



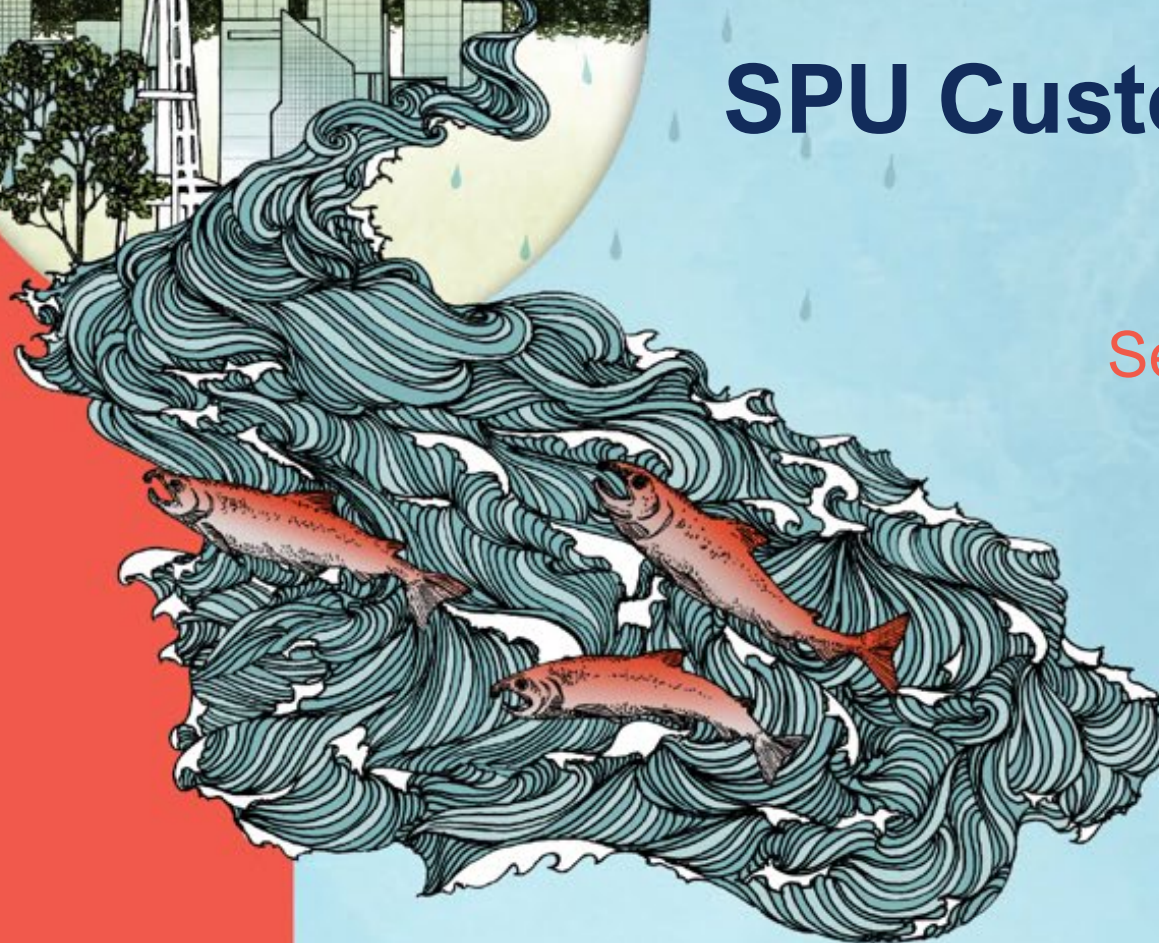
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SPU Customer Review Panel

Seattle Public Utilities

March 17, 2025



A wide-angle photograph of the Seattle skyline. In the foreground, the Great Wheel is visible on the left, and Pier 56 is on the right. The background is filled with various skyscrapers, including the Smith Tower. The water of the harbor is in the bottom foreground.

Welcome

Andrew Lee

CEO and General Manager, SPU

Public Comment

Andrés Mantilla, Uncommon Bridges



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CRP Business

Andrés Mantilla, Uncommon Bridges



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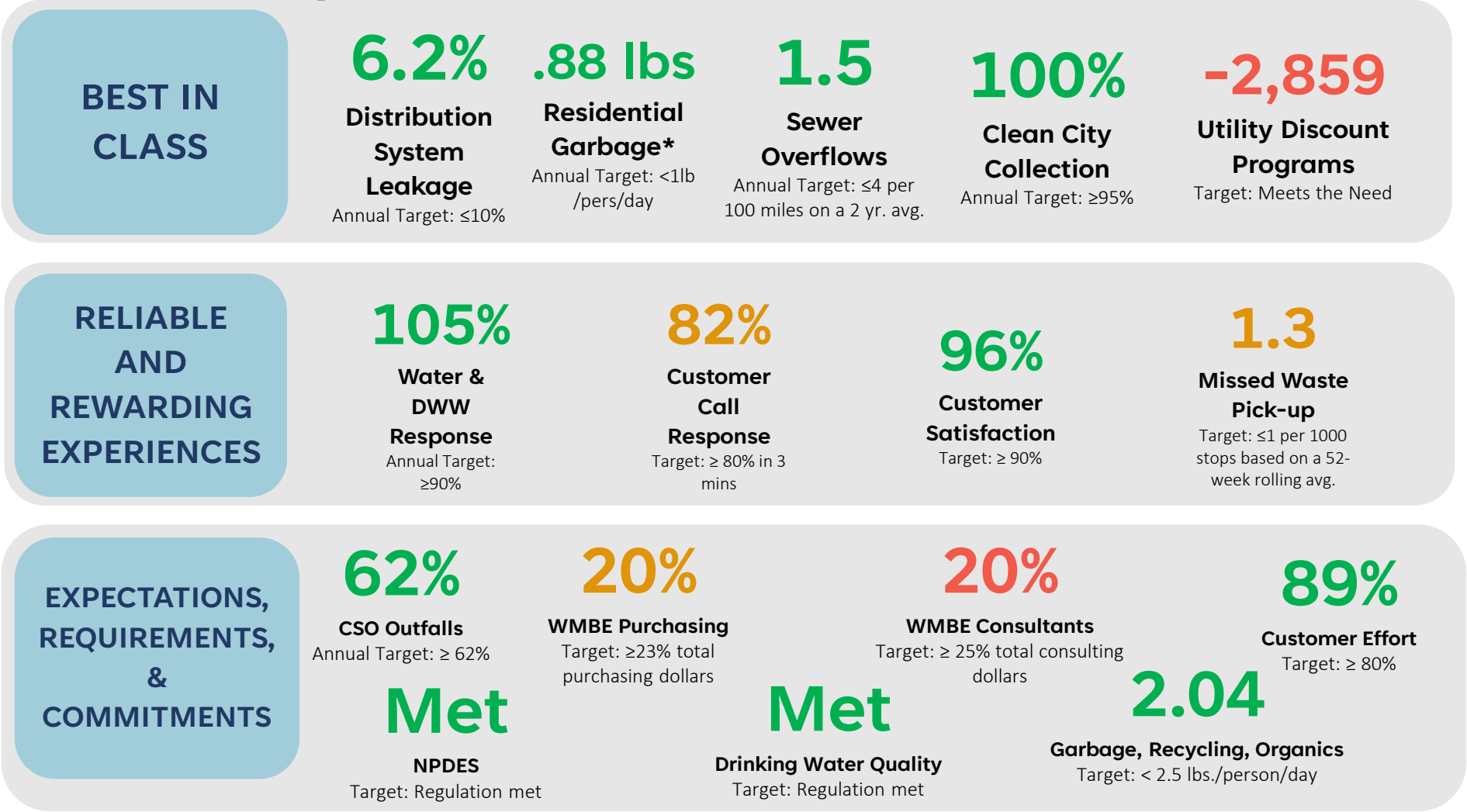


2024 Q4

SBP Performance Summary

CRP Quarterly Meeting
March 17th, 2025

2024 Q4 Equitable Essential Services Metrics



2024 Highlights

Race and Social Justice

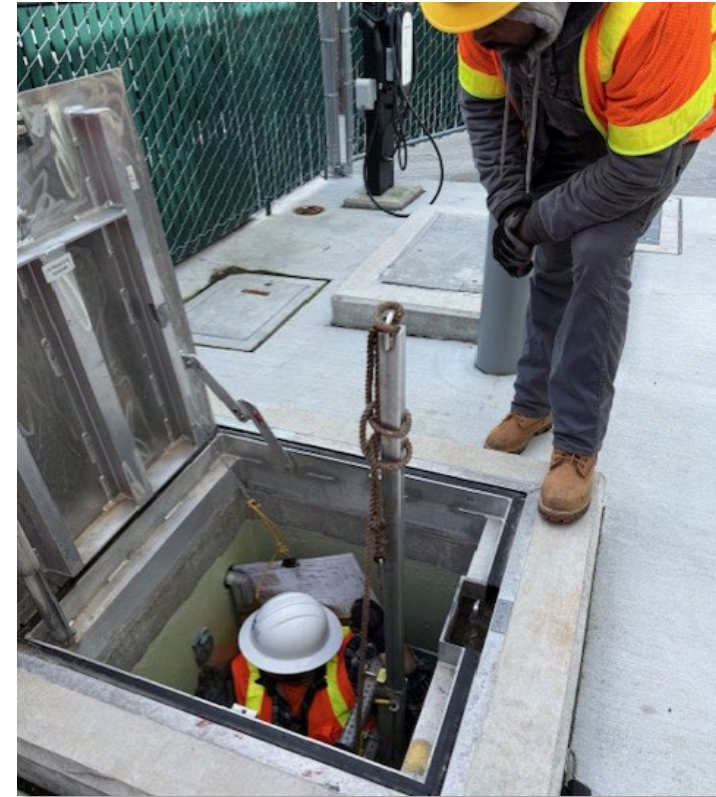


Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Photo courtesy of Weber Thompson

