

## Department of Ecology to hold three Reclaimed Water Workshops

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to adopt rules for reclaimed water use by December 2010. The goal is to develop a Reclaimed Water Program encouraging the use of reclaimed water; assure the health and safety of Washington citizens; protect the environment; and allow us to use our precious water resources wisely.

### What is included in the draft rule?

- Procedures and responsibilities for regulatory review, permitting and enforcement.
- Technical standards for treatment, storage, distribution, and use of reclaimed water.

### What are the workshops about?

The workshops begin with an open house to give the public an opportunity to learn more about reclaimed water and the new rule before the agency presentations. At the end of each workshop, the public has an opportunity to ask any additional questions about reclaimed water, its uses, effects on existing water rights, and safety.

- 1:00 Open house
- 1:30 Overview of the rule development process
- 1:45 Planning, Design, and Construction
- 2:00 Operating Permits
- 2:15 Technical Standards
- 2:30 Question and Answers

### Who should attend workshops?

- Anyone interested in learning more about reclaimed water.
- Jurisdictions interested in bringing reclaimed water to their community.
- Generators, distributors, and users of reclaimed water.
- Consultants, regulatory agencies, and the general public.

## Public Workshops

### Spokane Valley

May 20, 2010  
1:00 p.m.  
Center Place  
2426 N Discovery Place

### Everett

May 25, 2010  
1:00 p.m.  
Everett City Library  
2702 Hoyt Avenue

### Lacey

May 26, 2010  
1:00 p.m.  
Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive  
Room ROA-34

### Contact information

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### Special accommodations

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6700.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

## What is Reclaimed Water?

Water that is used more than one time before it passes back into the natural water cycle. Reclaimed water is sometimes called recycled water because its source is wastewater that is treated to a level that allows its reuse for a beneficial purpose. Reclaimed water is commonly conveyed in purple pipe to keep it distinct from potable (drinking) water.



## Advantages of Reclaimed Water

- Reduces demands on groundwater utilized for drinking.
- Reduces and eliminates wastewater discharges to surface water.
- Postpones the development of costly new sources and supplies of drinking water.
- Can reduce the cost of landscape irrigation when it replaces potable water.
- Can provide aesthetic value within a community.

## Common uses for Reclaimed Water

- Irrigating lawns, common areas and golf courses
- Street sweeping
- Power generator cooling
- Decorative fountains
- Fire hydrants
- Aquifer recharge
- Industrial processes
- Natural system restoration

Reclaimed water cannot be directly used for drinking or cooking.

## Reclaimed Water and Water Rights

Under state law, reclaimed water projects are exempt from the state's process to obtain water rights. State law gives the owner of a reclaimed water facility exclusive right to the use of that water. However, those facilities cannot impair existing water rights. "Impairment" is a key concept in Washington water law that protects existing water rights.

## Where can I get additional information?

Visit Ecology's website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/reclaim/index.html>

Join the list serve: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=RECLAIMED-WATER>