



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Mid Sound Fisheries  
Enhancement Group*

This document represents an incredible amount of work accomplished by a Coalition of Organizations committed to restoring the health of the Green/ Duwamish Watershed. Working alone we will not achieve our vision, but if we continue to work together, anything is possible.

Thank you all!



# 2023 Annual Report

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# 2023 Annual Report

## Executive Summary

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Our Green/Duwamish (OGD) is a coalition of Partners focused on improving stormwater management in the Green/Duwamish River Watershed. This annual report represents a collaborative regional effort to describe actions taken to improve stormwater quality and control stormwater quantity during the 2023 calendar year.

This is the Coalition's third annual report. In 2022, Partners provided feedback on ways to improve and streamline the annual reporting process, resulting in a different tone and content from the first annual report. This annual report continues to focus more on the success of Partner-specific actions, which we were excited to spotlight.

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*This report relies heavily on hyperlinks to connect readers directly with actions in the watershed. It is meant to be clicked and shared – exploration is encouraged!*

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The annual report is divided into two parts:

**Goal Sheets** – The goals are a foundational component of the [Watershed-Wide Stormwater Strategy](#) and highlight actions designed to achieve specific outcomes. Actions were self-assigned by Partners for their own work, and each goal's section of the report summarizes the Coalition's success.

**Governance Dimensions** – The Coalition is committed to embracing self-reflection in the pursuit of continuous improvement. Part of this effort includes a survey designed by Partners, for Partners. The results are divided into five specific categories (called dimensions), each one detailing survey responses on what worked well and where we can improve strengths and our ability to adapt.

## GOAL SHEETS

The [OGD Implementation Plan](#) laid out 675 actions occurring in the watershed by 21 different Partner organizations. This represents a staggering level of effort from Partners, never before captured before in one place. For the 2023 annual report, Partners shared challenges, proud accomplishments, and future plans they had for each goal. This feedback was collected over phone interviews and online form submissions. Of note was the impressive commitment to voluntary participation in the annual reporting process. A total of 12 Partners provided examples of work they accomplished to support the goals of the Coalition.

For the 2023 annual report, Partners were asked again to rate their organization's level of effort towards achieving each of the 7 goal's collective future state. The scores are based on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being a low level of effort and 10 being the highest level of effort. The average score across each reported level of effort from Partners is shared at the bottom of each goal sheet, along with the average score from 2022 for comparison. Generally, Partners indicated above average levels of effort, resulting in a widespread sense of accomplishment.

However, compared to last year the average level of effort was down slightly in six of the seven Goals.

Generally speaking, Partners described success connecting with their communities, being responsive to emerging challenges, and building relationships with other OGD Partners. This was encouraging and is representative of the progressive momentum felt by the Coalition and shared in the Governance Dimension survey.

The reporting format for our goals is meant to amplify the work completed by Partners throughout the watershed. Like last year's annual report, we've included some fantastic stories about how Partners are collaborating, improving water quality, responding to changing climate patterns, and supporting each other to effect watershed-wide stormwater improvements.

The 2022 annual report highlighted staffing limitations as a major challenge for most partners. While those challenges still exist, Partners also described some success with acquiring resources to accomplish their work. The Coalition's ability to support each other, look for creative solutions, and ask for help will continue to play a significant role in achieving our desired future state for the watershed.

## **GOVERNANCE DIMENSIONS**

In 2021, Partners agreed to examine how well the Coalition was functioning and developed a short survey. Survey questions were informed by a performance rubric proposed by Emerson and Nabatchi in their paper called, "Evaluating the productivity of collaborative governance regimes: a performance matrix". Five of the nine dimensions detailed in the rubric – Efficiency, Efficacy, Equity, Effectiveness, and External Legitimacy – were selected by Partners for the annual governance dimension survey.

18 Partners responded to the survey this year, providing feedback across 5 dimensions. More details can be found in that section of this report, but overall, Partners feel that the Coalition is operating well – consistent with results from 2022. Partners continue to get value out of participating in OGD, most frequently citing 'information sharing' and 'networking' as examples of capacity building that has led to improvements within their organizations. Like last year's results, **one half of survey respondents answered that they have observed measurable positive changes within their organizations because of their participation in OGD.**

Partners were very positive with their feedback on the Equity dimension, acknowledging the value of providing stipends to facilitate participation in the Coalition. Suggestions for a stipend were an important part of the Equity dimension in last year's annual report, and with support from The Urban Waters Federal Partnership, the Coalition was able to continue this [stipend program](#).

Survey questions related to the dimension of External Legitimacy indicated that OGD is becoming more widely recognized. When others understand what the Coalition is doing it becomes easier to connect, collaborate, and convince decision-makers to continue funding this important work. In 2023, work with WRIA9, Ecology, and the Puget Sound Partnership all helped to increase visibility and elevate watershed issues.

Not captured in this report is the work completed by three different Subgroups. In addition to the aforementioned [stipend program](#), the Funding subgroup also continued to manage a [grant application support program](#). This program provides Partners the opportunity to receive letters



of support from the Coalition for grant-funded projects within the watershed that would support the goals of OGD. The Coordination subgroup updated their charter in response to Partner requests for increasing and diversifying representation at Partner meetings. OGD Partners all committed to connecting with other agencies but regional capacity for participation is stretched thin. While the Mapping subgroup did not meet in 2023, staff were busy behind the scenes, developing a scope of work for advancing the continued development of the [OGD mapping tool](#). That work is currently underway.

This annual reporting process helps the Coalition capture a snapshot of how we're meeting our commitments to each other and the watershed. A more extensive five-year review, in 2025, will evaluate OGD's organizational structure, mission, vision, goals, uncertainties, and data gaps to reassess and make changes to the [Implementation Plan](#) as needed.

Consider exploring more at: [www.ourgreenduwamish.com](http://www.ourgreenduwamish.com)



*Photo Credit: Kevin Du, City of Federal Way*

# Goal

## Reduce priority toxics and other pollutants discharging to receiving waters

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**Summary:** Partners are concerned about chemicals of emerging concern and the limited treatment provided by existing infrastructure. While several Partners exceeded their expectations for source control inspections, and others advanced our regional understanding of 6PPD-q, Partners also identified a need for more capacity to manage programming focused on improved water quality outcomes.

