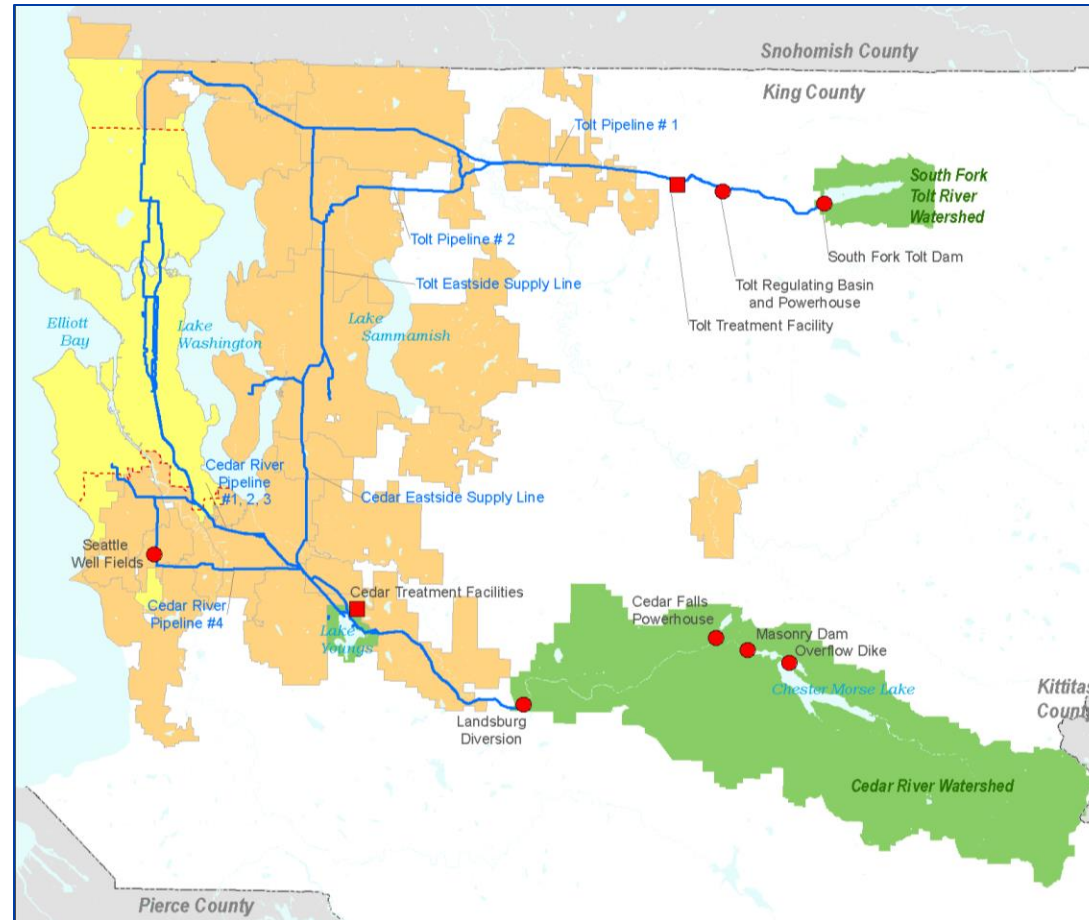
## From Source to Tap



- 2 pristine watersheds (100K acres)
- 2 state-of-the-art water treatment plants
- 1,900 miles of pipes
- 13 reservoirs
- 14 storage tanks
- Daily water quality testing. More than 30,000 samples taken annually.
- Regulated by Washington Department of Health and Department of Ecology

# Seattle Water: Retail and Wholesale Customers

- Retail service to Seattle, parts of Shoreline, Burien, Lake Forest Park, and unincorporated King County
- Wholesale service to more than 20 suburban water districts and cities



Seattle Retail Service Area

Wholesale Customers

Watersheds



# Seattle Water – In Communities

- Operations and Maintenance
  - Emergency break and leak repair
- Water Quality Inspectors
- Outreach programs
  - Cedar River Water Education Center
  - Saving Water Partnership: water conservation program



# Drainage Infrastructure

Rain and melting snow that enters our drainage system.