DWW Asset Management

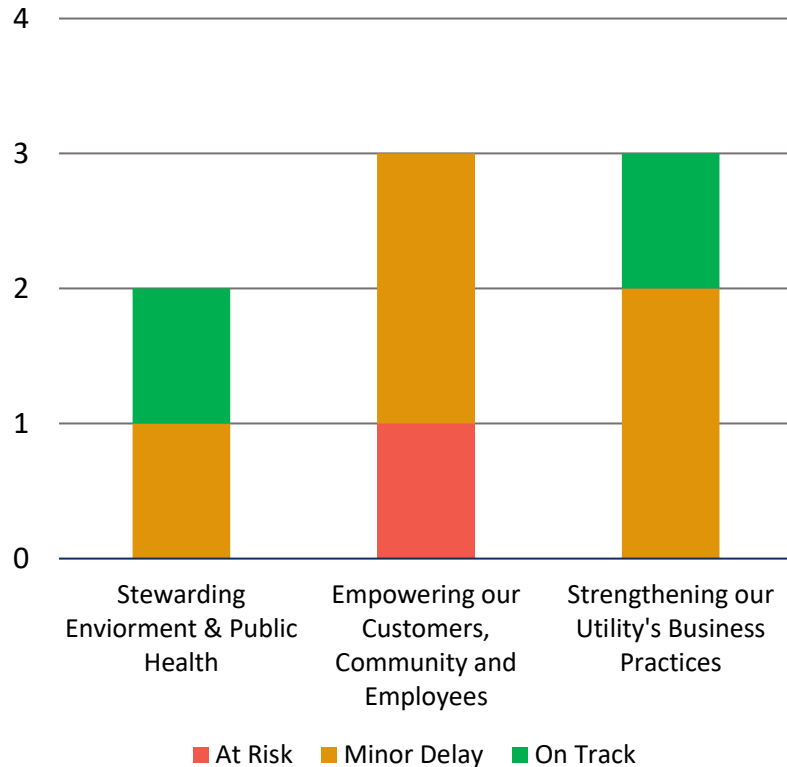


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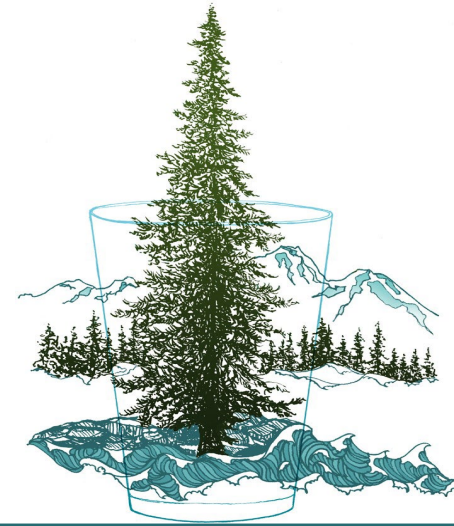
Focus Area Progress

Current Investments in Q4



Highlights

- Investments are reported quarterly, with the new SBP beginning this year, you will see some adjustments on what is being reporting.
- We saw multiple investments fall into the minor delay category; this is a result of a missed target for the quarter. Overall, investments finished the year well.
- Workforce Facilities is the “At Risk” investment, there were significant changes with the return to office that adjusted plans developed earlier in 2024.



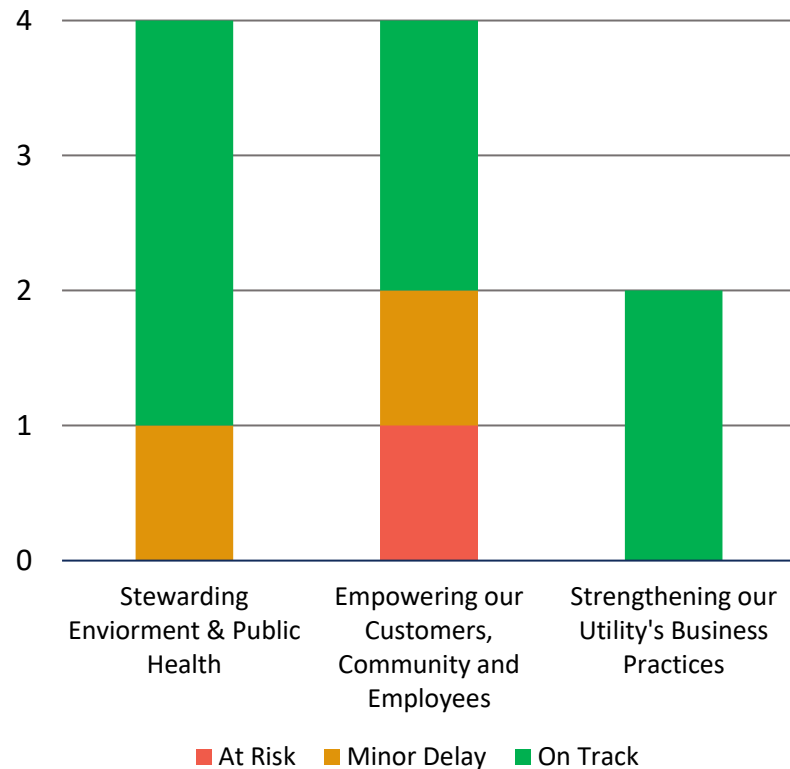
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Focus Area Progress

Current Initiatives in Q4



Highlights

- Initiatives are reported at the end of the year; these will adjust in 2025.
- Most initiatives this year did well and were on track to close out this SBP.
- SPU Workforce development was At Risk, this was a result of commitments made prior to new HR staff, and adjustment of goals over the course of SBP.
- Waste Prevention and Customer Affordability program are the two minor delay categories.



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PDEB CIP Updates

Watermain Rehab Package #4



South Transfer Station Tipping Floor Replacement



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Mayor's Office & City Council Updates

Akshay Iyengar & Brian Goodnight



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King County Wastewater Treatment Division Rates

Courtney Black, Crystal Fleet, Sharman Herrin, & Kamuron Gurol



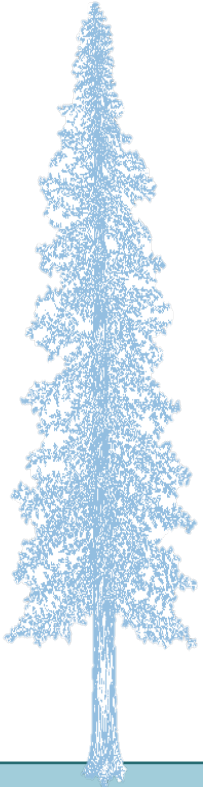
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SPU Staff Presentations



Presentation Alignment with CRP & SBP

Topic	CRP Priority Area	SBP Initiative & Investment
Shape Our Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Resiliency• Asset Management & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shape Our Water- Citywide & Focus Area Drainage and Wastewater Planning
Solid Waste Prevention & Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Resilience• Affordability & Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waste Prevention and Diversion



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Shape Our Water

Leslie Webster, Sam Keller, Colleen O'Brien



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SBP Initiatives:

Stewarding Environment and Health

Strategy: Invest in strategic plans, projects, and programs that advance a holistic One Water approach.

- Shape Our Water – Citywide and Focus Area Drainage and Wastewater Planning – [Leslie Webster](#), [Sam Keller](#), [Colleen O'Brien](#)



Welcome to

Customer Review Panel Briefing

March 17, 2025



A 50 Year Plan for Seattle's
Water Resilience



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Shape Our Water Overview



What is Shape Our Water?

Shape Our Water is a community-centered project, led by Seattle Public Utilities, to plan for the next 50 years of resilient drainage and wastewater systems.



A 50 Year Plan for Seattle's
Water Resilience

www.shapeourwater.org



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Our Planning Theory

***Water infrastructure can be a platform
for public health, social cohesion, environmental justice,
cultural identity, and a wide range of other
social, environmental, and economic benefits.***