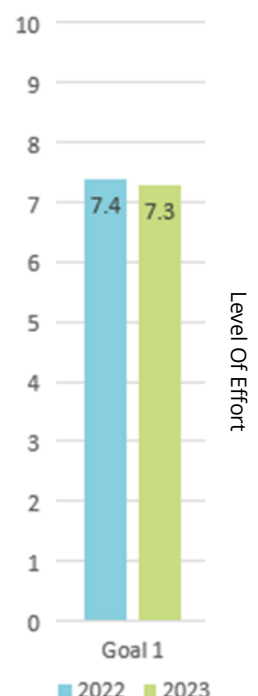
**Challenges:** OGD Partners indicated that staffing and access to funds continue to make progress towards achieving this goal a challenging endeavor. Programs related to monitoring toxics, providing technical assistance, and patrolling the shoreline were sidelined due to inadequate resources. Partners also recognized that while funding is available for water quality projects, there is limited organizational capacity to acquire and administer those funds.

### Highlights:

- ◆ In February 2024, Seattle Public Utilities' [RV Wastewater Program](#) received the 2024 National Environmental Achievement Award for Environmental Performance from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). This Program has helped prevent the dumping of untreated sewage into the Green/[Duwamish River](#).
- ◆ Seattle Public Utilities also reported cleaning more than 45,000 linear feet of stormwater conveyance pipes, and assisted Ecology and the City of Tukwila with cleaning more conveyance pipes in drainage areas with high levels of PCBs.
- ◆ Puget Soundkeeper continued to hold Industrial sites accountable for Permit violations and initiated a new project called "[Salmon and Legacy Debris](#)" to raise awareness of decades-old debris in the Green/[Duwamish river](#), connecting the issue to 6PPD-Q.
- ◆ Ecology added new requirements to Permits that should result in lower PCB loadings. In addition, new 6PPD-q criterion to the Water Quality Standards is expected to support improved water quality in the watershed.
- ◆ Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) published [guidance on integrating stormwater management strategies into local Comprehensive Plans](#).
- ◆ Federal Way, Renton, and Tukwila all reported exceeding expectations for Source Control programming, reaching hundreds of businesses, and providing technical assistance on pollution prevention, hazardous waste, and fats, oils and grease.
- ◆ Maple Valley completed the installation of two bioretention ponds to treat runoff from a previously untreated arterial road that discharges to Jenkins Creek. They also retrofitted a pond to improve treatment capacity upstream of Jenkins Creek. In addition, Maple Valley received [WaterWorks](#) funding to design a new facility to treat two additional discharges to Jenkins Creek, and hired a new street sweeping contractor to improve sweeping outcomes.

### Next Steps:

Several Partners indicated plans to support the OGD effort of developing a regional retrofit program for the watershed. Other Partners will study stormwater for pollutants, like 6PPD-q, expand sweeping programs, scale up programming to address PFAS and PCBs, and complete retrofits to their stormwater infrastructure. Puget Soundkeeper will be organizing a number of large cleanups, Ecology is expecting to finalize the Soos Creek Fine Sediment TMDL, and PSRC will be reviewing comprehensive plans for inclusion of stormwater policies where appropriate.





# Goal

## Foster partnerships, broad participation and collaboration amongst watershed stakeholders and communities

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**Summary:** Partners continued the momentum described in the 2022 annual report, building strong collaborative community-based relationships throughout the watershed in 2023. This is evidenced by the increase in our Level of Effort score as well as the many highlights shared by Partners.

**Challenges:** OGD Partners shared very few challenges related to GOAL 2. However, individual Partners continue to comment on the difficulty of building meaning relationships across organizations during a period of high turnover among staff.

*The biggest benefit our organization has observed is increased access to knowledge and increased connection to watershed partners. - Tracy Banaszynski, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*

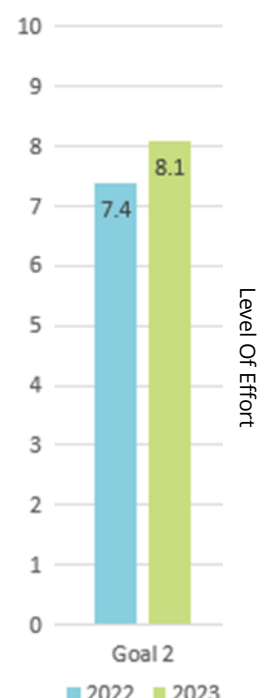
### Highlights:

- ◆ WSDOT stormwater retrofit prioritization data layer was a catalyst for collaboration across a broad network of stormwater practitioners and has resulted in more transparency and partnership opportunities.
- ◆ The City of Tukwila continues to work with [Sustainability Ambassadors](#) on developing curriculum, Puget Soundkeeper and Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group on riparian restoration, Dirt Corps on depaving projects, and a couple of businesses on public/private shoreline revegetation projects.
- ◆ The City of Renton, City of Maple Valley and Seattle Public Utilities had success connecting with volunteers and building relationships with community members interested in adopting storm drains and hosting stencil events.
- ◆ Urban Waters Federal Partnership continues to make the [OGD stipend program](#) available to interested organizations and reduce barriers to participation.
- ◆ Federal Way had 34 schools host salmon tanks and over 1600 4<sup>th</sup> graders attended a salmon release field trip with presentations from Long Live the Kings, Friends of Issaquah Hatchery, and Orca Conservancy.
- ◆ Puget Soundkeeper and Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group restored a portion of Springbrook Creek in partnership with [Unleash the Brilliance](#).

*"There is clear value in participating in OGD as we move towards more tangible planning tools that support programming. Also, I am keen to increase my involvement in OGD and demonstrate the value of the coalition through stormwater retrofit projects that achieve multiple benefits in my organization." - Blair Scott, King County*

### Next Steps:

OGD Partners are excited about innovating and continuing to strengthen the relationships established over the last two years. There are plans to formalize agreements, expand programming, continue participation in regional forums, and host more events for local communities. Partners also included a desire to increase the inclusion of other community-based organizations in OGD.