- 485 miles of storm drains
- 307 storm drain outfalls
- 20,473 catch basins
- 56.4 miles of ditches
- 53.3 miles of culverts
- 10 acres green stormwater infrastructure
- 17 detention/treatment ponds

# Wastewater Infrastructure

Used water from drains (sinks, toilets, showers, etc.) moves through private side sewers and into publicly owned sewer pipes, pump stations, and storage tanks.

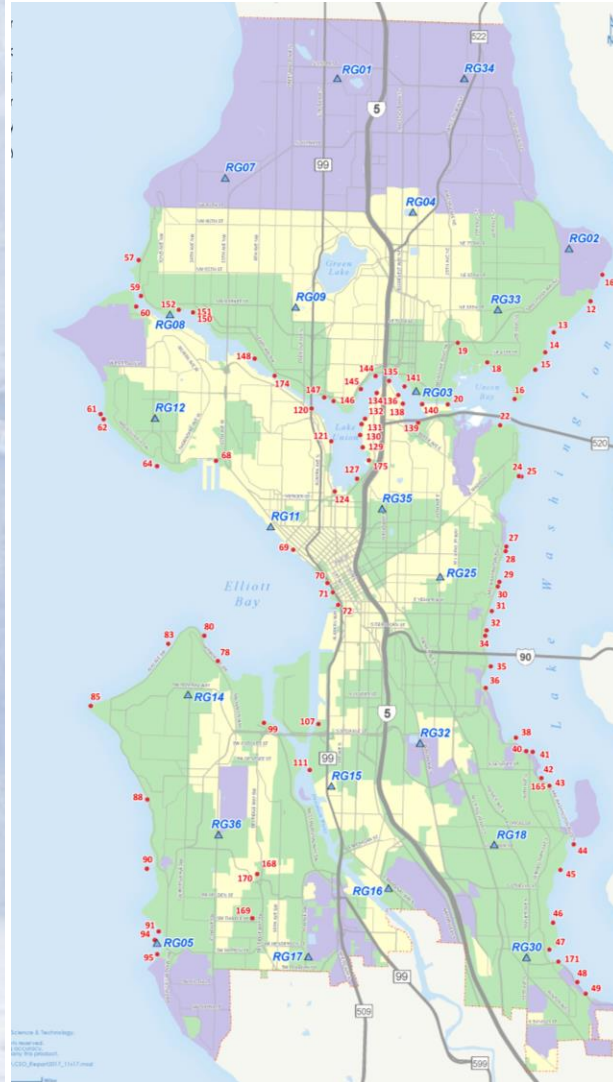
- 368 miles of sewers
- 1,052 miles of combined sewers
- 67 pump stations
- 82 combined sewer overflow outfalls
- 42 combined sewage detention tanks/pipes





# Drainage & Wastewater System

Each third of the City is served differently



## Separated System

Wastewater and drainage systems are separated

## Partially Separated System

Private property's stormwater enters wastewater system but roadway stormwater enters drainage system.