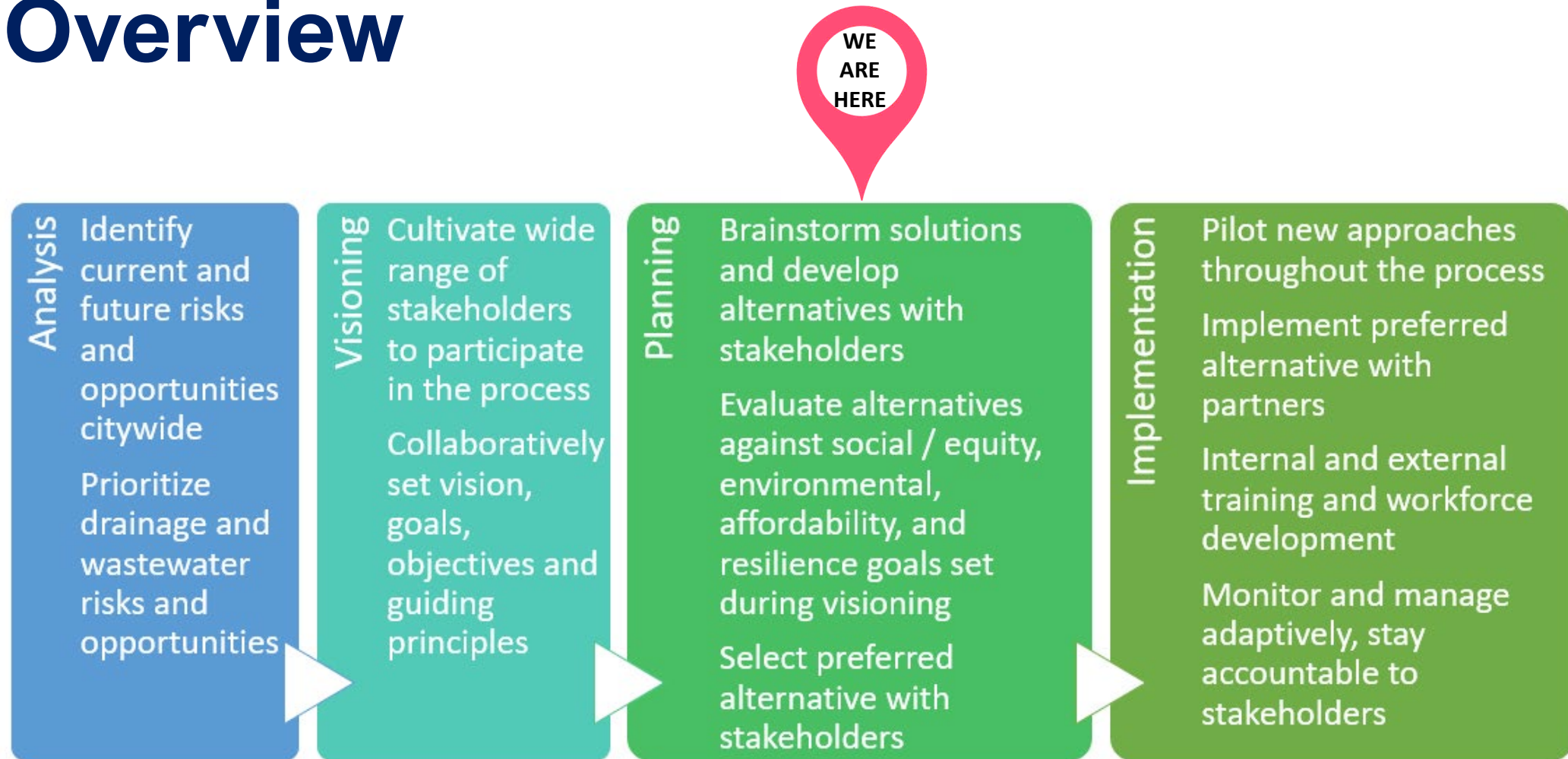


A 50 Year Plan for Seattle's
Water Resilience



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Shape Our Water Planning Process Overview



Shape Our Water Guiding Light: The Community Vision

SHAPE OUR WATER GOALS

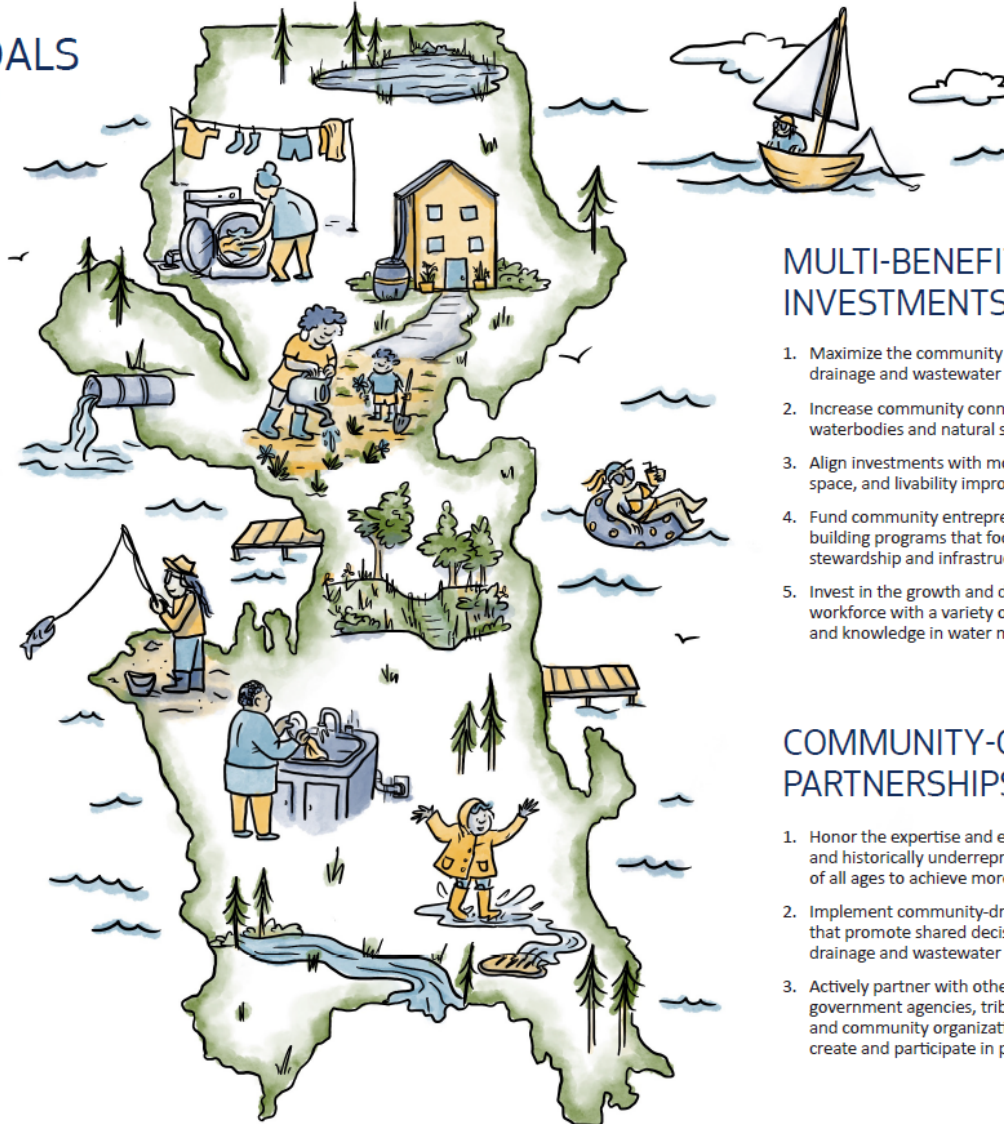
Community feedback inspired the following goals, which will guide SPU's next 50 years of transformative programs and investments in water infrastructure.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1. Protect water quality, improve aquatic health, and solve problems at the source to benefit all life that relies on our local waterbodies
2. Reduce impacts from flooding and sewer backups - especially in neighborhoods that have experienced historic disinvestment
3. Provide accessible and affordable drainage and wastewater services to community members regardless of economic or housing status
4. Treat all water as an essential resource and ensure it is managed in a sustainable and integrated way
5. Broaden the public health outcomes of drainage and wastewater investments to include social and environmental health considerations

RESILIENCE

1. Invest in drainage and wastewater infrastructure that can adapt to future environmental challenges and build system resiliency - especially in areas most vulnerable to environmental hazards
2. Maintain and adaptively manage Seattle's existing drainage and wastewater systems and resources to continuously provide essential public services
3. Increase Seattle's seismic and climate preparedness by aligning future projects and programs with city and regional partners
4. Support sustainable land use and development that improves urban water management



MULTI-BENEFIT INVESTMENTS

1. Maximize the community benefits of drainage and wastewater investments
2. Increase community connection to our waterbodies and natural systems
3. Align investments with mobility, open space, and livability improvements
4. Fund community entrepreneurship and wealth building programs that focus on environmental stewardship and infrastructure management
5. Invest in the growth and development of a local workforce with a variety of skills, experiences, and knowledge in water management

COMMUNITY-CENTERED PARTNERSHIPS

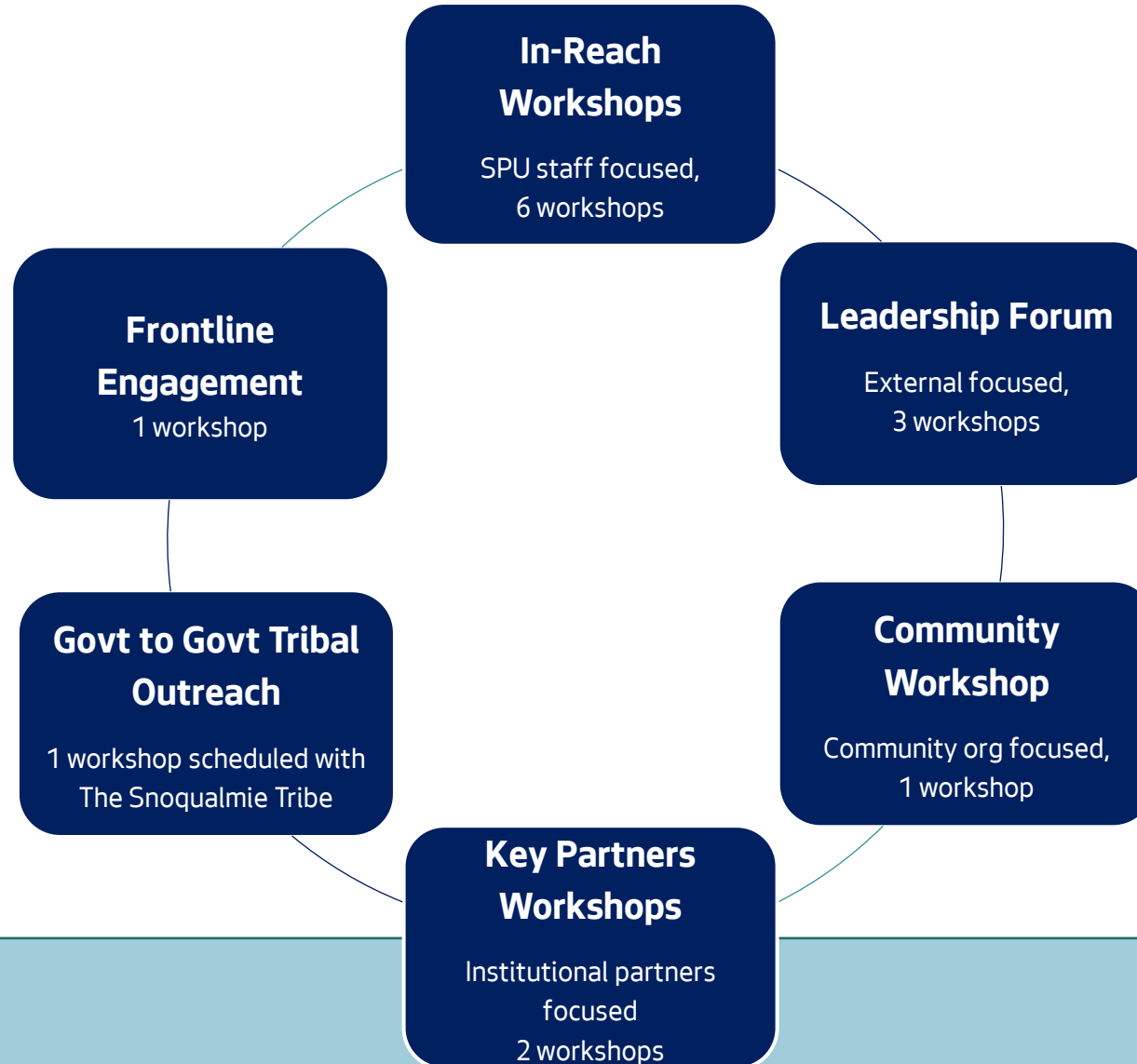
1. Honor the expertise and experiences of indigenous and historically underrepresented communities of all ages to achieve more equitable outcomes
2. Implement community-driven processes that promote shared decision-making in drainage and wastewater investments
3. Actively partner with other city departments, government agencies, tribal governments, and community organizations to create and participate in projects