# Goal

## Increase access to existing data, research and resources

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**Summary:** Progress towards achieving this Goal was largely centered on improving access to geospatial data and tools that support decision-making. A notable highlight is WSDOT's significant progress towards developing their retrofit prioritization mapping tool, with feedback from several OGD Partners. Permitted municipalities also continued to improve upon existing infrastructure data mapping. Communicating with the public about mitigation work amidst the emerging science generated by 6ppd-q research was identified as a challenge.

**Challenges:** Some Partner organizations are struggling with individual issues, like loss of institutional knowledge or very little jurisdictional overlap with the watershed boundaries. Partners also shared some bigger challenges, like needing common data management structures to support watershed-scale decision-making and making OGD efforts more widely broadcast and understood by the Public.

### Highlights:

- ◆ King County has slowly been making progress on their Retrofit Prioritization tool which has a lot of potential to facilitate regional retrofit programming in the watershed.
- ◆ Cities in the Watershed all reported progress around refining and updating GIS maps of stormwater infrastructure to support decision-making.
- ◆ Seattle Public Utilities translated several stormwater BMP handouts into a variety of languages, and conducted focus groups to inform the development of a Spanish language, digital, Adopt-a-Drain campaign.
- ◆ WSDOT has drastically increased field mapping in response to the new legislative funding through [Move Ahead Washington](#).

### Next steps:

Municipal NPDES Permittees indicated plans to improve access to stormwater data layers with more staff, modifications to mapping applications, and refinement of existing data. In addition, Partners indicated an interest in convening and connecting with other watershed, science, and salmon recovery-based efforts.

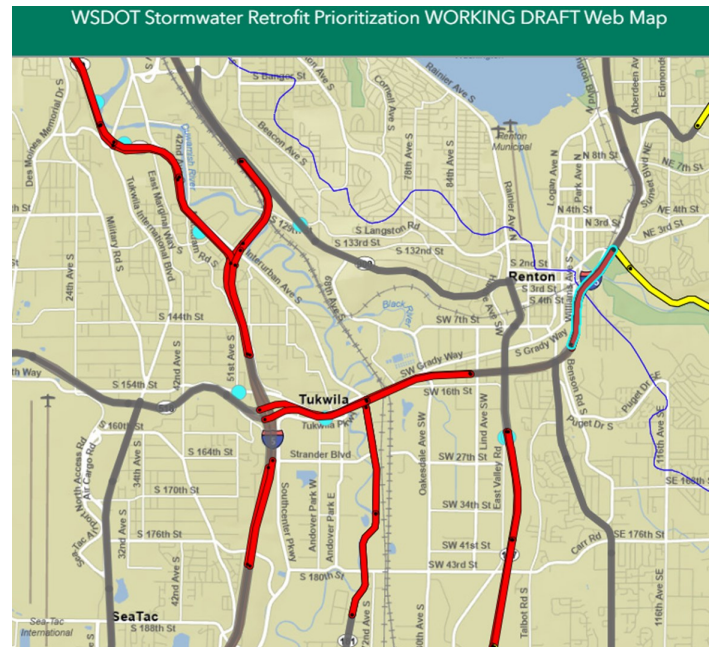
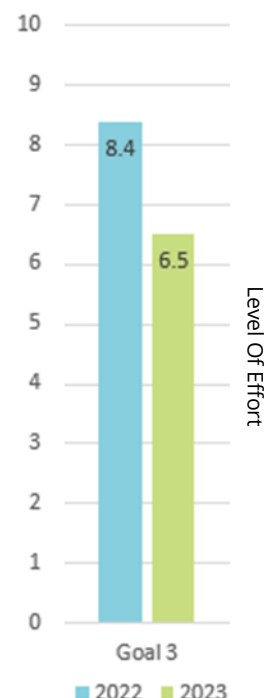


Image Credit: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6673596ac0e450b8e37b56a5849cbfb/page/Map-Page/?views=All-Priority-Segments> . WSDOT's

prioritization effort with community partners.



# Goal

## Restore natural hydrologic functions through reduction in uncontrolled stormwater runoff flows.

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**Summary:** OGD is beginning to push up against the limitations of working exclusively on stormwater management. The past year highlighted the need to explore relationships with other efforts – like salmon recovery and habitat restoration - to achieve OGD Goals. However, OGD is limited by the absence of an official governance structure to oversee the management of a regional retrofit program that can support compliance with new NPDES permit requirements and more effectively restore natural hydrologic function in the watershed.

**Challenges:** Although Partners have flagged the need for expanding the scope of revegetation projects and large-scale retrofit efforts, NPDES permit requirements will consume a large portion of the watershed's capacity. Finding ways to acquire land and incentivize improvements through redevelopment and cross jurisdictional coordination will be paramount to achieving success.



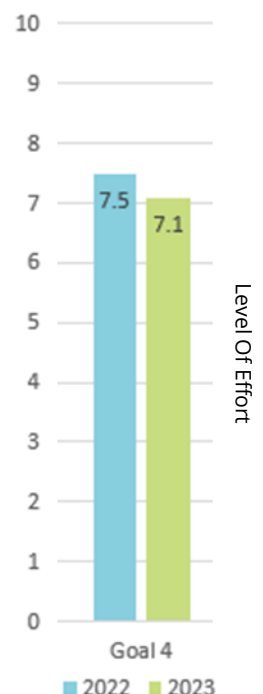
Photo credit: City of Maple Valley

### Highlights:

- ◆ Ecology has finished the Soos creek TMDL model and made it responsive to climate change.
- ◆ The WRIA 9 [Regreen the Green grant program](#) provided \$556,000 in grant funding to partners for revegetating priority segments of the Green/Duwamish River and associated tributaries
- ◆ Seattle Public Utilities is on track to complete the Longfellow Natural Drainage System to manage 6 acres of impervious surface and include mobility and safety amenities in an overburdened community.
- ◆ King County completed an effort to inventory county-owned fish barriers
- ◆ The City of Maple Valley received [WaterWorks](#) funding to design stormwater controls at two outfalls to Jenkins creek.