## Combined System

Wastewater and drainage systems are combined



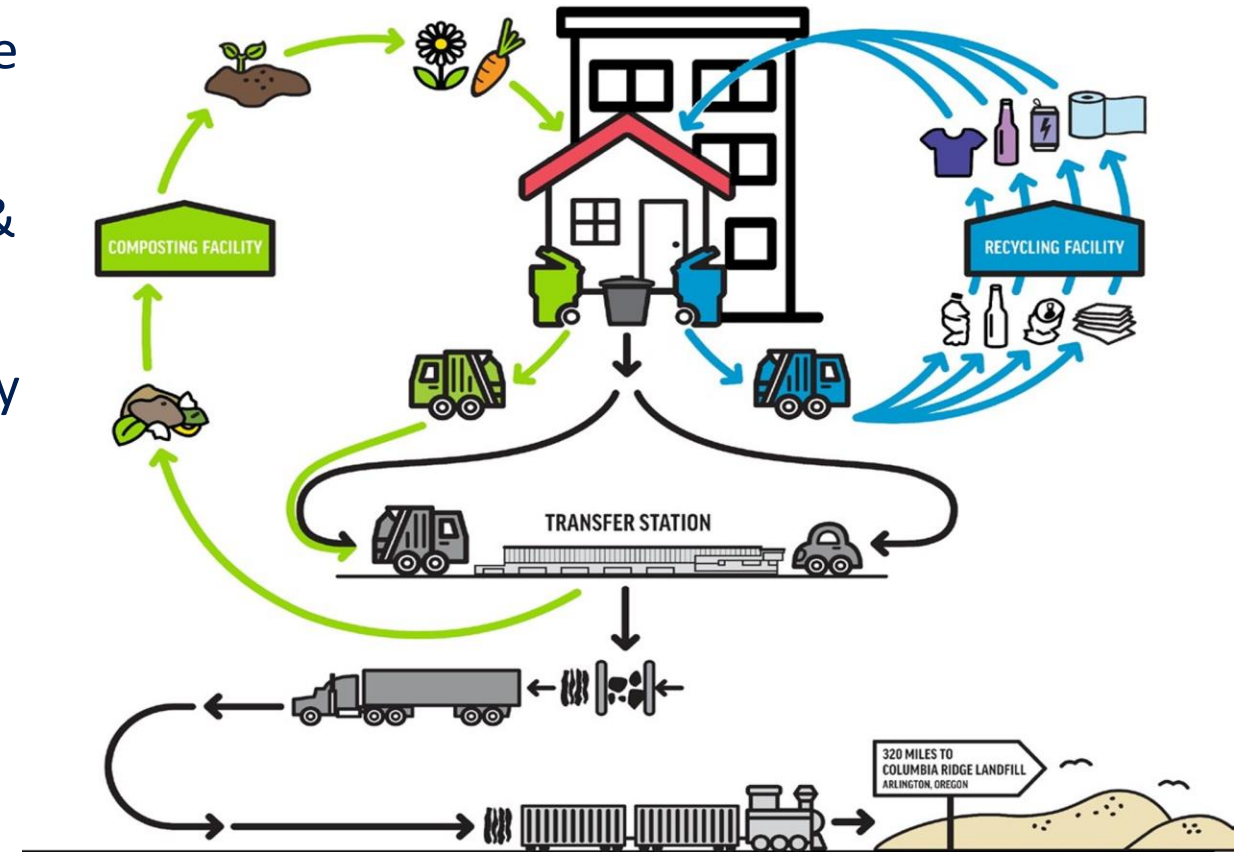
# Drainage and Wastewater – In Communities

- Operations and Maintenance
- Spill Response
- Customer programs
  - RainWise
  - Storm drain care
  - Stormwater pollution prevention
  - Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG) and flushables
- Inspections and Enforcement
- Backflow prevention



# Solid Waste - System

- **Contracted Curbside Collection** with Waste Management & Recology
- **Garbage & Organics** Transferred at North & South Transfer Stations
- **Recyclables** Processed at Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
- **Organics** Processed at Compost Facilities (Cedar Grove and Lenz)
- Long-haul Garbage by Rail to Landfill in OR
- Businesses can Independently Contract for Recyclables & Organics Collection





# Solid Waste

## Guiding Principles

- Decrease Waste
- Increase Waste Prevention
- Safe & Efficient Disposal
- Least Environmental Impact

