



Date: June 30, 2023

To: All Certified Septic Contractors

From: Andrea Pellham
Environmental Health Supervisor
Land Use Program
Snohomish County Health Department

Subject: Savvy Septic Program and Installer & Pumper Exam Changes

Dear Certified Septic Contractors:

Many of you are already aware of the Savvy Septic Program which provides financial resources to homeowners including rebates and grants. Previously this program was run by other Snohomish County departments, but it is now operated by the Health Department. **There are multiple changes to the program that are now in effect!**

SAVVY SEPTIC PROGRAM CHANGES

The main changes for **rebates** are...

- **Increased rebate options:** We have added rebates for pumping (\$100) and minor repairs (up to \$200) in addition to the existing rebates for inspections (\$100) and riser installation (\$50/riser, up to two risers).
- **The rebate application is now online:** To make sure we don't miss any rebate submissions over email, homeowners will now [fill out a form online](#). We do have a [paper copy](#) of the application if needed, but we highly encourage online submissions.
- **Requirements:** In order to get rebates, homeowners need to take our [Septic Care Workshop](#), which is now available online, anytime, for free. **This is a major change.** If you let your customers know about rebates, please make sure they know they'll need to take the workshop first in order to be eligible for all the rebates. They just need to take it once and then they're good to go!
- **Fewer restrictions:** There are no restrictions on new construction (previously homeowners had to wait 36 months). Also, homeowners can redeem each rebate once every 12 months. They don't have to wait two years like they previously did.

Don't forget to continue to upload reports to OnlineRME! We need to see the reports in there before processing rebates to homeowners. Thank you!

The main changes for **grants** are...

- **Increased assistance:** Financial assistance available up to \$30,000 for failing systems.
- **Increased eligibility:** More homeowners will be eligible now that we are using different income limits and there are no geographic restrictions (grants are available county-wide).
- **Updated application:** Our [grant application](#) must be completed and submitted with required documents to savvy.septic@snoco.org. If an applicant would rather mail in the information, that is also acceptable.

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We have a [new informational handout](#) for Savvy Septic you can distribute to homeowners if you would like to alert your customers. All of this information will be available on savvyseptic.org, and we recommend you link anything on your website straight to our webpages in case we make any changes, that way you won't have to worry about updating anything on your end. We appreciate your help in getting the word out about this program and ensuring the info homeowners receive is accurate!

CONTRACTOR EXAMS

Those looking to become certified as an installer or pumper will go through a slightly different process than before. The written exam will be administered by a third party (Public Safety Testing). This change began in May. Please see our [contractor webpage](#) for updated information and a full list of certification steps.

- [Installer certification steps](#)
- [Pumper certification steps](#)

For questions about Savvy Septic, please email savvy.septic@snoco.org

For questions about contractor exams, please email SHD-EHQ@SnoCo.org

Sincerely,

Andrea Pellham, R.S. | *Environmental Health Supervisor*