

Thomas Skinner

"The Edison Subarea is one of the first model community plans developed under direction from the State Department of Ecology and known as the Small Town Environmental Program (STEP)", from the Edison Sub-area Household Manual, published 1997. An innovative alternative system, it has proven to be one of the most successful projects preventing harmful domestic waste from degrading the declining marine habitat of Puget Sound. The community was disappointed to find after investing thousands of dollars on a design for a managed wetland that WA DEPT.HEALTH found it requisite to require our treated effluent to be buried.

Our community is now faced with the failure Health and Ecology to recognize our systems treatment technologies as innovative, advanced, or even effective. Instead we have been thrown in a box with larger municipal systems. I strongly encourage Ecology to consider rule changes that allow for small innovative or advanced systems to be designed without detrimental costs to its citizens. As we in the Edison Sub-Area have seen a small change in rule making can either stifle or encourage innovation. We need clear out of the box thinking as we go forward. Thank you. Thomas Skinner advisory board member Edison Sub-Area