## Customers

- ~ 168K Residential
- ~ 5K Multifamily
- ~ 8K Commercial Garbage

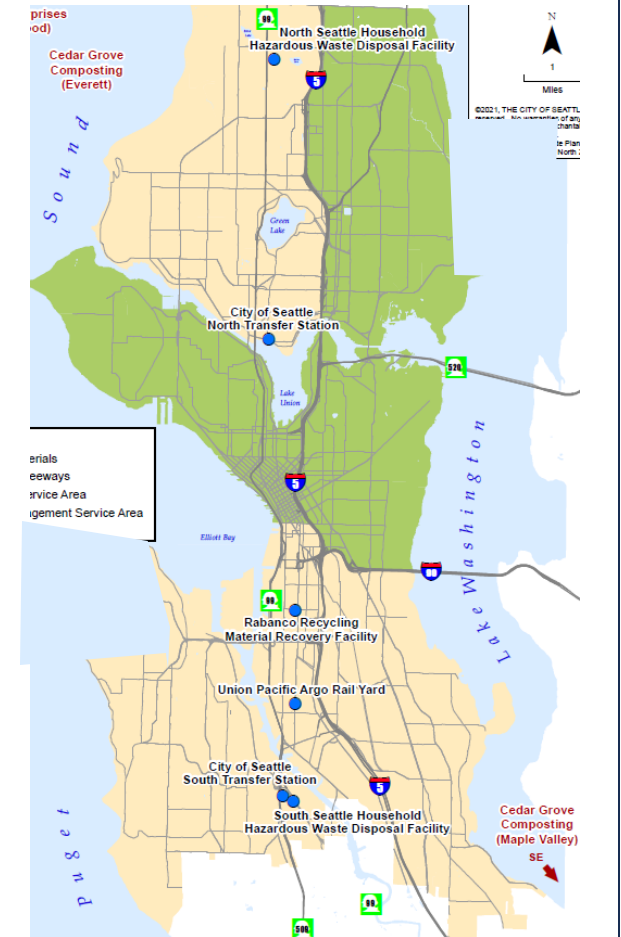
## Services

SPU owns and operates

- Two Transfer Stations
- Two Household Hazardous Waste facilities

Private contractors collect household refuse, compostable material, and recyclables.

-  Recology Service Area
-  Waste Management Service Area



# Solid Waste – In Communities

## Customer programs:

- Recycling and Composting Programs
- Bulk Waste Collection
- Food Waste Prevention and Education
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal



# Capital Project Delivery

SPU invests \$250 million+ a year in infrastructure and facilities projects to address aging infrastructure, regulatory compliance, climate readiness, service equity, and more.



## Investment examples:

- Ship Canal Water Quality project
- South Park Drainage pump station
- Royal Arch – Cedar River Habitat restoration
- Water, sewer, and drainage mainline rehabilitation
- Tolt Dam early warning system
- Bitter Lake Reservoir Covering
- Opportunity asset replacements with SDOT, Sound Transit, and WSDOT transportation projects.
- North Operations One Water facility



# Seattle Clean City

## A General Fund Program

Services to remove litter, graffiti, sharps, illegal dumping, and other hazards to protect the environment, maintain access to public spaces, and promote community health and safety.



## Seattle Clean City's Impact in 2023

**4.7 million** or **470**  
pounds of waste collected and removed from the right-of-way orca whales



**800,000**

sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) collected and properly disposed

↑ 76% increase

**870,000**

square feet of graffiti abated in public and private property

↑ 42% increase

or **16**

White Houses



**23,873**

hours volunteered with Seattle Adopt a Street program

↑ 48% increase



# Typical Monthly Bill

TYPICAL CUSTOMER BILL BREAKOUT

chart 4.

Single-Family Home Monthly Bill: \$222.62



# Key Drivers

**Affordability**

**Aging  
Infrastructure**

**Pollution &  
Waste Practices**

**Regulatory  
Requirements**

**Equity and  
Environmental  
Justice**

**Climate Change**





# Utility Assistance



**\$4 million**  
State COVID  
Assistance



**35,600 accounts**  
Utility Discount  
Program



**\$1.5 million**  
SPU Emergency  
Assistance

# Rate Setting

## Every Three Years by Fund

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Drinking Water</b>	2030		Set Rates			Set Rates			Set Rates
<b>DWW</b>	Set Rates			Set Rates			Set Rates		Set Rates
<b>Solid Waste</b>		Set Rates			Set Rates			Set Rates	

# Strategic Business Plan 2021-2026

### Focus Areas

- Delivering Equitable Essential Services
- Stewarding Environment and Public Health
- Empowering Our Customers, Community, and Employees
- Strengthening Our Utility’s Business Practices

# Questions?

