

8 Benefits of Washington State Sewer and Water Districts

There are 182 Sewer and Water Districts throughout the State of Washington, each governed by locally elected officials.

These districts provide cost-effective sewer and water services--ranging from the state's largest population centers, to the smallest rural communities.

The Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts retained

Eastern Washington University's Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis to conduct a study measuring the impacts of these locally governed districts.

The top eight benefits are on the right; a sample of county-specific benefits are provided below.

Examples of Special Purpose District Benefits by County



- 1 Nearly a Quarter of State Water Service**
Special Purpose Water Districts provide clean, affordable water to 19% of the state's population (22% on a public water system).
- 2 One Fifth of State Sewer Service**
Special Purpose Sewer Districts provide environmentally cost-effective sewer transmission and/or treatment to 14% of the state's population (21% connected to sewer system and treatment plant).
- 3 \$595 Million Service With No Property Tax**
State Sewer and Water Districts collectively operate a \$595 million dollar annual enterprise without imposing any property taxes.
- 4 \$135 Million Invested in Infrastructure**
State Sewer and Water Districts collectively invest over \$135 million annually on capital improvement projects that ensure reliable service.
- 5 \$55 Million Contracted With Small Business**
State Sewer and Water Districts throughout the state spend \$55 million annually contracting with small business.
- 6 \$17 Million in Support of State Investments**
State Sewer and Water Districts help support critical state investments by paying \$17 million annually in B&O and Utility Excise taxes.
- 7 \$5 Million in Support of Local Governments**
State Sewer and Water Districts help local governments collect utility taxes to fund local governmental services—currently in excess of \$5 million annually.
- 8 Gainful Employment**
State Sewer and Water Districts directly support 1,345 jobs with an average annual salary of \$68,500.

Special Purpose Sewer and/or Water Districts operate in 34 of Washington's 39 Counties. Below is a sampling of benefits that Special Purpose Districts provide on a county-wide basis. Visit our interactive online map at www.waswdmap.org

A King County
Special Purpose Water & Sewer Districts

- 31% of the county's population served by a Special Purpose Water District; 28% by a Special Purpose Sewer District
- \$65 million in water and sewer infrastructure projects currently underway
- \$22 million in contracts with small businesses
- \$9.4 million remitted in annual state taxes

B Snohomish County
Special Purpose Water & Sewer Districts

- 45% of the county's population served by a Special Purpose Water District; 35% by a Special Purpose Sewer District
- \$25 million in water and sewer infrastructure projects currently underway
- \$12 million in contracts with small businesses
- \$3 million remitted in annual state taxes

C Douglas County
Special Purpose Water & Sewer Districts

- 82% of the county's population served by a Special Purpose Water District; 50% by a Special Purpose Sewer District
- \$3.75 million in water and sewer infrastructure projects currently underway
- \$1.5 million in contracts with small businesses
- \$347,000 remitted in annual state taxes

D Kitsap County
Special Purpose Water & Sewer Districts

- 29% of the county's population served by a Special Purpose Water District; 6% by a Special Purpose Sewer District
- \$3.7 million in water and sewer infrastructure projects currently underway
- \$1.8 million in contracts with small businesses
- \$830,000 remitted in annual state taxes

E Whatcom County
Special Purpose Water & Sewer Districts

- 18% of the county's population served by a Special Purpose Water District; 12% by a Special Purpose Sewer District
- \$4.6 million in sewer infrastructure projects currently underway
- \$1.8 million in contracts with small businesses
- \$558,000 remitted in annual state taxes

F Clark County
Special Purpose Sewer Districts

- 19% of the county's population served by a Special Purpose Sewer District
- \$17.7 million in sewer infrastructure projects currently underway
- \$9.2 million in contracts with small businesses
- \$495,000 remitted in annual state taxes