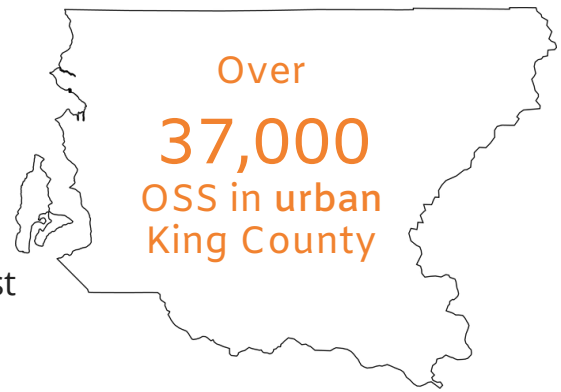




# Equitable wastewater futures in King County

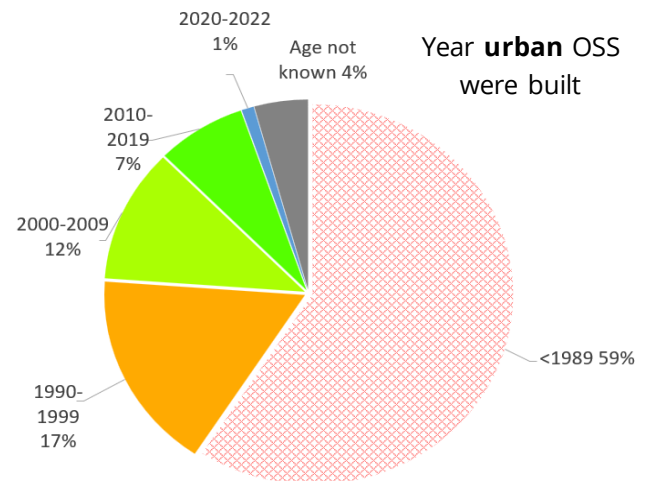
Urban King County is home to over 37,000 on-site sewage systems (OSS), many of which are past their intended life span and vulnerable to failure.

Public Health – Seattle & King County's Equitable Wastewater Futures Program works to identify the best wastewater treatment solutions for these properties, which includes sewer connection or OSS replacement.



## Why we're tackling this

- **Commitment to equity:** Historic inequities excluded certain communities, particularly in south King County, from sewer connections. Today, 44% of urban OSS are in areas highly vulnerable to public health emergencies.
- **Protecting public health:** Many of these systems are starting to fail now, a trend that will continue for the next 10-20 years. This can expose people to untreated sewage and contaminate nearby waterways.
- **Reducing costs:** Replacing an OSS costs \$40K to \$60K, and sewer connections can be even more expensive! These costs are usually wholly covered by the homeowner. By proactively planning, we can reduce costs and help secure grant funding.
- **Planning for the future:** When you replace an OSS, it can't go in the exact same location. Smaller urban lots can only replace their OSS so many times. Sewer connections are more sustainable long-term and provide more housing options.
- **Preparing for a changing climate:** OSS are more vulnerable than sewers to flooding, which will occur more in King County due to climate change.



## What we're doing

- We're using \$2 million from the King County Climate Equity Capital Pool to extend sewer connections to up to 24 homes in 2024. This work will also make sewer connection opportunities available to new neighborhoods.
- We're partnering with other agencies to identify additional resources.
- For more information, check out these resources: [kingcounty.gov/ewf](https://kingcounty.gov/ewf)