### Next steps:

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership and WRIA 9 will be working to connect OGD with Salmon recovery, regional retrofits, and habitat restoration work while partner municipalities will be focused on implementing [Stormwater Management Action Plans](#), designing and constructing retrofit projects and streamlining property acquisitions strategies. Ecology will be completing the [Soos creek TMDL](#) and submitting it to the EPA for approval.





# Goal

## Increase innovation in stormwater runoff

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**Summary:** The recent discovery of 6ppd-q has led to a significant amount of innovation in a very short period of time. However more research is still needed, and as environmental restoration resources continue to be stretched, Partners are starting to consider alternative financing mechanisms.

**Challenges:** OGD Jurisdictional Partners have been contributing to [Stormwater Action Monitoring](#) studies and the Stormwater Workgroups effort to develop solutions to the toxic effects of 6ppd-q, but the pace of innovation is stymied by the rate at which studies can collect meaningful data. In addition, a new NPDES permit cycle always has challenges associated with understanding the specific ramifications of new permit terms.

### Highlights:

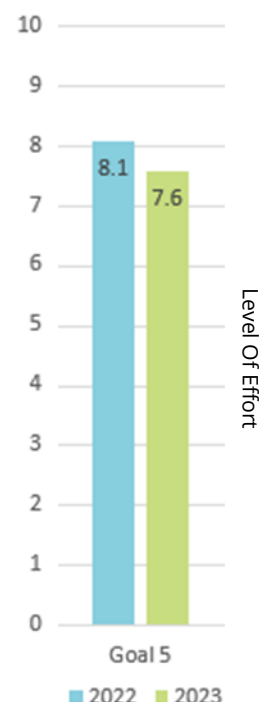
- ◆ Seattle Public Utilities is leading the way with innovative, long-term, performance-based contracting and project delivery with their [Rain City Partnership](#) program.
- ◆ Several OGD Partners are involved with the Stormwater Strategic Initiative Advisory Team which has recently issued a Request for Proposal for Innovative stormwater BMPs.
- ◆ Maple Valley developed an innovative partnership with Tahoma High School and King Conservation District to distribute more than 800 saplings for planting on private property.
- ◆ Ecology's Technology Assessment Protocol – Ecology ([TAPE](#)) program approved several new BMPs for achieving better water quality outcomes.
- ◆ King County helped convene the NPDES Ad Hoc committee to establish an effective dialog with Ecology, and advance regional stormwater management practices through revisions to permit language.
- ◆ Tukwila completed baseline water quality testing at the outfalls of completed retrofit locations to measure improvements.

*Photo Credit: Curtis  
Hinman, Western  
Washington University.  
Stormwater runoff  
collected from several  
types of bioretention  
media.*



### Next steps:

Partners have a number of actions planned for next year. In addition to supporting the Regional Retrofit program, and finding locations for projects, Partners are committed to updating practices with new, proven techniques for managing stormwater more effectively. This includes incorporating stormwater management strategies in comprehensive plans, surface water [design](#) manuals, and enhanced maintenance plans.



# Goal

## Increase awareness and an understanding of stormwater management

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**Summary:** Partners reported some fantastic highlights from the past year, but also indicated that outreach and engagement continues to be underfunded. Partners have become more nimble and adaptable as a result of pandemic restrictions. This situation has led to agencies finding creative solutions to the ongoing need for raising awareness that will be explored in future years.

**Challenge:** Partners have identified that outreach, education, and community engagement are under-resourced. Some awareness campaigns have been put on hold and programs identified in previous years have had to evolve to meet existing resources.

### Highlights:

- ◆ Several OGD partners, including King County, Des Moines, and Tukwila, flagged [Stormfest](#) as major success. Stormfest continues to be one the most successful ways to engage children in stormwater education.
- ◆ Maple Valley and Seattle Public Utilities also reported hosting several events to raise awareness and provide educational opportunities to youth.
- ◆ WRIA 9's Stewardship, Engagement & Learning program provided \$150,000 to partners to provide focused outreach, learning opportunities, and environmental stewardship that aims to instill a sense of place, encourage appreciation of natural resources, and promote environmental literacy.
- ◆ Renton hosted two storm drain marking events with 27 volunteers and measured a 41% increase in awareness of stormwater issues amongst event participants

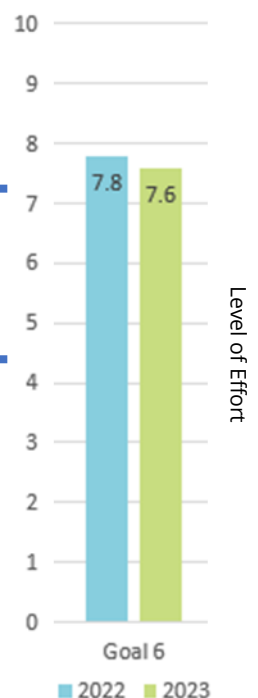


Photo Credit: Kevin Du, City of Federal Way, Stormfest

*Our Green/Duwamish provides a built in forum to connect with people that otherwise might be hard to build relationships with.—Weston Brinkley, Urban Waters Federal Partnership*

### Next Steps:

A couple of Partners indicated a desire to continue or improve relationships with [STORM](#), and leverage their expertise and geographic reach. Other Partners are hoping to continue with events and programs that proved to be successful in 2023, like [Adopt-a-Drain](#) or [Rainscapes](#).



# Goal

## Build a coalition or collaborative entity to carry out the vision for the Green/Duwamish Watershed-Wide Stormwater Strategy

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**Summary:** OGD progress is largely dependent on participation from a critical mass of Partners, but evolving schedules and responsibilities have made it tough to continue a high level of engagement from some Partners. However, Partners are committed to engage with OGD as long as OGD provides value.

**Challenges:** Finding the right level of participation in OGD can be challenging for some Partners. The slow accretion of additional, conflicting commitments make it difficult for some to participate, but several Partners feel there are more organizations that OGD would benefit from connecting with.

### Highlights:

- ◆ Partners reported satisfaction with participation in the main forum and sub groups over the last year.
- ◆ Several OGD Partners connected with other agencies to raise awareness of OGD's efforts.
- ◆ Urban Waters Federal Partnership continues to support the stipend program to promote participation.
- ◆ OGD spent a significant amount of time working to formalize the connection with salmon recovery efforts and make progress on several priority actions.

