Snohomish County is working to achieve the ecological preservation and healthy ecosystem goals established in our internal Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) for government operations. Partnering with lake watershed residents through the LakeWise program is one example of how we are taking action to achieve our SOAP goals and objectives, namely:

- **Goal 6**: Promote ecological preservation and healthy ecosystems
- **Objective 6T**: Protect water resources and watershed from actions that can degrade water quality.

Preventing lake pollution also makes good economic sense. Once a lake is overloaded with phosphorus and nitrogen, in-lake treatments to clean up a lake can costs of hundreds of thousands dollars.

During the pilot phase of LakeWise, 137 households made one or more LakeWise Clear Choices resulting in:

- Prevention of an estimated 200 lbs. of phosphorus pollution.
- Prevention of an estimated 300 lbs. of nitrogen pollution.
- Reduction in bacterial contamination, pesticides, and other pollutants.

Environmental benefits

**economic case**

Preventing lake pollution also makes good economic sense. Once a lake is overloaded with phosphorus and nitrogen, in-lake treatments to clean up a lake can costs of hundreds of thousands dollars.

The fishing, boating, and environmental tourism industry is an important component of the health and vitality of Snohomish County and depends on clean lakes with healthy aquatic life.

1. Calculated using the WA Department of Ecology, Lake Loma Phosphorus Screening-Level Assessment. 2013. publication no. 13-03-031 and related references.
2. Based on costs for area lakes including Lake Stevens, Green Lake, and Lake Ketchum.