

Environmental Health Services Rate Study 2024

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King County Board of Health



Agenda

- What does the Environmental Health Services (EHS) division do and how is it funded?
- What is the relationship between the King County Board of Health (BOH) and EHS?
- Why is EHS doing a rate study?
- What is the rate study process?
- Rate study timeline



Inspect and permit pools and water recreation facilities



Inspect and permit restaurants, and issue safety rating for the public



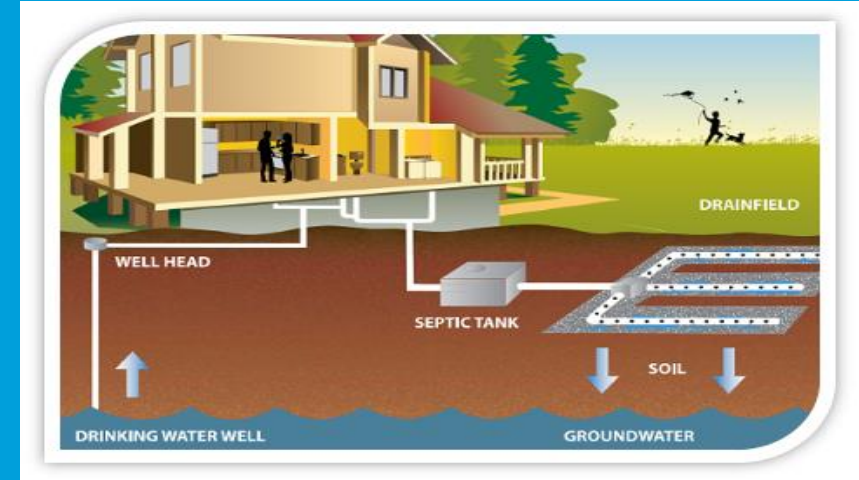
Monitor, inspect, and permit solid waste treatment sites, transfer stations, and landfill disposal sites



Inspect and permit farmer's markets and other temporary food events



Inspect and permit pet businesses



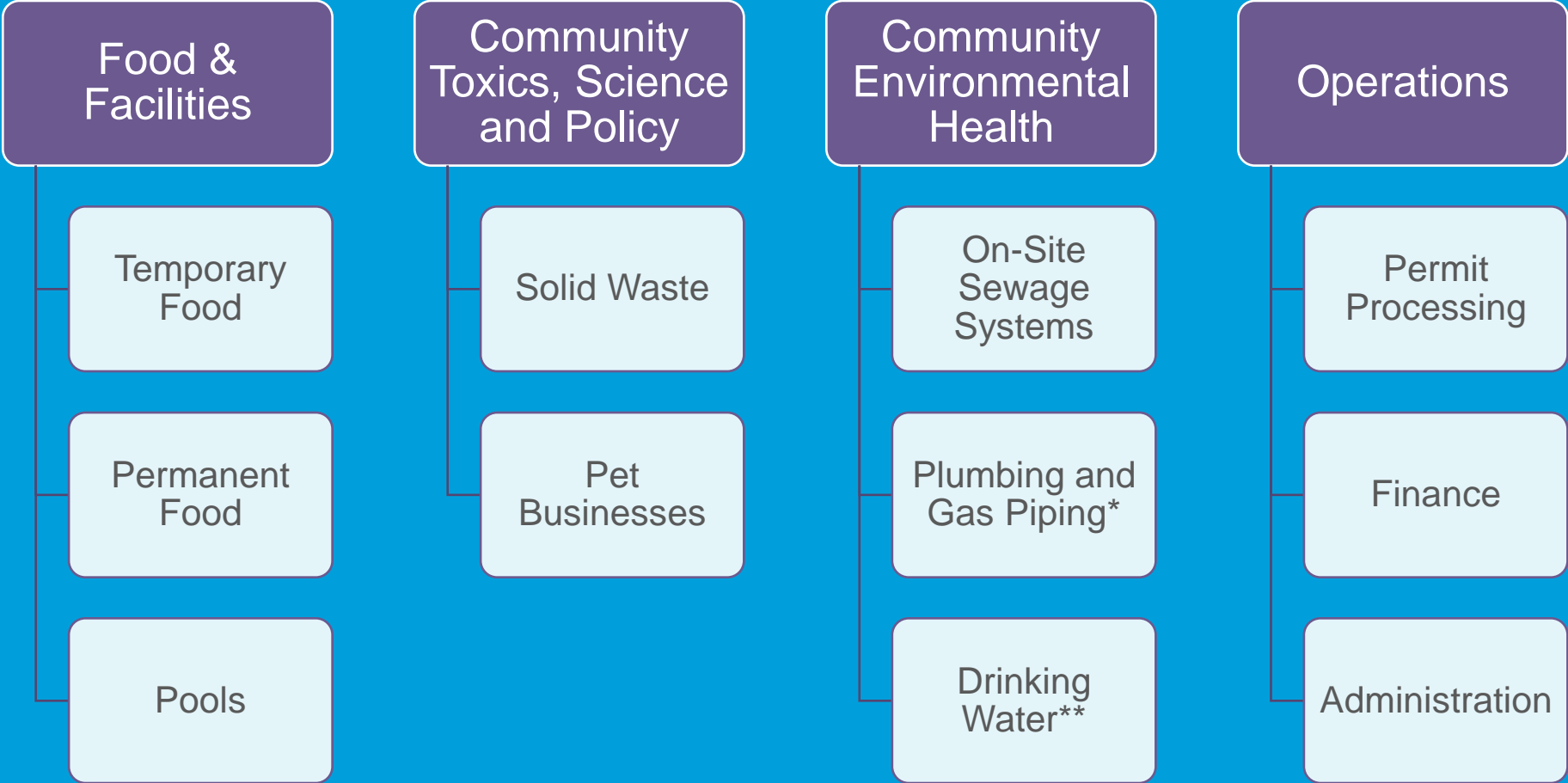
Permit and oversight for on-site sewage systems