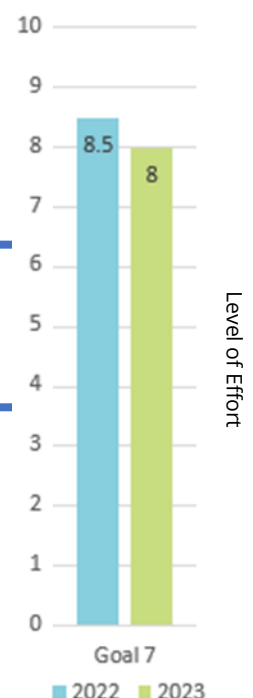


Photo Credit: Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, Restoration of Springbrook Creek with Puget Soundkeeper and Unleash the Brilliance.

*Access to conversations with partners and networking has enabled some work to proceed that may have been delayed or less effective without the relationships formed because of OGD.—Kate Sievers, The Nature Conservancy*

### Next Steps:

Next year, OGD Partners have committed to continue their participation and contribution to OGD. Several indicated a desire to grow the Coalition, collaborate with other regional efforts, and support a process to formalize OGD's governance structure.





# Governance Dimensions

## Summary Introduction

How the OGD Coalition governs is critical to achieving collective success. As a collaborative organization committed to co-design, we adapted a method for understanding how well we're functioning from a paper by Kirk Emerson and Tina Nabatchi entitled, "[Evaluating the productivity of collaborative governance regimes: a performance matrix](#)". The assessment measures performance across nine governance dimensions. The rows of the table below (Table 1) represent three levels of performance (our actions, outcomes resulting from our actions, and adaptation as a response to our work). The columns represent three beneficiaries of success: for individual partners, for the Coalition, and for the Watershed. For the purpose of our first annual report, we chose only five of the nine dimensions, defined them to be specific to our efforts, and asked for feedback on the Coalition's performance.

	Partners	OGD Coalition	Watershed
Actions/outputs	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Efficacy</b>	<b>Equity</b>
Outcomes	<b>Effectiveness</b>	<b>External legitimacy</b>	<b>Effectiveness</b>
Adaptation	<b>Equilibrium</b>	<b>Viability</b>	<b>Sustainability</b>

Table 1: Governance Dimensions Assessed by OGD (in green)

Table 1 shows the five dimensions we considered for review highlighted in green. We will revisit the other 4 longer-term dimensions (shown in gray) when there has been more opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Coalition's efforts.

*"Watershed recovery is by its nature, collaborative. When we are connected to our watershed partners, we are motivated, inspired, feel less alone, and can find opportunities to work on projects together. – Tracy Banaszynski, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*

We defined the selected governance dimensions in the following way:

**Efficiency:** Partners accomplish their work faster and more cheaply as part of the Coalition, rather than by themselves.

**Efficacy:** The Coalition met the targets outlined for actions in the Implementation Plan assigned to the Coalition, Core Team, and any subgroups.

**Equity:** Fair and appropriate distribution of benefits, costs, and risks of stormwater management are felt by each partner agency throughout the watershed.

**Effectiveness:** Partners have observed measurable positive changes (e.g., increased capacity, resources, skills, programming, ease of permit management, etc.) within their respective organization or agency that can be attributed to Coalition participation.

**External Legitimacy:** External agencies and community organizations recognize the Coalition's efforts to improve stormwater management in the watershed. Recognition could be in the form of grants, awards, conferences, speaking invitations, or in other ways.

The Coalition agreed to these definitions and used them to develop a survey to be completed by OGD Partners. 18 Partners responded and provided the following feedback for each governance dimension.



# Governance Dimensions

## Efficiency

When asked to indicate the level of agreement with this statement, “Because my organization participates in the OGD Coalition, I can accomplish my work more easily than I would be able to on my own”, participants were given a choice of five options (Completely Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, and Completely Disagree).

17 of the 18 survey participants responded favorably or neutral (Figure 1). More than half of the responses indicated that participation in the OGD Coalition has had a positive impact on the representative’s ability to accomplish their work.

Over the last three years, responses appear to be trending slightly more neutral, with less agreement for this statement (Figure 2).

As a follow up, participants were asked, “Which of these examples of OGD Coalition capacity building have helped your organization be more efficient? Select all that apply”.

Answers ranged from specific tools and resources to opportunities for building social capital. All participants indicated there has been value in sharing information. While responses indicated a sharp decline in the value of existing documentation (e.g. Implementation Plan, Stormwater Strategy), the support for grant applications was identified as being helpful for capacity building (Figure 3)

### NEXT STEPS:

The Coalition will continue to provide grant support to build regional capacity. In addition, there is discussion of working to develop a regional retrofit program that directs infrastructure improvements in the places where they will make the greatest difference. We will also be working to ensure the documents produced are meeting the needs of our Partners.

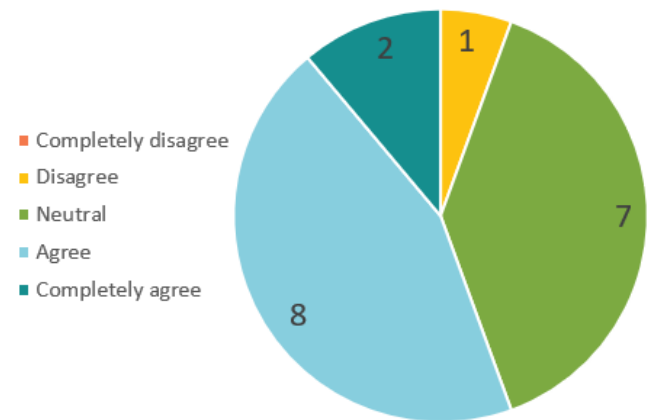


Figure 1: Because my organization participates in the OGD Coalition, I can accomplish my work more easily than I would be able to on my own.

