



City of Yelm Water

Help us plan for the future!

This spring the City of Yelm is kicking off two projects to help ensure that a sustainable, high-quality water supply will be available for current and future residents and we need to hear from you!

- The first project will define city-wide goals for water use efficiency.
- The second project will produce an update to the City's 2002 Water System Plan. This updated Plan will define policies and identify projects that will guide how the City manages this vital resource over the next six years.

Both of these projects are required by the Washington State Department of Health as a part of their normal oversight of municipal water systems.

**Please come to a
Water Use Efficiency Open House
which will be open to the public
Wednesday, June 18, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the
Yelm Public Safety Building, 206 McKenzie Avenue SE**

The primary purpose of this meeting will be to get your comments and suggestions related to proposed water use efficiency goals that are being developed. The City Council will consider your input before finalizing the goals.

You'll also find out about the process for developing the Water System Plan and your opportunities for providing input during that process. Public meetings related to the planning process are tentatively scheduled for July and October, 2008, and January 2009.

We want to make it easy for you to stay informed about these projects and to provide your ideas. In addition to attending public meetings, you can:

- Visit the project webpage at the City's website www.ci.yelm.wa.us to find fact sheets, information about public meetings and summaries of input from them, and technical reports *or* to send an email to the City.
- See printed copies of project materials at City Hall, the City's Public Works Facility and the Yelm Timberland Library.
- Look for inserts in future utility billings.
- Contact Stephanie Ray, Project Manager, to ask questions, offer suggestions or request a briefing for your group: by telephone (360) 458-8414; by email (stephanier@ci.yelm.wa.us); or by mail: P.O. Box 479, Yelm, WA 98597.

Please see the other side of the page over for additional information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City of Yelm undertaking these projects?

- The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) requires that the City update its Water System Plan every six years. DOH has specific guidelines about information and documentation that must be included in this plan.
- The requirement to establish water use efficiency goals is relatively new; it grew out of the 2003 Municipal Water Law and applies to municipal water systems, like Yelm's. Setting water use efficiency goals in 2008 will bring us into compliance with this requirement.

What's involved in establishing goals for water use efficiency?

Municipal water suppliers must use water efficiently and demonstrate that they are doing so. Water suppliers such as the City of Yelm are required to:

- Establish water saving goals through a public process.
- Meet a distribution system leakage standard.
- Develop a water use efficiency program.
- Evaluate or implement water use efficiency measures to manage water use.
- Report annually on progress towards meeting goals and using water efficiently.

What is the timeline for these projects?

- Work on both planning projects began in April.
- The City intends to establish goals for water use efficiency by July of this year.
- The City's goal is to complete a draft Water System Plan to submit for agency review in the spring of 2009. After approval, it will guide management of the system for a six year period.

Aren't we already doing a lot to use our water resources efficiently?

- Yes! Yelm is already a leader in Washington in the production and use of reclaimed water.
- Our new potable water rate structure encourages conservation during the higher-use summer months.
- Over the last six years, the City has used its 2002 Water System Plan to direct investments in capital projects and improvements in system maintenance and operation. We have made significant progress and have implemented a majority of the projects identified in the 2002 Plan.
- Measures that have already been taken to promote the efficient use of water include the installation of locks on hydrants (to prevent unauthorized uses) and an annual leak detection program for the City's water mains.