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Engagement Overview



What Did We Brainstorm Solutions For

Too Much, Too Fast

reducing flow and volume

Shocks & Stresses

increasing resilience and adaptation
in our systems

Pollution in Our Waters

preventing pollutants from making it
to creeks, lakes, and the Sound

System Development

leveraging growth and development
to improve our services

Creek and Shoreline Health

improve our creek and shoreline
ecosystems

System Stewardship

improve the management of our
existing infrastructure



How Did We Get People to Brainstorm with Us

- Think bigger than a single project in the ground – policies and programs that can have a bigger impact
- Community Vision
- Shared tools
- Described our challenges

NON-STRUCTURAL TOOLS

Policy Improvements

- SPU Policy Improvements
- City of Seattle Policy Improvements
- State Policy Improvements
- Federal Policy Improvements

Public Engagement Programs

- Behavior Change Initiatives
- Educational Resources
- Workshops & Trainings
- Youth Environmental Education
- Stewardship Events & Programs
- Community Science Programs

Innovation & Research Programs

- Research Projects & Agreements
- Technology Pilot Projects
- Early Adoption of Innovative Development Practices

Funding & Financing Approaches

- System Development Charges
- External Grants and Loans
- Collaborative Funding
- Local Improvement Districts
- Credit Trading and Mitigation Banking
- Fee In-Lieu

Alternative Approaches to Delivering CIP

- Voluntary Retrofit Programs
- "Beyond Code" Incentives
- Redevelopment Requirements
- Joint Benefits Authority
- Interagency Joint Delivery
- Public Private Partnerships

STRUCTURAL TOOLS

- Bioretention
- Cisterns
- Conveyance Pipes - Maintenance & Repair
- Conveyance Pipes - New & Upsized
- Conveyance Swales
- Creek Culvert Improvements
- Floodplain Reconnection
- Green Roofs
- Non-Potable Water Reuse
- Permeable Pavement
- Pump Stations
- Real-time Controls & Smart Sensors
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation
- Shoreline Restoration
- Side Sewers - Backflow Prevention
- Side Sewers - Maintenance & Repair
- Source Control
- Storage Facilities
- Stormwater Flow Separation
- Stormwater Parks & Ponds
- Street Sweeping
- Trees
- Wetland Restoration



Challenges

Analysis Identify current and future risks and opportunities citywide

Prioritize drainage and wastewater risks and opportunities



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seattle.gov/utilities/about/reports/drainage-and-wastewater/shape-our-water-reports

This is an official government website. [Here's how you know](#)

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Drainage & Wastewater

Shape Our Water Reports

Combined Sewer Overflows

Policies

Solid Waste Contracts

Contracting

Shape Our Water Reports

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Too Much, Too Fast (Water Quantity)

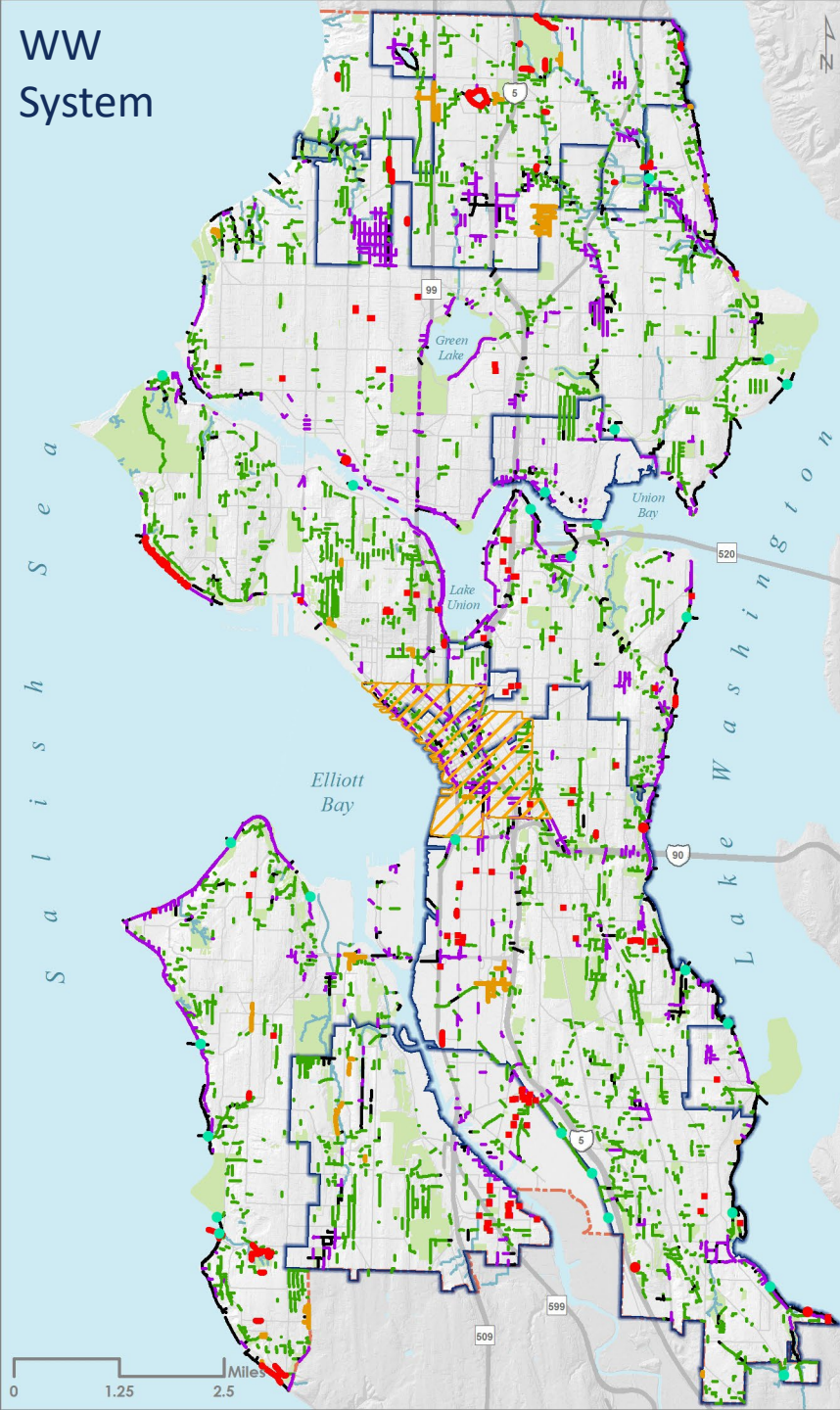
Seattle has more than 1,400 miles of wastewater pipes and more than 400 miles of drainage pipes – many of which were built 50-100 years ago. SPU invests in projects every year that increase the capacity of the drainage and wastewater systems but, in some places, flows still overwhelm the pipes. These reports identify and prioritize areas that may be vulnerable to flooding and sewer back-ups because of capacity issues.

- [Wastewater System Analysis](#) (12/20/19): Identifies and prioritizes capacity risks in the wastewater system that could cause sewer backups and overflows
- [Drainage System Analysis: Capacity Evaluation](#) (10/2/20) & [Prioritization](#) (12/21/20): Identifies and prioritizes capacity risks in the drainage system that could cause flooding
- [Flooding - Community Outreach](#) (10/7/20): Documents community engagement SPU did as part of the capacity analyses above

Pollution in Our Waters (Water Quality)

Seattle invests in many programs and projects that help reduce how much pollution enters our lakes, creeks, Puget Sound and the Duwamish River. These reports provide information about our priorities for continuing to protect water quality and reducing combined sewer overflows (CSOs).


