



Salish Sea Watersheds Challenge

Scoop the Poop! Rain washes pet and livestock poop down storm drains and into our waters. *Poo-lution* can make people and animals sick and cause harmful algal blooms.

- Scoop it, Bag it, Trash it!** I will carry bags to clean up my dog's poop when on walks.
- I will encourage my cat to use a litter box, scoop the poop, bag it, and trash it.
- I will keep livestock away from creeks and ditches, scoop the poop and cover manure piles to keep rain out.

Be Wildlife Smart! Feeding wildlife causes an inflation in their population, which increases the amount of their waste in the area where feeding occurs. It can also make wildlife more aggressive, destructive, and once human food is taken away leads to starvation.

- I will keep wildlife wild by **not** providing easy access to food and shelter. Always secure garbage cans, keep pet food inside, put chickens in the coop at night, and block holes to attics or crawl spaces.

Be Septic Smart! We will maintain our septic system. Failing systems can cause property damage, cost a lot of money to fix, and cause water pollution that can make people sick.

- Evaluate before it's too late!** We will have our septic system evaluated every 1 or 3 years (depending on the system). Evaluations help find small fixes that can prevent large problems. Go to www.whatcomcounty.us/septic or call (360) 778-6000 for more information
- Pump the Tank!** A professional will pump the tank when solids are 1/3 of tank volume.
- Don't Strain Your Drain!** We will avoid system overload by spreading out laundry and dishwasher loads. Solids need to settle in the tank. Too much water too quickly can overload the drain field, causing failure.

Be Yard Smart! Protect your storm drains! Your yard is a place that can be a minefield of pollution. Especially if you use fertilizers, pesticides, or have animals, but you can do more to help prevent pollution from your yard getting into waterways.

- Plant [native species](#) in your yard, especially the base of hills and shorelines! Make sure, if you have a septic field, to [plant species](#) with short root systems.
- Only rain in storm drains! I will not dump toxics in drains or on the ground.
- We will not wash our car in the driveway, where the soap and oil can wash into the storm drain, which goes into the Salish Sea.
- We will position gutters to drain onto grass or garden beds and use porous materials like paving stones, sand or gravel.

Be Boat Smart!

- We will make sure the valve on the boat's holding tank is kept in the closed position.
- We will use the pump outs at the marina and never dump the holding tank into the water.
- Rinse boats and kayaks off if transferring between bodies of water.

Be Seafood Smart!

- I will make sustainable seafood choices by buying [Marine Certified Seafood](#) (MSC).

Reduce My Carbon Footprint & Conserve Energy!

- I will ride a bike, walk, or take public transportation instead of driving.
- Flying produces a ton of greenhouse gasses. Be conscientious and think about reducing how many flights you take a year or check out carbon offset programs.
- I will turn off lights, appliances, and computers when not in use and put high energy-using items like water heaters on timers.
- We will buy local products to support our local farmers and reduce transportation.
- We will plant trees, vegetation, and cover crops.
- We will compost our yard and food waste.
- I will choose a low carbon diet.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

- Reduce!** Find plastic free and reusable alternatives to plastics you use. Minimize purchase of products with plastic packaging, avoid single use plastics and carry a reusable bottle.
- Reuse!** Get creative and find ways to give plastic items a second life.



gardensalishsea.org
Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum ©.

We acknowledge and respect the treaty rights of the Coast Salish Peoples to the lands and waters of the Salish Sea and we recognize their stewardship since time immemorial.

