

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION

Utility Advisory Committee

City of Olympia

December 1, 2016

The Terms

▣ Involvement

- Create effective and inclusive opportunities for community involvement that help shape City policy and decision making processes.

▣ Education

- Provide the community access to information and resources to help make informed decisions regarding taking action or making changes to protect water resources and associated habitats.

▣ Outreach

- Provide engaging activities, programs or campaigns used to raise awareness and generate interest and involvement within a specific audience or the general public.

Annual Utility Costs

▣ Storm and Surface Water	\$175,000
▣ Waste ReSources	\$175,000
▣ Drinking Water	\$125,000
▣ Wastewater	\$50,000
▣ LOTT	\$275,000
▣ Percent of Total Utility Budgets	1.5%

Trends

- ▣ Less face time...more short messages
 - Social media
- ▣ Improving behaviors...water conservation, recycling, lawn care, pet waste
- ▣ More targeted efforts
- ▣ Community help is essential
- ▣ Behavior change takes resources

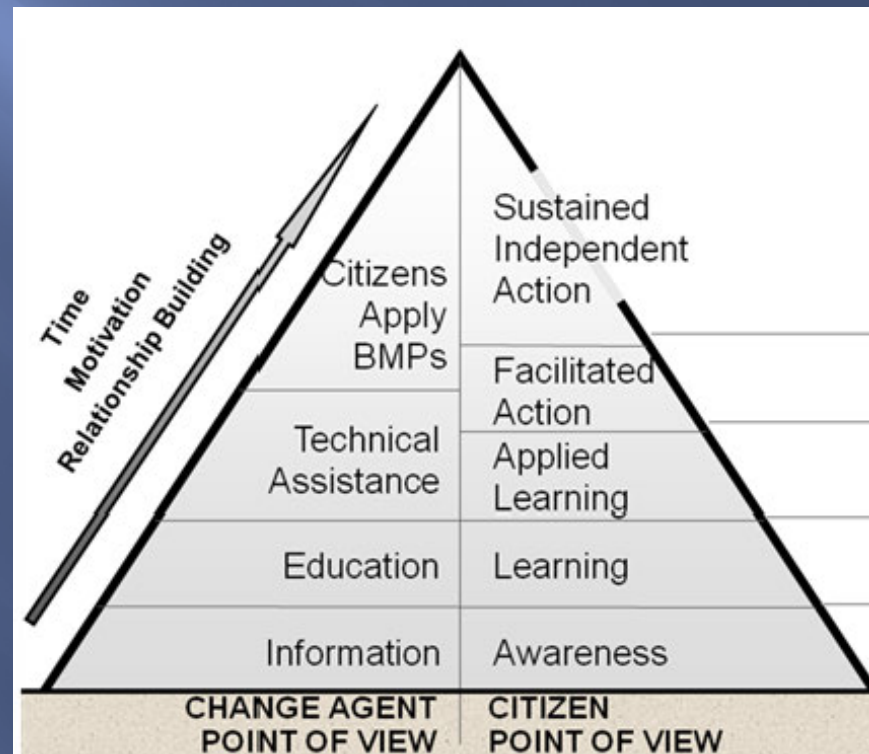
Public Involvement

- ▣ Utility bill insert
- ▣ Surveys
- ▣ UAC
- ▣ Coalition of neighborhoods
- ▣ Master planning
- ▣ Topic-specific email lists
- ▣ Focus groups
- ▣ Public meetings/hearings
- ▣ Televised meetings (LOTT)
- ▣ NPDES annual report
- ▣ Emerging issues...sea rise

Education Strategies

- ▣ Some broad
 - Information, awareness

- ▣ Some targeted
 - One-on-one
 - Social marketing



Secondary Outcomes

- ▣ Advocacy
- ▣ Credibility
- ▣ Community pride
- ▣ Utility financial support



Why convert from septic to sewer?

Public Health
Water quality is vital to our community's well being. Timely maintenance of your septic system plays an important role in protecting streams, marine waters and groundwater. Even fully functional septic systems only partially treat wastewater. Pollutants, attributable in part to septic systems, have impaired the water quality in Olympia's inlets and streams and are a principal cause of shellfish harvesting restrictions in Henderson Inlet.

Septic Failure
Due to septic systems' limited life spans, the City considers their use in an urban or suburban setting to be a temporary means of wastewater treatment and disposal. When your system fails, you may not have sufficient land with an adequate percolation rate for a replacement system. In such cases, the available alternatives include expensive engineered systems or connection to the public sewer system.
If your property is within 300 feet of an existing public sewer, the City may require you to connect to the sewer when your existing system fails, or when making substantial improvements to your home.

NOTE: The City does not currently plan to make the conversion of properly functioning septic systems mandatory. That may change if water quality recovery plans being developed by the State of Washington identify conversions as a required action in order to clean up impaired water bodies within Olympia.

Who permits septic systems in the City of Olympia?
The Thurston County Environmental Health Division, not the City, is the public agency responsible for permitting septic systems throughout Thurston County. Information about Thurston County's requirements regarding maintenance, expansion, enhancement, replacement or abandonment of septic systems is available at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/ or by calling 754-3355, Ext. 6518.

Drinking Water

- ▣ Mostly Water Conservation
 - Efficient water use
 - Rebates and incentives
- ▣ Water Quality
 - Information



Waste ReSources

- ▣ Mostly recycling
 - Opportunities
- ▣ Programs
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Schools
 - Public Events
- ▣ Mobile app for residential service



Storm and Surface Water

- ▣ Environmental focus
 - Respect for natural resources
- ▣ Programs
 - Group volunteers...Salmon Stewards
 - Citizen monitoring...Macroinvertebrate monitoring
 - Business pollution prevention...Don't Drip and Drive
 - Best management practices...yard care, pet waste, car wash, storm drain marking

Wastewater

- ▣ Septic to Sewer Program
 - One-on-one conversations
 - Mailings...maintenance, sewer availability, financial incentives
- ▣ STEP maintenance
 - Residential mailing, commercial contacts
- ▣ Fats, oils, and grease
 - Restaurant contacts, residential mailings

Future Directions

- ▣ Focus groups, individual conversations
- ▣ Topic-specific mailing lists
- ▣ Social media
- ▣ Neighborhoods/HOAs
- ▣ UAC recommendations
- ▣ Financial reporting

Storm & Surface Water Plan DRAFT