WW System






Maintenance Challenges

hot spots and difficult
locations identified
through Frontline
Staff interviews



LEGEND

 Racial & Social Equity Index: highest and second highest disadvantage

Hot Spot Identified through Frontline Staff Interviews





-  mainline
-  pump station
-  flush tank

Other Maintenance Challenge

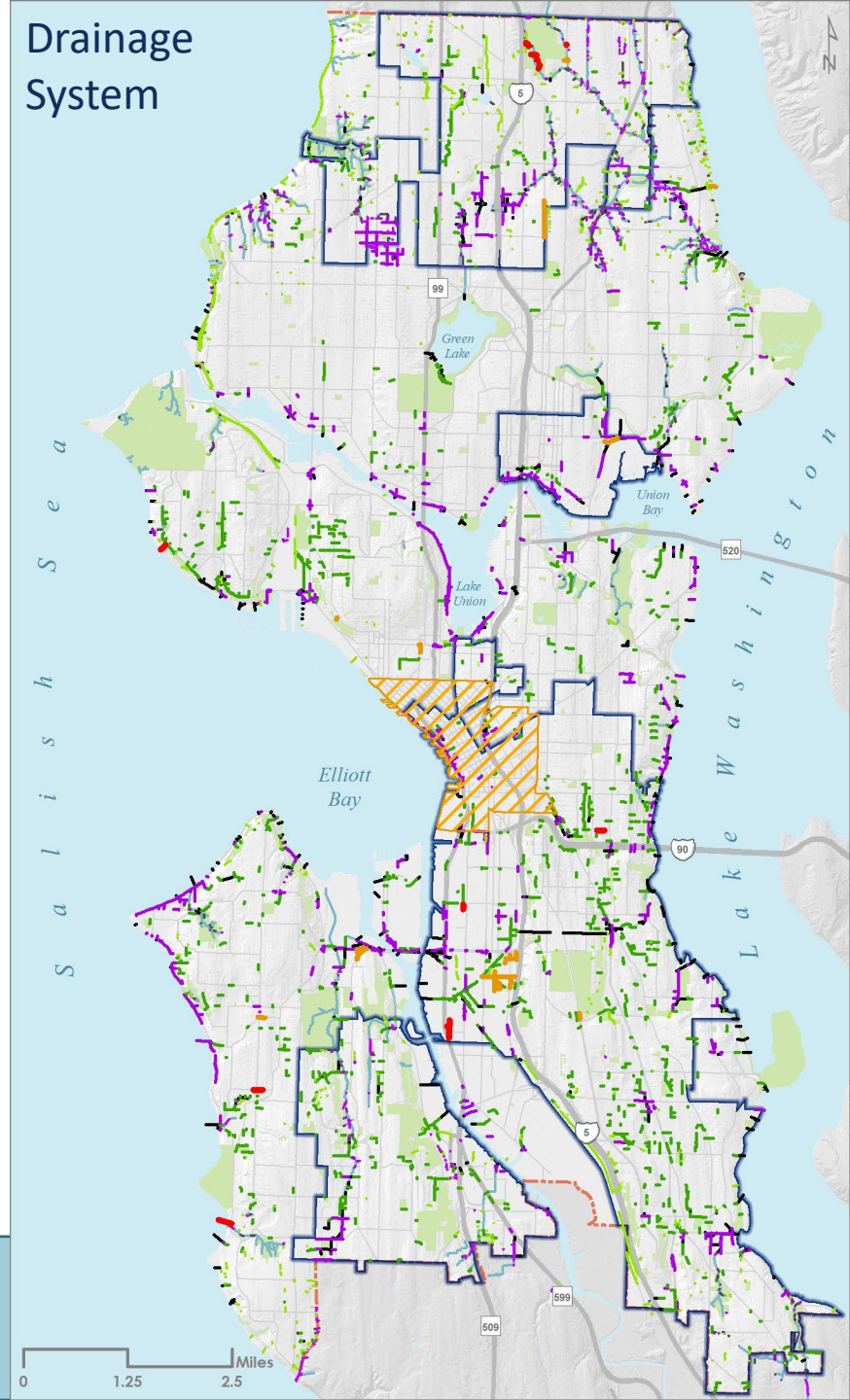
-  mainline
-  downtown

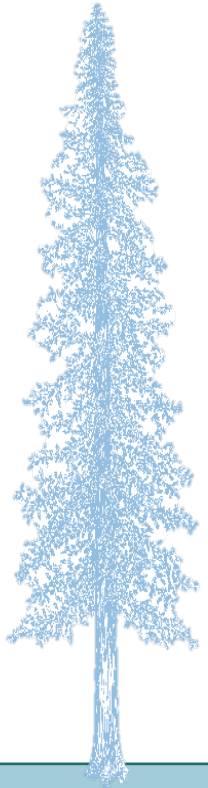
Access Challenge

Mainline

-  environmentally sensitive area or bridge
-  non-SPU property, unopened right-of-way, or alley
-  both
-  pump station on non-SPU property

Drainage System





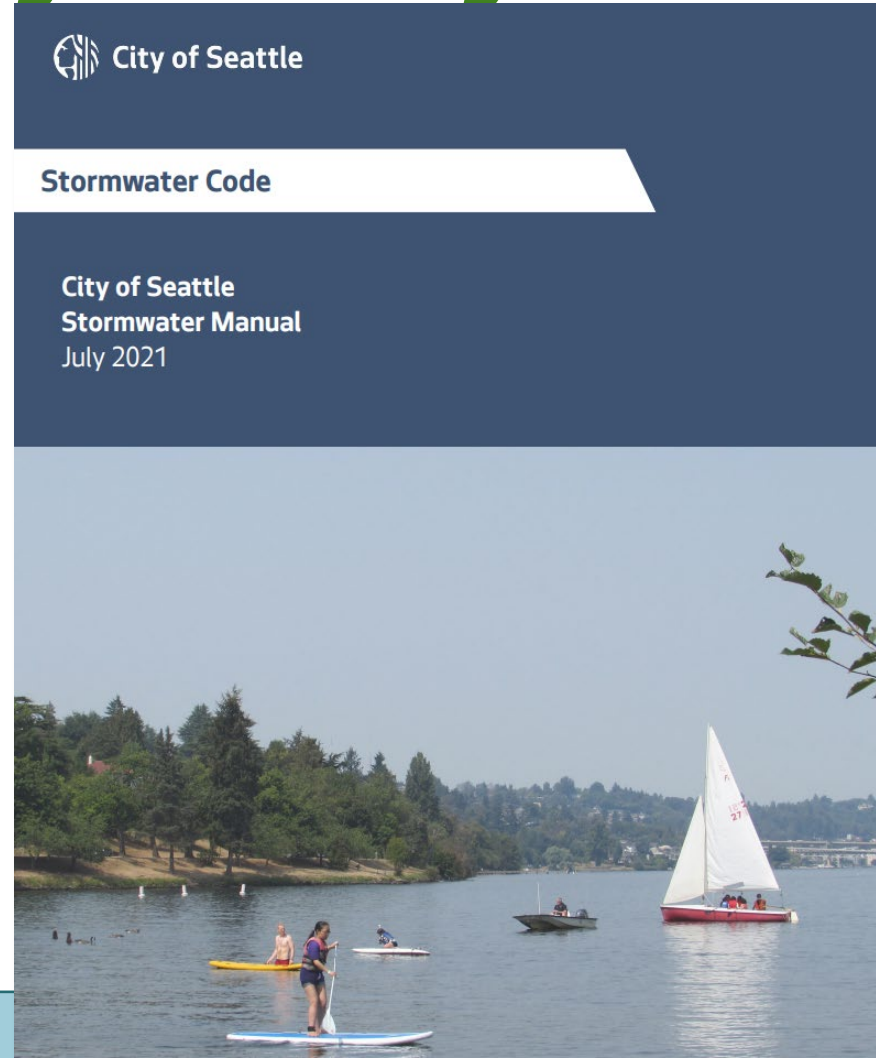
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Restore creeks
More maintenance staff
Improve state/federal policy
Retreat from vulnerable areas
More education!
Neighborhood-scale facilities
Improve SPU/City policy
Fill drainage gaps
Private property
Creeks on private property
Align with SDOT/Parks
Creek culverts
Water use



Improve SPU/City Policy

- Stormwater Code
- Building Code
- Others



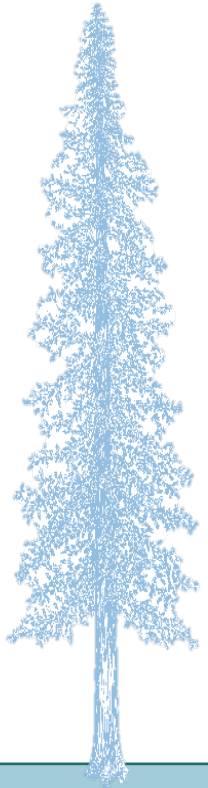
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Fill Drainage Gaps

- Build a backbone
- Develop the layout
- Make the ditch system
- Develop street design guidance



- Develop more educational resources
- Develop programs for behavior change
- At the point-of-sale: side sewers, downspouts, cisterns, green stormwater infrastructure, flood risks