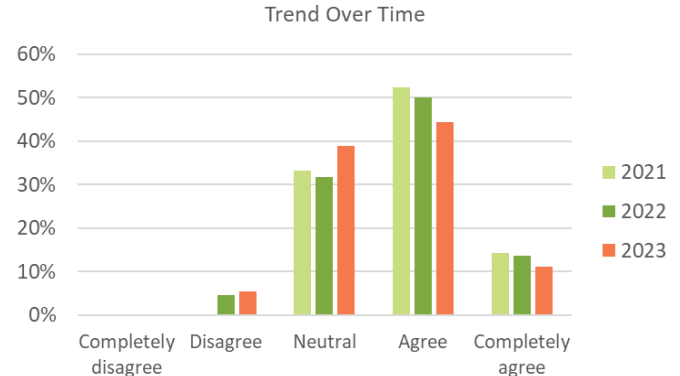


Figure 2: Results of Figure 1 compared to the same question asked in 2021 and 2022.

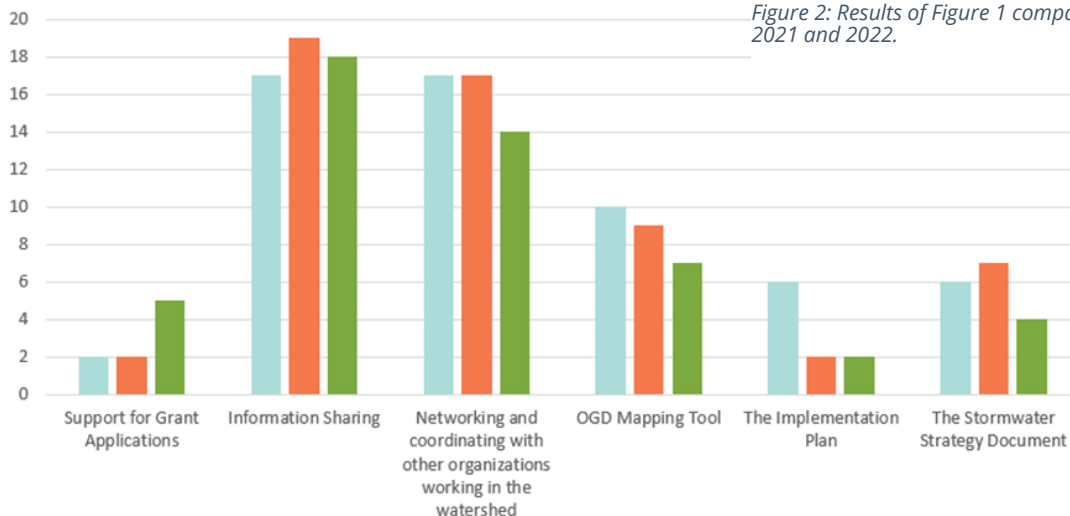


Figure 3: Annual comparison of responses for the question, “Which of these examples of OGD Coalition capacity building have helped your organization be more efficient? Select all that apply.”



# Governance Dimensions

## Efficacy

This year the Efficacy governance dimension was measured against the actions detailed in the biennial [workplan for 2023-2024](#).

Data for this governance dimension was collected using Mentimeter during the Partner meeting hosted on June 20th, 2024. Partners were asked how successfully we achieved the tasks in our 2023-2024 workplan. The questions mirrored the workplan tasks and were grouped into the same four categories. The results from this activity are included below in Table 2.

Please note that the scoring criteria differ from last year because we are only partway through our 2023-2024 workplan. Thus, this section does not include a comparison to last year's scores. This year's scoring criteria is based on the perception of whether we are expected to make progress or complete the task by the end of the 2023-2024 biennium.

Partners scored the Coalition as most on track to finish tasks related to Funding Support, Enhanced Engagement with Decision Makers, and for most tasks under the Regional Decision Guidance Support. They scored the Coalition least likely to make progress on tasks related to Expansion of Partnerships.

Overall, most tasks received an average score greater than 3, indicating a general perception amongst Partners that the Coalition is making progress on most tasks in the Workplan.

### NEXT STEPS:

The Coalition will continue work on the tasks that are scoring highly, but will also take specific actions towards furthering the tasks that scored below a 3 during the remaining Partner Meetings in 2024. The September 2024 Partner Meeting will include specific activities to advance the second phase of the Mapping Tool, which scored a 2.4. The November 2024 Partner Meeting will also include activities to advance the tasks in the Expansion of Partnerships category.

Workplan Tasks	Workplan Deliverables	Average Score (1-5)
Regional Decision Guidance Support	Complete the second phase of the Mapping Tool with input from the Mapping Subgroup and OGD Partners.	2.4
	Meet the deliverables of the Ecology grant that is funding the grant work.	3.7
	Support the development of the Retrofit Prioritization Framework.	3.8
	Work to ensure parallel and complimentary functionality with the OGD mapping tool and the Retrofit Prioritization Framework.	3.5
	Use OGD Mapping Tool and Retrofit Prioritization Framework to develop a priority list of retrofit projects in the watershed.	3.1
Funding Support	Commence a pilot program to provide stipends to organizations, or individuals on behalf of an organization, to incentivize participation in OGD.	4.3
	Share information about this stipend opportunity with community-based organizations not currently participating in OGD.	3.4
	Continue to run a program that provides letters of support to existing Partners applying for grant funds that support OGD goals.	4.3
	Research and present on opportunities for large scale, Watershed-wide funding.	3.3
	Investigate the mechanics, viability, and efficacy of a regional stormwater retrofit grant program to help fund high-priority projects in the Watershed.	3.2
Expansion of Partnerships	Defining outreach expectations and goals for existing Partners to act as a conduit for regional engagement and outreach.	2.7
	Discuss programming to attract and incentivize action, supportive of OGD, by private companies, community-based organizations, and Tribes.	2.3
Enhanced Engagement with Decision Makers	Work with Partners to connect with regional decision-makers and advocate for resources/policy that is supportive of OGD's mission.	3.7
	Tell our story to organizations, elected officials, and grantors to ensure the resilience of our strategy.	3.1
	Survey existing Partners to understand the value of participating in the OGD coalition and measure progress towards the Desired Future State of Goal 7.	4.4

Table 2: Partners' evaluation on OGD Coalition's success towards 2023-2024 work plan tasks (n=10 to 11). 1 means "unlikely to make progress" and 5 means "on track to finish completely".