EHS promotes healthy people and communities



EHS Structure (Permitting Programs)

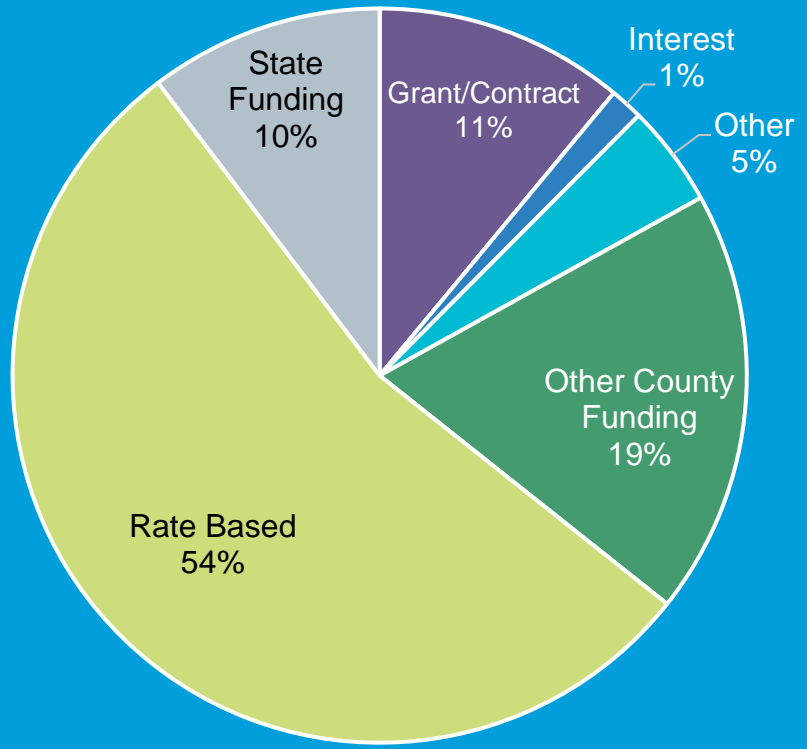
4 Sections:



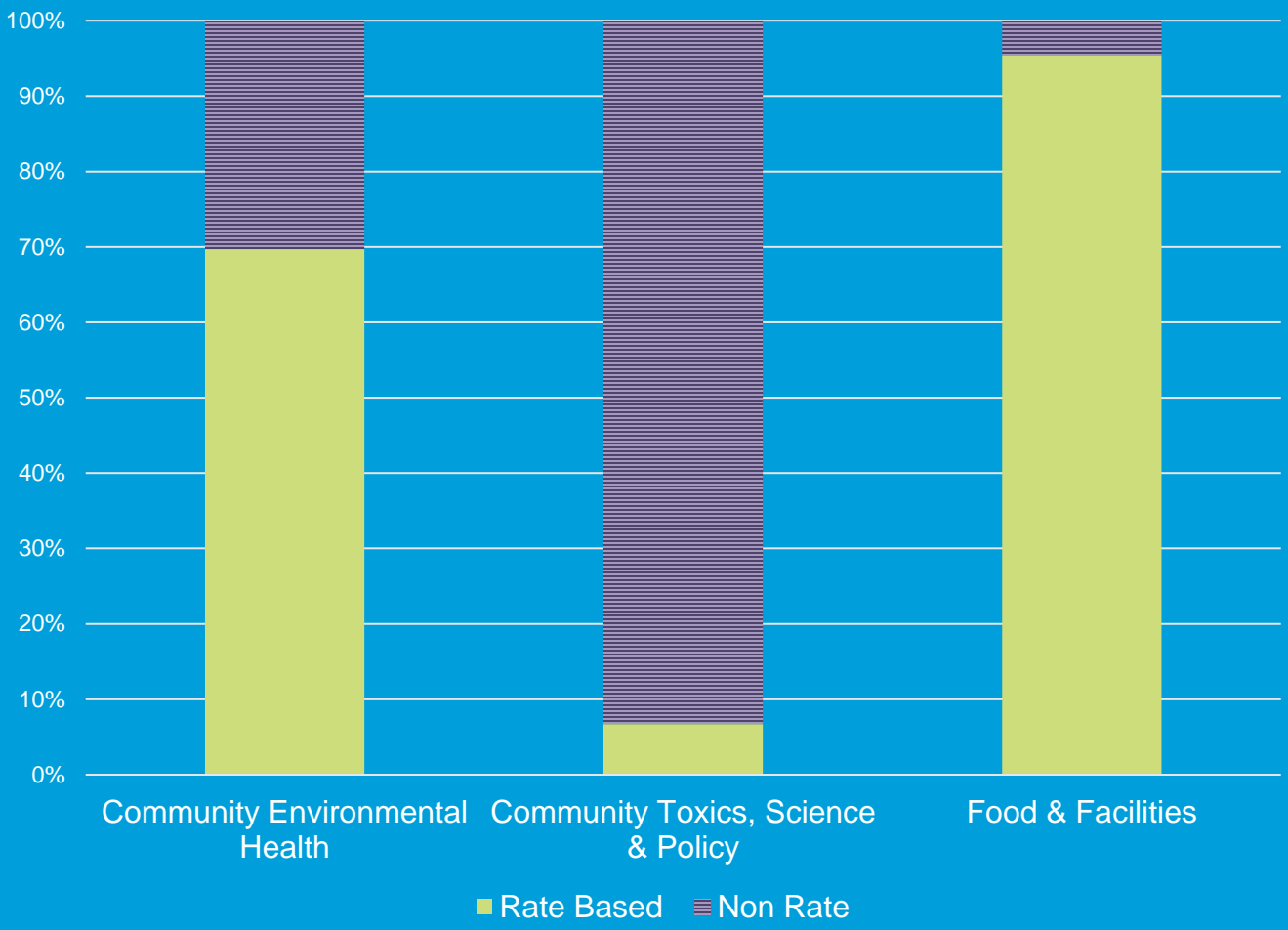
*Plumbing and Gas Piping is not under BOH and a separate rate study is coming before Seattle City Council and King County Council
**Drinking water is limited to individual private wells.

EHS Funding Sources*

EHS Revenue by Source



Share of Rate Based Revenue By Section



*Figures based on 2024 projected revenue as of 3/20/2024

Food Safety Program

- **Permits:**
 - 12,000+ permanent food establishments (restaurants, food trucks, grocery stores, etc.)
 - 2,500+ temporary food events (fairs, festivals, conventions)
 - 350+ farmers market vendors
- **Each year:**
 - Conducts 20,000+ routine/educational inspections
 - Responds to 1,000+ complaints
 - Review and approve 900+ new food businesses



On-site Sewage Permitting and Operation and Maintenance Programs

- Annually review 1,200+ on-site sewage system designs and permit installations for new development, replacing failing septic systems, and building permits
- Annually review 2,500+ time of sale on-site sewage system inspections
- Certify 150+ industry professionals to work in King County
- Respond to 150 complaints each year, working with property owners to ensure that failing on-site sewage systems are corrected



Relationship between BOH and EHS

BOH advocates for the preservation, promotion, and protection of public health

- EHS focuses on disease prevention and on preventing and reducing environmental pollution to protect health

BOH defines and mandates regulations

- EHS implements BOH code mandated services
- Regulations include permit types, renewal schedules, exemptions, etc.

BOH authorizes fees

- Services provided in a full cost recovery model
- Fees are based on rates
- EHS issues permits and charges fees to provide services

What are Rates and Fees?



Why is EHS doing a rate study?

- Per BOH Code 2.06.008, EHS is required to conduct a rate study at least every five years.
- Last rate study was conducted in 2019.
- Per King County policy, **EHS is required to cover all the costs of its regulatory programs through permit fees.** This includes labor, rent, equipment, supplies and all other costs of doing business. State law ensures the fees are not more than the cost of providing the service (RCW 70.05.060 (7)).

Project Plan/Phases of Rate Study

Work Plan and Schedule

- Data gathering
- Time & effort study
- Review and validation of demand forecasts and forecast model
- Customer feedback survey

Analysis

- Financial modeling
- Equity considerations
- Rate comparison with other jurisdictions
- Finalize rate model

Rate Study Report

- Compilation of final report
- BOH final briefing and Rule & Regulation
- If approved, fee schedule implemented Jan. 2025

Rate Study Timeline

	2024												2025
Description	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
Hiring of Rate Study PM	█	█	█										
Rate Study Kick-off		█	█										
Data Analysis, Time Study & Draft Recommendations		█	█	█	█	█							
Board of Health Preliminary Briefing				█									
Customer/Community Engagement Survey				█	█	█							
Survey Evaluation						█	█						
Finalize Rate Model							█	█	█				
Board of Health Final Briefing and Rule & Regulation										█			
Rate change preparation and customer communication											█	█	
2025 Fee Schedule Implemented													█

What will be proposed to BOH in October?

Updated rates for EH permit programs, based on the required full-cost recovery model

Thank you!

Questions?