



South Treatment Plant

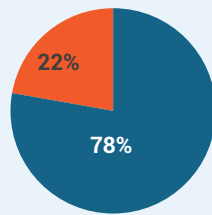
SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Thank you for your feedback!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the South Treatment Plant Near Neighbor Survey last Spring. Your feedback will help inform important work taking place at South Plant to protect public health and the environment for a thriving Puget Sound region.

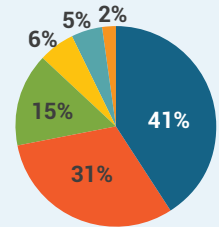
Did you know you live or work near a wastewater treatment plant?

78% Yes
22% No



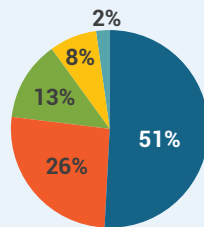
How has living near a treatment plant affected your daily life?

- 41%** I notice industrial odors in the area that includes South Plant, railyards, transfer stations and a rendering plant.
- 31%** The treatment plant doesn't affect my daily life.
- 15%** I like the plant's amenities like education opportunities at City Soil Farm and WaterWorks Garden.
- 6%** There is more traffic.
- 5%** Other
- 2%** The treatment plant can be noisy.



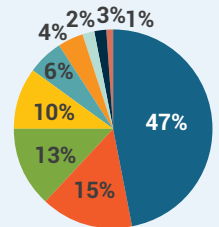
How do you feel about living or working near a wastewater treatment plant?

- 51%** The treatment plant is a necessary part of life so I accept it being in my neighborhood.
- 26%** I do not really mind because I do not notice it.
- 13%** I do not like the treatment plant nearby.
- 8%** Other
- 2%** I like living or working near the treatment plant.



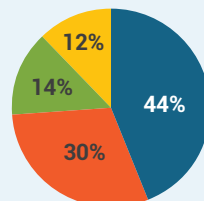
How do you prefer WTD communicate with you?

- 47%** Mailers
- 15%** Email/listserv updates
- 13%** King County website or blogs
- 10%** Social media
- 6%** Information materials at community hubs
- 4%** Other
- 2%** Phone calls/text messages
- 3%** Virtual/in-person meetings
- 1%** On-site signs at infrastructure sites



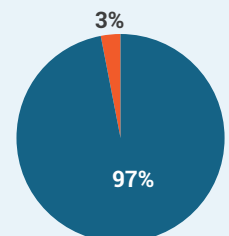
King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) wants to make sure you know what is happening at its facilities in your area. How often would you prefer WTD update you?

- 44%** Quarterly
- 30%** Annually
- 14%** Only to provide construction and maintenance activity notice.
- 12%** Monthly



What is the primary language spoken in your household?

- 97%** English
- 3%** Spanish, Vietnamese, Amharic



Here's what we heard

One hundred people responded to our survey. Some key findings from this data include:

We heard about environmental justice concerns, concerns about billing for sanitary sewer use versus surface water management, requests for translating materials into multiple languages, and historical queries.



Providing Amenities

People appreciate the amenities that South Plant provides, like educational programming at CitySoil Farm and Waterworks Gardens.



Continued Investment in Odor Control

People would like to hear more from King County about odor control. Odors that people do notice tend to be worse in warm weather and some people mentioned that they have seen a marked improvement in odors over the years. We take odors seriously. For example, the dewatering building truck loading bay ventilation improvement project is one of our current odor control projects. It will continue to help us keep our workers safe and reduce smells escaping the plant by improving ventilation and reducing ammonia odors for both workers on-site and for neighbors.



Protecting Health and Safety

We are working on several projects to protect the health and safety of our communities and our employees. They include Biogas and heat system improvements as well as upgrading our security, alarm, and fire systems.

Investing in Resilience

Maintaining plant operations is important to South Plant neighbors. We're making seismic upgrades to our influent pump building to ensure the plant continues to operate even in the event of an earthquake.



Working Together to Protect Water Quality

Did you know that South Plant's dissolved air flotation tanks are used to remove grease and oil from wastewater? Parts of the tank have aged and require rehabilitation or replacement. We are working to make these repairs and improvements.

You can help by remembering to "Don't Flush Trouble". Put grease, oil and wipes in the trash. Lets all do our part to protect our clean water system!

Controlling Odors at South Plant

Cleaning wastewater and recovering resources like recycled water, biogas, and biosolids can be a smelly business.

When microorganisms break down biodegradable materials they produce gas, which in turn, causes odors. The number-one culprit for odors is hydrogen sulfide, a natural by-product of this process. Heat accelerates decomposition which is why odors can be stronger in warmer months.

King County has worked to reduce odors at South Plant for decades. Since 1985, odor control has been a priority within plant operations. We constructed our first odor control unit and carbon odor reduction towers in the late 1980s. In 2007, we added a secondary chemical odor control system to better capture odors. Along with replacing equipment and using sound wastewater treatment practices, here are some other ways we control odors:

- We use activated carbon in parts of the treatment process to “scrub” out the hydrogen sulfide before it is released into the air. We use carbon because it traps and absorbs stinky gases.
- We placed covers over the pre-aeration tanks, which are part of the settled sewage system, and installed additional treatment equipment and duct work that aid in minimizing potential fugitive odors.
- Additionally, there are two ongoing projects at South Plant that will further improve odor control.
- A 24-hour odor reporting line is available to address both at the South Treatment Plant and to WTD offsite pumping stations. There are dedicated operations staff who respond to calls and investigate each concern thoroughly.



IF YOU EVER SMELL A CONCERNING ODOR
call our 24-hour odor reporting line: 206-263-1760

CALL AS SOON AS YOU SMELL! The faster we learn of the issue, the faster we can fix it. Our committed crew of operators will investigate your concerns within the day.

What are we doing with your feedback?

After receiving your responses, staff at South Plant met to collaborate on next steps. Based on the communication needs of survey respondents, we've made some decisions about how to perform outreach at South Plant going forward. These measures include:

- The majority of respondents selected either, quarterly or annual communications so we have decided to send out communications twice per year.
- We will use mailers as our main form of communication.
- We will give more attention to topics like odor control, how to manage stormwater and other ways you can protect water quality.

We continue to grow and improve each year and appreciate the feedback we get from the community on how we're progressing.



What's happening at WTD?

We are hiring! Find your career, with competitive pay, benefits and a pension plan today by applying at: governmentjobs.com/careers/kingcounty

Have you heard of our Operators in Training Program?

We are looking for the next generation of talent in the wastewater industry. Learn more about the program by watching the video at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/OITprogram>

Scan here for more info!




How to Stay Informed

Visit our treatment plant website to sign up for email updates and learn more:

 kingcounty.gov/southplant

Call or email Hodo Hussein:

 **206-477-5552**

 hodhussein@kingcounty.gov

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Hodo Hussein


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