



News Release

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Track record improving for state's wastewater treatment plants

OLYMPIA – The Washington Department of Ecology will recognize 56 of the state's 321 wastewater-treatment plants -- about one fifth of them -- for perfect performances in 2006 to keep Washington's waters clean.

The number is up from 2005, when 46 sewer plants earned the honor.

Representatives from the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) will present "Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant" awards to the plant operators at public events over the next couple of months.

These awards honor operators of treatment plants that had no spills into Washington's waters during 2006. Award winners also passed every environmental test and analyzed all samples according to requirements laid out by Ecology.

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

Wastewater treatment plants collect household sewage and industrial waste all day, every day. They treat the sewage and then send clean water discharges into waterways or spread the water onto land. Ecology issues permits that limit the contaminants the plants may discharge into lakes, rivers or marine waters or onto the ground.

In addition to treating the water, plant operators must follow the requirements of their state permits and conduct up to thousands of water-quality monitoring tests during the course of a year. They also must assure that no wastewater is spilled.

Ecology reviewed every treatment plant's tests, reports and on-site inspections to determine which facilities met all conditions of their permits.

The award winners are:

Asotin – Asotin Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Benton County – City of Benton City Wastewater Treatment Plant*.

Chelan County – City of Entiat Wastewater Treatment Plant*.

Clallam County – Olympic Corrections Center/Sewage 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 – Oak Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant, Penn Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Jefferson County – City of Port Townsend Wastewater 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 – 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 – 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.

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For more information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/index.html>

Ecology's website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>

Broadcast version

The state has identified 56 “Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plants” for 2006, out of about three hundred facilities in Washington that treat household sewage and industrial waste water.

The winners of this award met all the requirements of their environmental permits last year and had no spills into Washington’s waters.

The Department of Ecology says this means they did an outstanding job of preventing pollution and protecting the state’s water quality.

The winners are located in 26 of Washington’s 39 counties.