# Governance Dimensions

## Equity

When asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, “The OGD Coalition has been fair and reasonable in the distribution of benefits, costs, and risks to partner organizations”, survey participants were given a choice of 5 options (Completely Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Completely Disagree).

All participants responded favorably or neutral (Figure 4). 13 of the 18 responses indicated that the OGD Coalition has been fair and reasonable in the distribution of benefits, costs, and risks to partner organizations.

While the trend over time indicates a shift towards more neutral feelings about this question (Figure 5), feedback from Partners was generally constructive with several suggestions that were supportive of a regional program to direct funding to those places where they can make the greatest difference for water quality outcomes.

*[We should] create a means for smaller organizations and municipalities to access larger state and federal grants. Duwamish Alive Coalition has done this with Seattle Parks Foundation which is now able to combine multiple projects from organizations and municipalities for state and federal grants. - Sharon Leishman, Duwamish Alive Coalition*

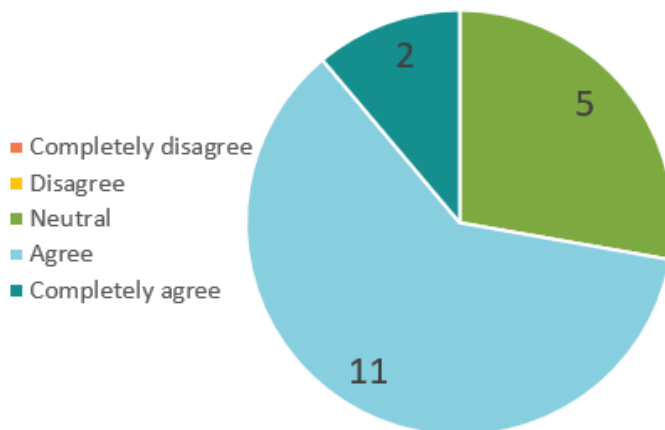


Figure 4: The OGD Coalition has been fair and reasonable in the distribution of benefits, costs, and risks to partner organizations.

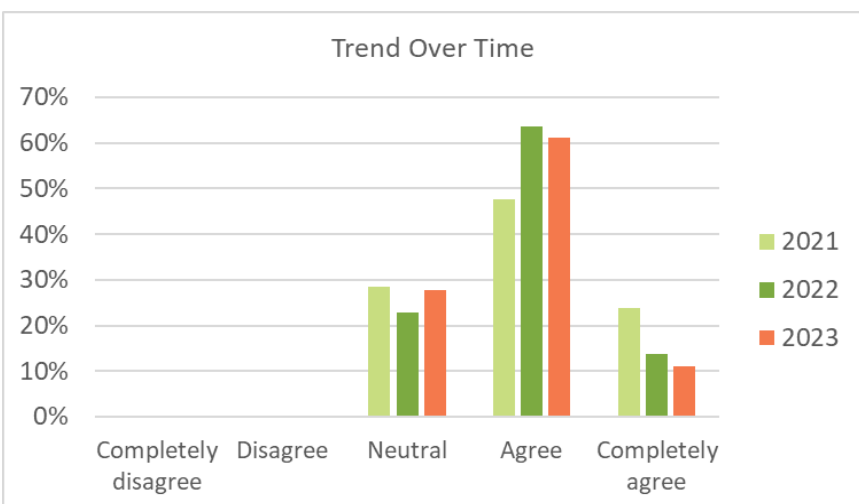


Figure 5: Results from Figure 4 compared to responses from 2021 and 2022.

### NEXT STEPS:

The OGD Coalition will continue to pursue an effort to support a regional retrofit program in watershed to facilitate collaboration, and the acquisition of funds.

The stipend for participation still exists, but is not being broadly accessed by OGD Partners, so there will also need to be an effort to explore existing barriers among OGD Partners.

# Governance Dimensions

## Effectiveness

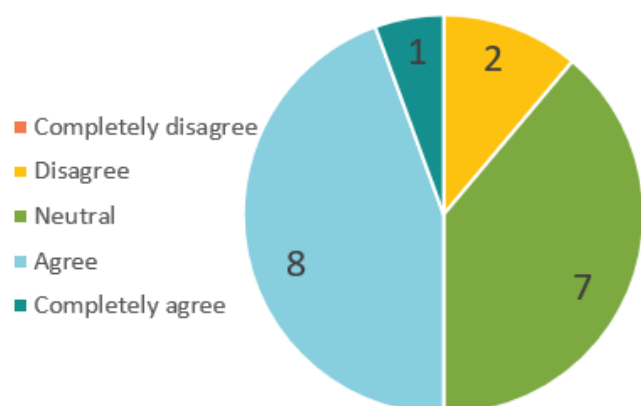


Figure 6: As an OGD Partner, I observed positive measurable changes within my organization that can be attributed to Coalition participation.

When asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, “As an OGD Partner, I observed positive measurable changes within my organization that can be attributed to Coalition participation”, survey participants were given a choice of 5 options (Completely Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Completely Disagree).

16 of the 18 participants responded favorably or neutral (Figure 6). 50% of the respondents agreed that they observed measurable positive changes (e.g., increased capacity, resources, skills, programming, ease of permit management, etc.) within their respective organization or agency that can be attributed to Coalition participation.

The distribution of answers appears to be similar to previous years with a slightly larger percentage of responses indicating disagreement with this statement ( $\Delta 2\%$ ) and complete agreement ( $\Delta 6\%$ ) from last year, while there has been a decrease in neutral answers over the last three years ( $\Delta 9\%$ ) (Figure 7).

Effectiveness is found in the second row of this Governance dimension framework, and the first column, meaning it is intended to be supportive of individual Partners and representative of the outcomes their actions. Naturally, this type of capacity building can be less direct, and harder to measure. However, several survey participants indicated they had received significant benefit from the networking and information sharing opportunities provided during Coalition meetings.