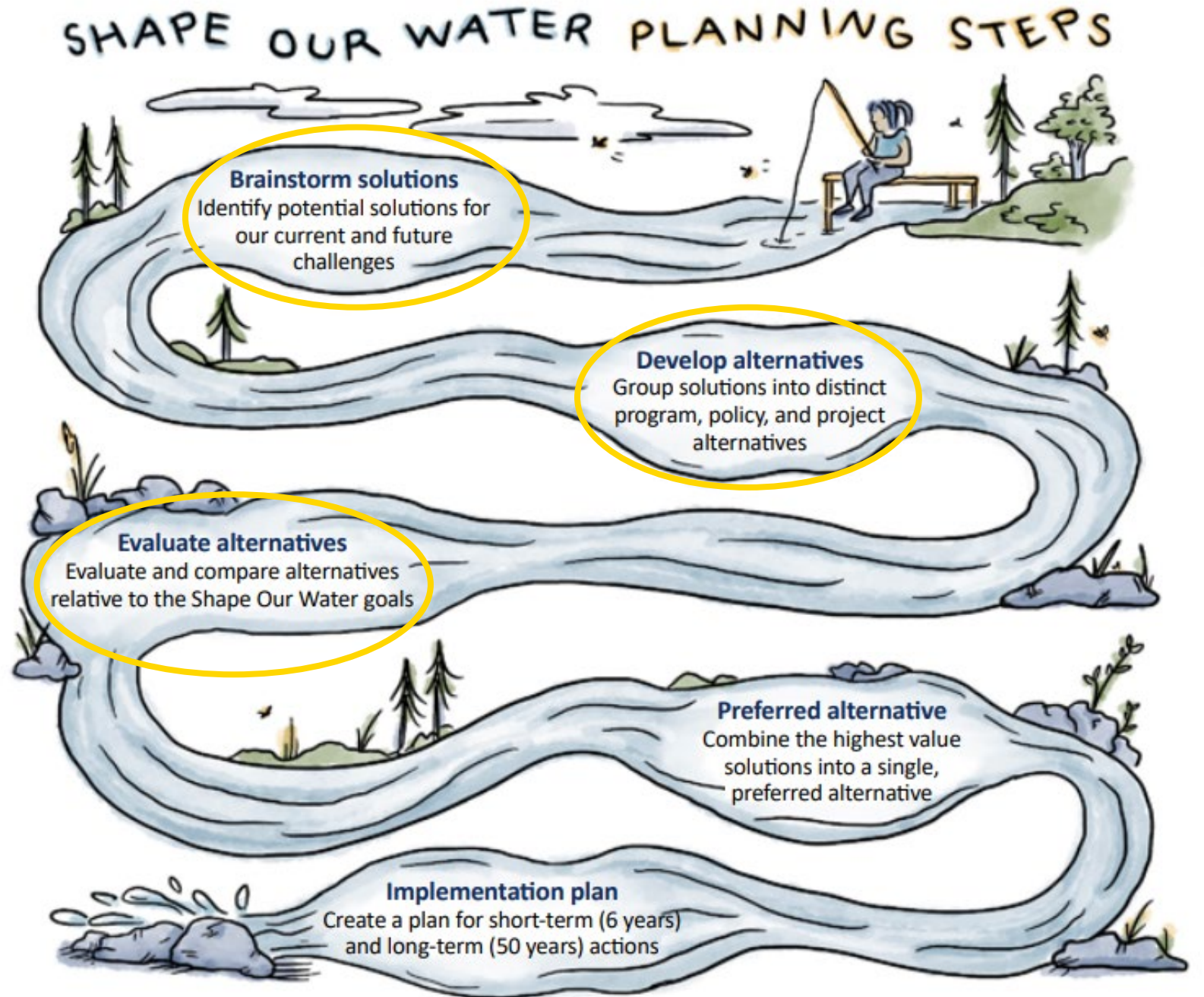


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Restore creeks
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Neighborhood-scale facilities
Improve SPU/City policy
Fill drainage gaps
Private property
Creeks on private property
Align with SDOT/Parks
Creek culverts
Water use



Next Steps



Refining Solutions

- Improve Seattle's drainage, wastewater, and receiving water challenges

AND

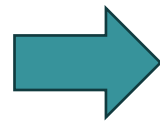
- Help SPU meet the goals of the Community Vision



Developing and Evaluating Alternatives

- Group solutions into alternatives
- Evaluate them
- Input to make them better considering driving forces outside of SPU's control

**Create the Preferred
Alternative**







Write the Plan



Key Resource - #1 ShOW Reports Page


- [Link](#)

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


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Shape Our Water Reports

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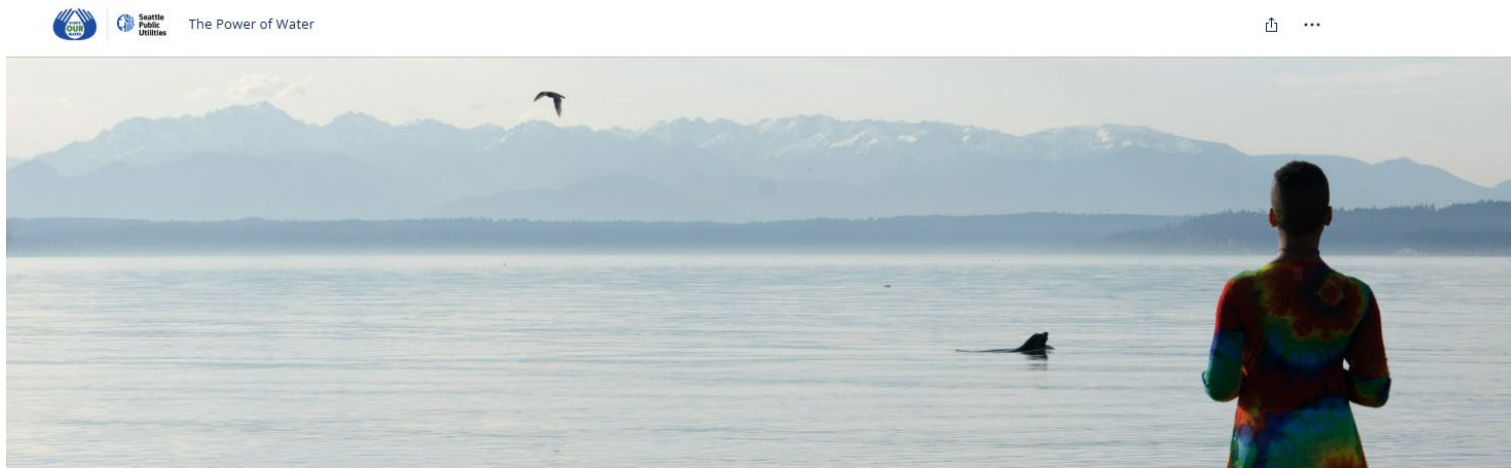
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Key Resource- #2 Power of Water StoryMap

- [Link](#)



The Power of Water

Creating an Equitable and Water-Resilient Future for Seattle

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

[Our Land Was Shaped By Water](#) [Your Underground Systems](#) [Water and Equity](#) [Our Community-centered Utility](#)



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GRATITUDE



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Solid Waste Prevention & Diversion

Jeff Fowler & Susan Fife-Ferris



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SBP Initiatives:

Stewarding Environment and Health

Strategy: Reduce materials use and prevent water and carbon pollution.

- Waste Prevention & Diversion- Jeff Fowler & Susan Fife-Ferris



Seattle Solid Waste *Program Highlights*

RECYCLE

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(206) 684-3000

FOOD & YARD

Seattle
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(206) 684-3000

Susan Fife-Ferris

*Director, Solid Waste Planning & Program Management
Seattle Public Utilities*

March 17, 2025 – SPU Customer Review Panel



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Seattle's Solid Waste Line of Business Overview



Seattle's Solid Waste Line of Business Overview

draft 3/8/2025

Why does Seattle's Solid Waste Line of Business exist?
It is useful to contextualize Seattle's history in managing solid waste and the four key inflection points that have really shaped Seattle's work and catalyzed change over time.

1. 1911 – To protect the city from diseases and vectors
Around the turn of the 20th century, as Seattle's population started to grow, the wastes of the day, which were mainly coal ashes, rags, and food scraps, began piling up and started making people sick. While a problem, records suggest that it was a case of bubonic plague, reportedly from rats living off unmanaged waste, that prompted the organizing of Seattle's first collection service around 1911. This is the origin of SPU's work and mission, to protect public health and the environment through responsible waste management.
2. 1961 – To curtail open dumping and reduce exposure to hazardous waste
In 1961, Washington State's first comprehensive laws on waste were adopted. Before then, all waste (solid and hazardous) was managed the same, which involved open dumping onto land or into water, and Seattle was no exception. Photo 2 is from the Montlake Dump, which was located just north of Husky Stadium on Union Bay, and the City used it as a public dumpsite from 1926 until 1966, when it was closed in response to mounting public outcry and new state regulations. This marks the era where we started to understand that products and materials with toxic or hazardous components can harm people and the environment for many years after they are discarded, and that the government has a responsibility to protect against those harms. This was absorbed into SPU's mandate.
3. 1987 – To reduce costs by diverting materials from landfill
In 1987, Seattle once again faced a solid waste management crisis. The Midway and Kent-Highlands sanitary landfills that the City had set up and operated since the switch from open dumping in the 1960s were declared Superfund sites and had to be closed in the 1980s. SPU started looking for other disposal options and realized (with the help of a savvy economist on staff) that diverting materials that can be recycled or composted from disposal could result in lower costs for ratepayers and deliver environmental benefits as well.



