History of Reclaimed Water Use Act

1992 – Reclaimed Water Use Act (HB 2883)

- Codified as Chapter 90.46 RCW, Reclaimed Water Use.
- Joint agency implementation (Ecology and Health)
- Directed agencies to develop reclaimed water standards for
    - commercial and industrial uses
    - land application uses (irrigation).
- Advisory committee of interested stakeholders.
- Initiated a pilot program
- Interim standards

1995 – Amendments to Reclaimed Water Act (SB5606)

- Standards for wetlands and streamflow augmentation– June 1996
- Standards for groundwater recharge (surface spreading and direct recharge) – Dec 2006

1997 - Amendments to Reclaimed Water Act (SB5725)

- Funded 5 demonstration projects. ($10 million)
- Gives exclusive rights to use and distribute reclaimed water to facility owner (generator).
- Exempts from water right permit requirements
- Requires non-impairment of existing downstream water rights (unless compensation or mitigation acceptable to water right holder)
- Revised terminology (surface percolation – not surface spreading)
- Directed Ecology to develop standards for wetlands (already in progress - SB 5606).
- Provided for public interest exceptions to meeting the groundwater recharge criteria.
- Required DOH to develop standards for greywater reuse - January 1998.
- Completed: Final reclaimed water standards (guidance) September 1997

1999 – Funding - FTEs (Water Reuse and Conservation) for implementation and tech assistance.

- 3.0 DOH
- 3.5 Ecology (2 WQP; 1.5 WRP)
- WQP – Program Coordinator (Lead)

2000 - Report to Legislature on Demonstration Projects.

2001 – Amendments to Reclaimed Water Act (SB 5925)

- New category - Agricultural industrial process water reuse (90.46.150).

2002 – Amendments to Reclaimed Water Act (HB 2993)

- New category - Industrial reuse water (90.46.160)

2005 - Amendments to Reclaimed Water Act (SHB 1891)

- Allows permitting of private utilities for direct uses. (90.46.030 and 040)
- Provided authority to require financial, technical and managerial viability.

2005 – Completed Case Studies – June 2005.

2006 - Amendments to Reclaimed Water Act (ESHB 2884)

- Ecology - Rule-making for all aspects of reclaimed water use – Dec 2010.
    - Coordinate with DOH

        - Stakeholder advisory committee
        - Resolve permits, submittal process, standards, lead agency for all uses.
        - Status reports due January 2008 and January 2009
- DOH – Rule-making for greywater use – Dec 2010.
        - Coordinate with Ecology

2007 - Amendments to Reclaimed Water Act (E2SSB 6117) and Governor's Veto - Directive

- Reaffirmed state commitment to reclaimed water use.
- Ties to global warming, salmon strategy, Puget Sound Initiative, Columbia and Spokane rivers.
- Research and provide information – six reports due by end of 2007 (list below)
- Facilitate use of reclaimed water, remove barriers, create incentives.
- Expand scope of rule advisory committee to:
    - Address organizational structure, staffing
    - Address barriers and recommend incentives.
    - Provide planning tools to local governments.
    - Develop recommendations for dedicated long-term funding program.
    - Identify and recommend action on other issues.
    - Consider more appropriate names for the program.
- Require reclaimed water use at state agencies where feasible. Defines feasible.
- Added aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) under reclaimed water permit.
- GA work with Olympia for demonstration project – irrigate capitol campus.

2007 – Governor's Directive on 6117

- Ecology work with legislative leadership to address:
    - Water right impairment (vetoed Sec. 4) and related issues.
    - Reclaimed water planning (Sec. 3 harmonize multiple statutes for effective implementation) and related issues.

2007 – Capital Budget

- $5.5 million initial funding – feasibility and construction – Puget Sound.