

County provides car wash kits that are good for environment

Staff report

Skagit County wants people to know there's an environmentally friendly way to put on a fundraising car wash this summer.

When warm weather rolls around, community groups and sports teams often hold car washes to raise money. But the runoff from freshly washed cars can carry phosphates and other pollutants into storm drains, where they can harm the environment.

"When you think about when you drive down the road, brake pads wear down, tires break down, and that material gets splashed on your car along with oil, antifreeze and transmission fluid," said Michael See, stormwater coordinator for Skagit County.

This summer, Skagit County and the conservation district, along with the cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley, are lending out car wash kits that catch the polluted water before it reaches the storm drains, allowing it to be redirected.

They consist of tubs that sit in storm drains, along with a pump and tubing that allows the water to be directed to a safer destination, such as a grassy area, sink or sewer system.

Funded with grant money, the kits were purchased last year in a partnership between the county, the Skagit Conservation District, the Skagit Marine Resources Committee, Northwest Straits and the Washington Department of Ecology.



Frank Varga / Skagit Valley Herald Car wash kits are available through the Skagit Conservation District.

More information

- Skagit County Public Works, 336-9400
- City of Anacortes, 293-1920
- City of Burlington, 755-9715
- City of Mount Vernon, 336-6204
- City of Sedro-Woolley, 855-0771
- Skagit Conservation District, 428-4313