Photo 1: Curbside collection in Seattle, circa 1920s



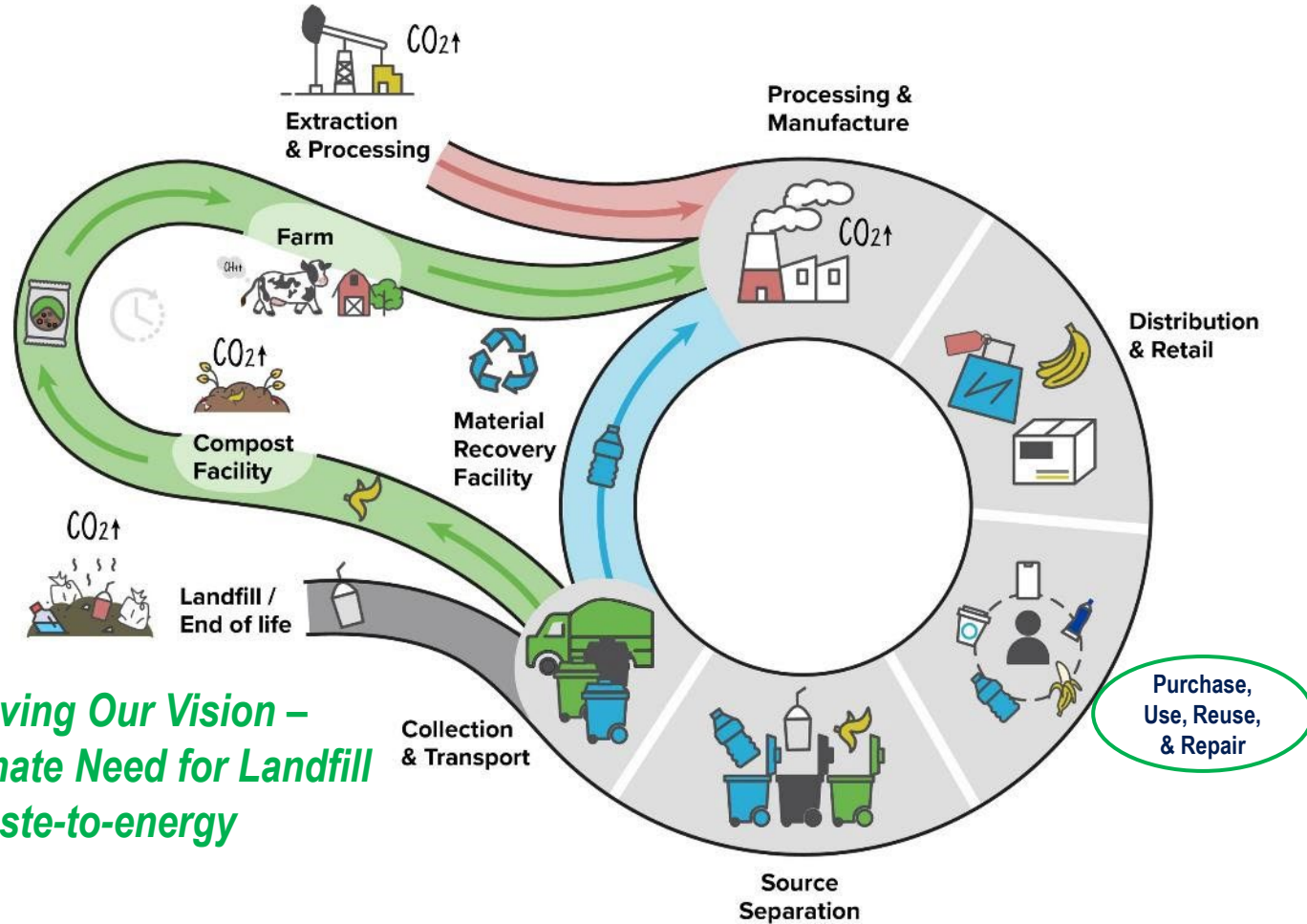
Photo 2: Montlake Landfill, circa 1950s

Moving Upstream & Supporting Circularity

Seattle's Vision is Zero Waste

- **Prevent Waste**
- **Deliver climate & other environmental benefits**
- **Create economic development & innovation opportunities**

Achieving Our Vision – Eliminate Need for Extraction & Processing



Achieving Our Vision – Eliminate Need for Landfill or Waste-to-energy

Key Waste Prevention & Upstream Efforts



Consumer Food Waste Prevention



Commercial Food Waste Prevention



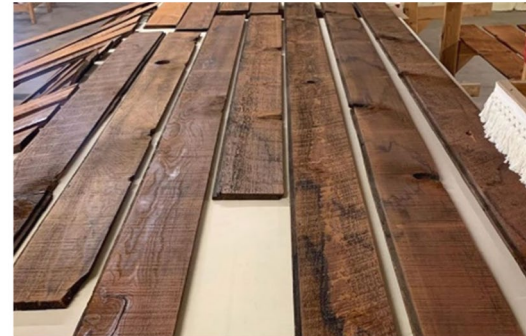
Food Rescue



Reusable Food Service Ware



Commercial Bag Requirements



Building Salvage



Community & Business Grants



Composting & Natural Yard Care



Program Highlights

- Food Waste Reduction & Food Rescue
- Food & Beverage Container Reuse
- Building Salvage & Deconstruction



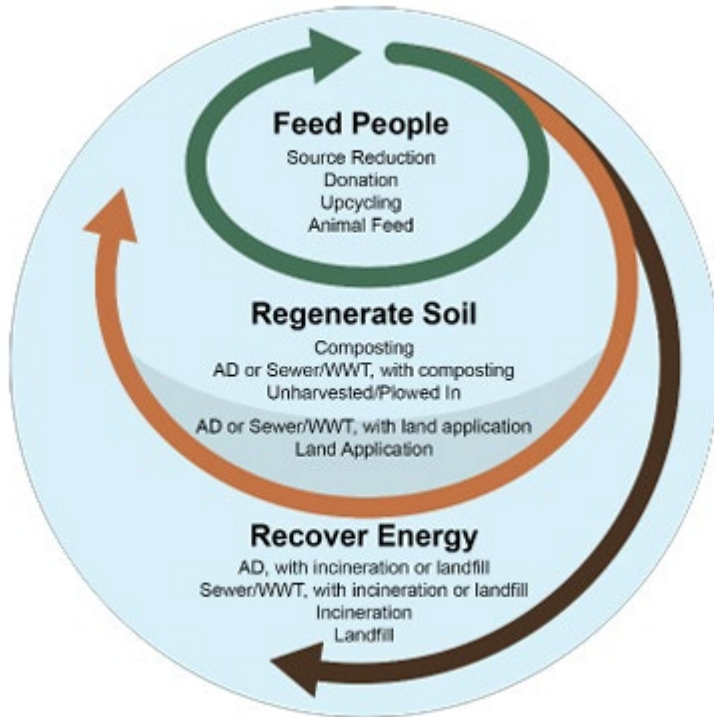
Food Waste Reduction & Food Rescue



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Wasting Food Matters!

Disposed Food Waste =
Missed Opportunities



EPA. From Field to Bin: The Environmental Impacts of US Food Waste Management Pathways

Disposed Food Waste =
Poorer Environmental Health



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Why does wasting food matter?

20% of all the freshwater used in the U.S. grows food that is never eaten.



If all the wasted food in the world was grown on one farm, that farm would be larger than Canada.



If wasted food were its own country, it would cause more greenhouse gas emissions than any other country except China and the U.S.

The U.S. throws away \$160 billion worth of food a year. By reducing food waste, a family of four could save as much as \$1500 a year!



About 5% of all energy used in the U.S. goes to grow food that is wasted—enough to power the whole country for 2.5 weeks!

1 in 8 U.S. households don't have enough to eat. By buying more food than we need, we're using up valuable resources, and increasing food prices, hurting low-income families most.

Save money
Save the environment
Waste less food



For resources to help you waste less food, visit
seattle.gov/util/stopfoodwaste



40% of food in the United States goes uneaten.

Much of that waste happens in our own homes.



Tips to help you waste less food.

Consumer Food Waste Prevention

1. Understand the systems surrounding food & food waste
2. Identify food waste prevention partners
3. Identify key issues, existing gaps, & opportunities
4. Report on findings coming at end of Q1 2025



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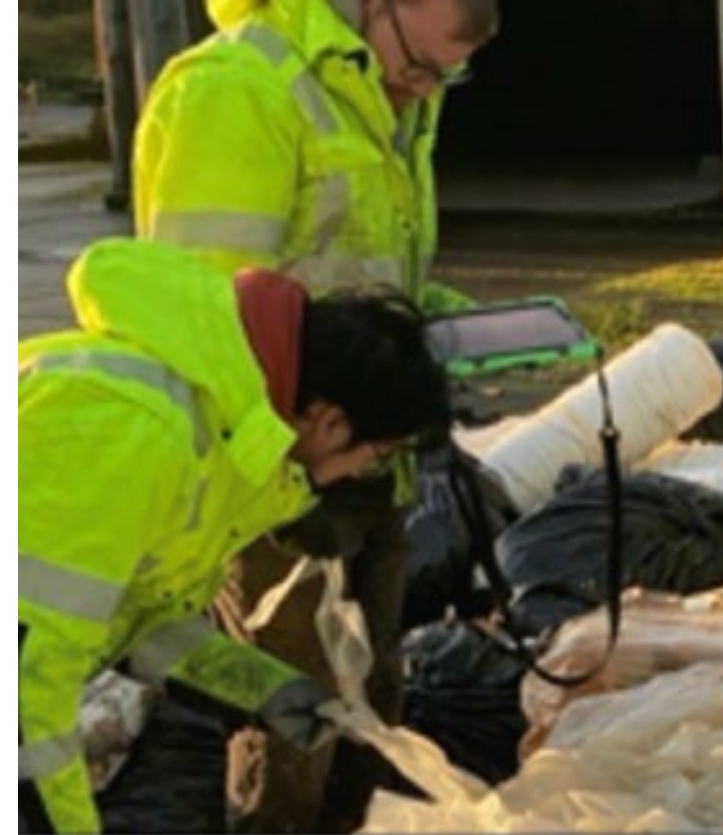
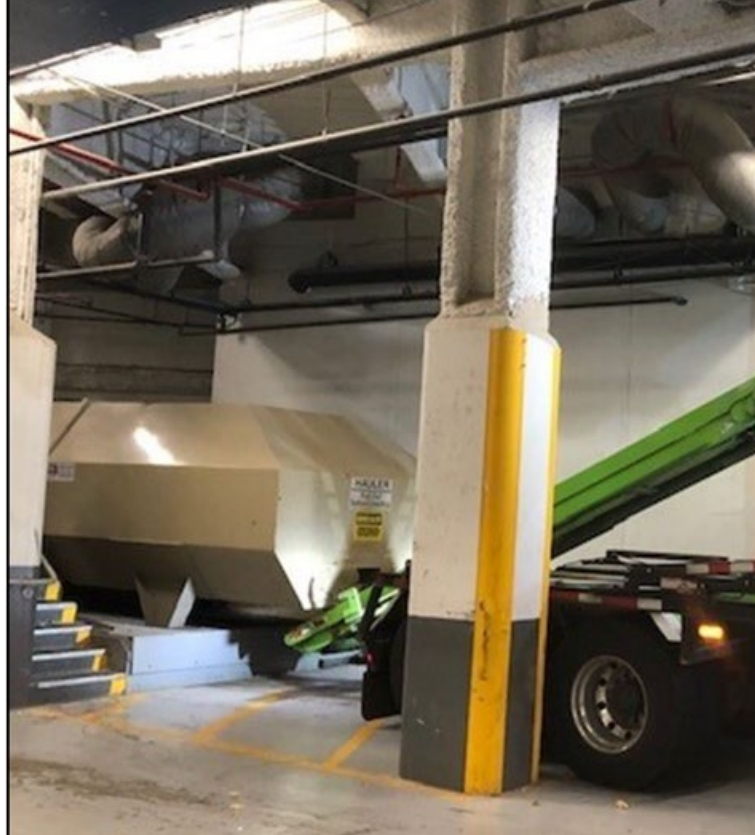
Food Rescue

- Seeds of Resilience Food Rescue Innovation Grants
- Food Donation Protocols & Training





Engaging Largest Commercial Food Generators



Working with the largest food businesses to identify:

1. Is food in the garbage?
2. How can this food waste be prevented, donated, or diverted to compost?
3. How can SPU's site visits, technical assistance, & recommendations help to keep food out of the garbage?