*“The fact that we are working with regional partners on stormwater issues has added credibility to our program and that has been recognized by our elected officials” – Ben Parrish, City of Covington*

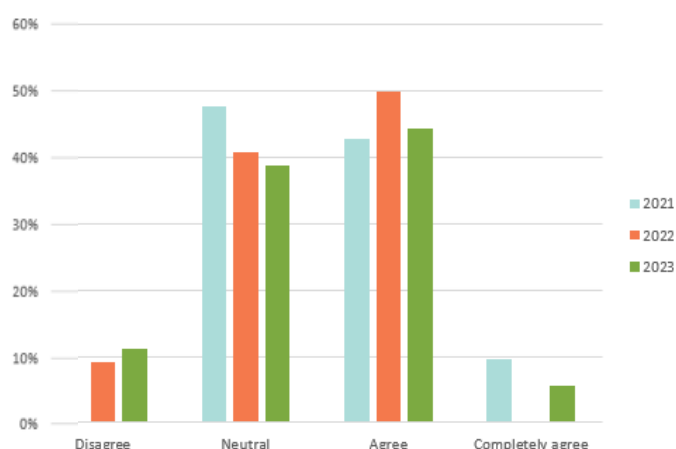


Figure 7: Results from Figure 6 represented as a percentage across the last three years.

### Next Steps:

Narrative feedback was supportive of changes we have made to Partner meeting agendas. We will continue to prioritize sharing updates on current efforts underway, throughout the watershed, and focus on figuring out how to do more to measure the impact of OGD participation.



# Governance Dimensions

## External Legitimacy

When asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, “When you say you are an OGD Partner to external agencies and community organizations, they know what you are talking about.”, survey participants were given a choice of 5 options (Always, Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never).

No survey participants selected “Never”, while 28% indicated that external agencies rarely know who they are talking about. In addition 6% of respondents (n=2) indicated that external agencies “always” know who they are talking about when they mention OGD (Figure 8). This is up from 1% from the previous year, and 6% over the last 2 years.

Of note is the decline in the percentage of participants who answered “sometimes” ( $\Delta$  -14%) from last years (Figure 9), and an increase from the previous year in responses stating “rarely” do those external agencies know about the OGD Coalition ( $\Delta$  14%). Both the “Often” and “Always” responses held steady from the previous year.

These results seem to indicate that efforts to be more active in our communication efforts outside of the watershed, with community organizations, are gradually making a difference.

When asked, “Which of the following types of recognition have you or your organization received this past year as a result of your participation in OGD?”, survey participants selected all that apply (Figure 10). Most notable was the 27% decrease in respondents that selected “none of the above” meaning 67% of survey participants are receiving recognition from their participation in OGD, with the greatest improvement in the category of “Kudos from management”, and 61% of respondents selecting more than one option.

### Next Steps:

It’s believed that results related to this Governance Dimension are supportive of the situation experienced by many emerging regional efforts. Often it can take time for a collaborative initiative to be recognized

outside of those participating organizations, but one way to improve external legitimacy is with more widespread recognition. Improvements in this Governance dimension appear to be supporting this positive feedback loop where recognition leads to legitimacy and then more recognition.

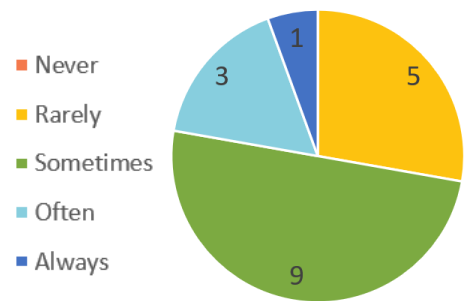


Figure 8: When you say you are an OGD Partner to external agencies and community organizations, they know what you are talking about.

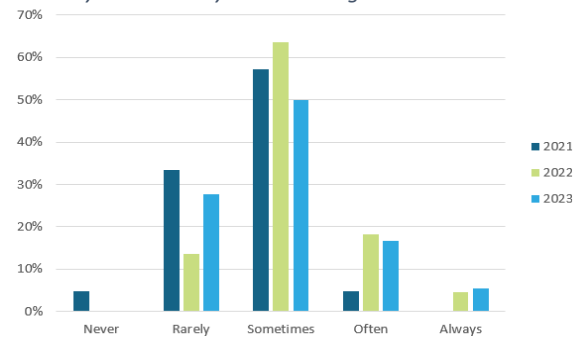


Figure 9: Results from Figure 8 represented as a percentage across the last three years.

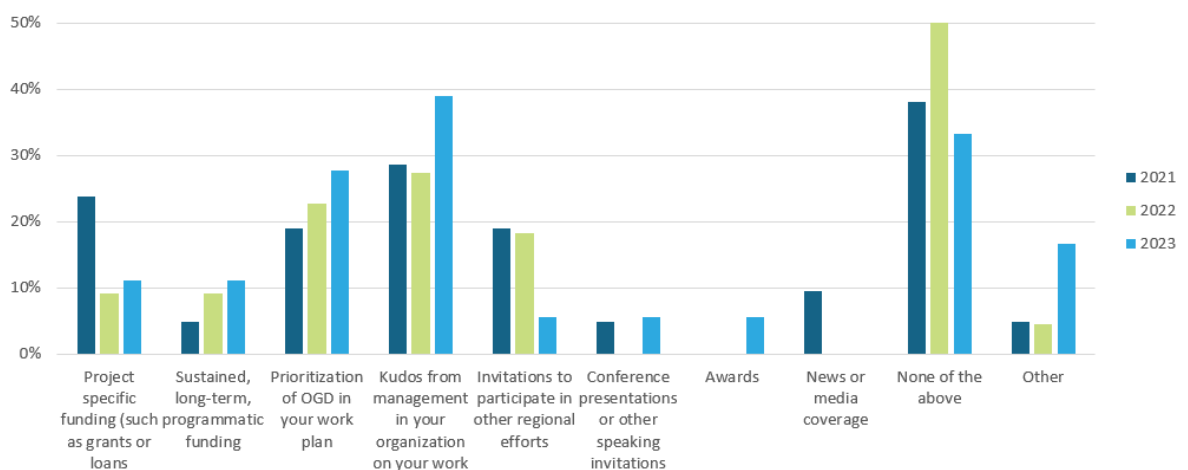


Figure 10: Which of the following types of recognition have you or your organization received this past year as a result of your participation in OGD?

OUR GREEN/  
DUWAMISH

Share  
Connect  
Thrive