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Seattle Leverages Opportunities!

2025 ReFED Food Waste Solutions Summit

June 23-25, 2025 | Seattle, WA



Seattle, WA | April 28 - May 1 | 2025

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-5.01
2025 SAVE
THE
DATE



Food & Beverage Container Reuse



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Why is Seattle Focused on Reuse in Food Service?

- Waste Prevention
- Climate Impact
- Circular Economy
- Regulatory Alignment



Advancing Reuse: 3 Channels For Action

Promote BYO

Promote & Facilitate
Durables & Reusables
for Dine-In

Foster & Enable
Integrated Reuse
Systems



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Reuse Seattle Vision: Aligned & Shared Reuse Systems

- Accessible
- Affordable
- Easy to Use
- Equitable
- Everywhere
- Interconnected
- Scalable



Reuse Seattle's Impact



23 businesses,
14 entertainment venues,
15 public schools
transitioned to reusable
service ware

30 distinct events with **72**
event occurrences piloted
reuseable service ware
>**80K** units of reusables
used

4 cafes joined to form a
cup borrowing network,
with **16 more** pending

3 reuse service
providers &
wash hubs



Seattle's Vision!



**Stadiums &
Arenas**

**Movie
Theaters**



**Outdoor
Festivals /
Events**



**Business /
Tourist Hubs**



**Public Place
Collection**



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THE **WORLD CUP** IS COMING TO

SEATTLE

Seattle's Vision!

SEA2026



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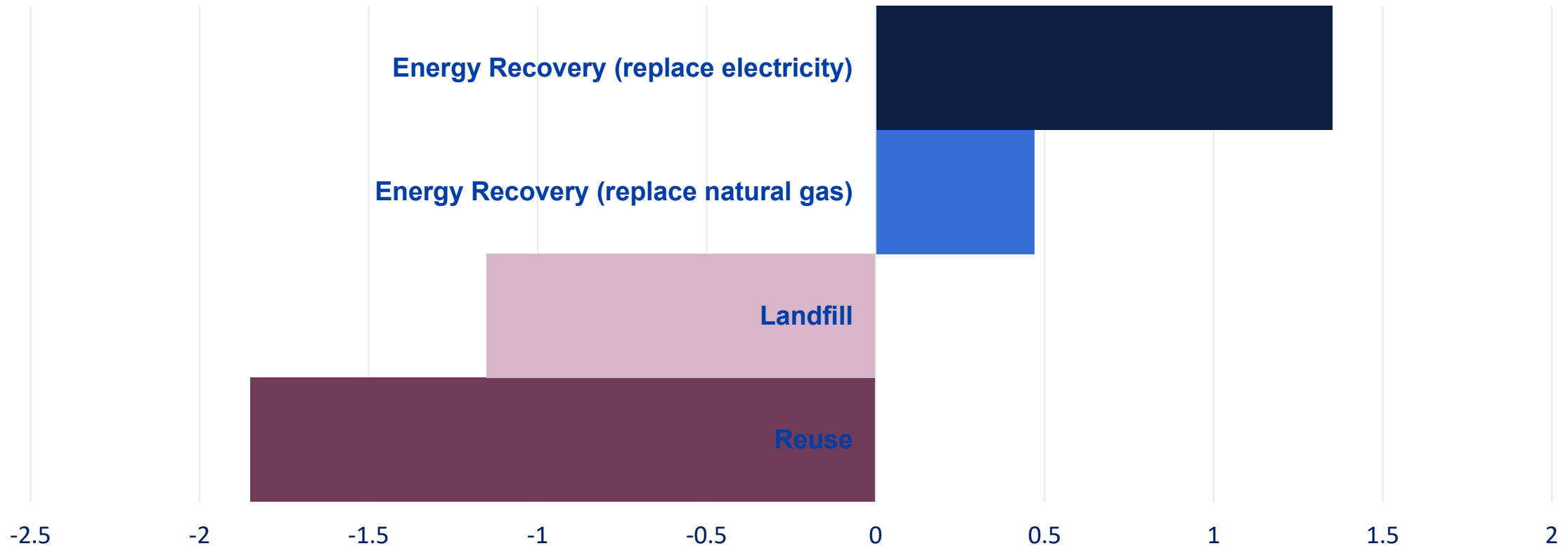
Building Salvage & Deconstruction



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99% of recovered C&D wood: boiler fuel

Carbon stored, released, & offset from End of Life fates for wood (kg CO₂eq/kg wood)



Reuse & landfill are carbon sinks (i.e., they have positive impacts on carbon storage). Reuse is the most favorable, in part because it offsets the need to harvest new wood. Landfilling wood also sequesters the carbon in the wood because wood breaks down slowly in a landfill. - Source: Oregon DEQ's 2019 Report



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Pacific NW Old Growth Lumber



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Credit: Sledge Seattle

Deconstruction Incentive Program Pilot

- Pilot started November 2022
- \$4,000 per deconstruction project + \$500 for garages
- 29 Applicants so far
- Residential, wood-framed buildings are eligible
- Over 4 tons of wood recovered from each house
- Incentive is making deconstruction more appealing



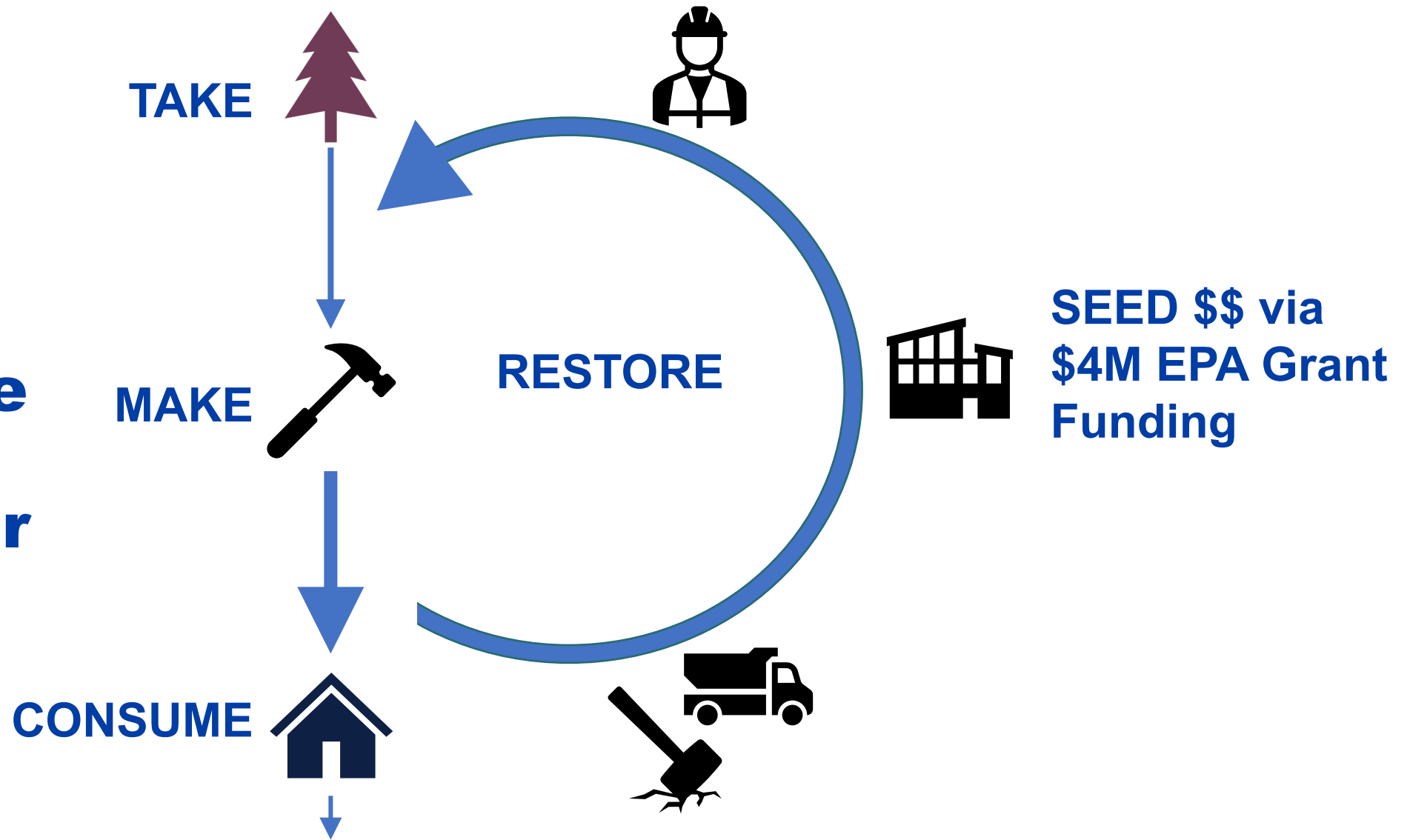
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Salvaged Lumber Warehouse Project – RFP out for Proposals



MINIMIZE LOST MATTER & HEAT



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Furniture Collection at Seattle's Transfer Stations

- Furniture Repair Bank collects furniture for repair & redistribution to refugees & low-income residents
- Hold three 1-day events per month, alternating between NTS & STS
- 14 tons of Furniture collected at 13 Events





THANK YOU!

Questions?

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CRP Discussion Time

Andrés Mantilla, Uncommon Bridges



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Closing & Adjourn

Andrés Mantilla, Uncommon Bridges



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