



## PARTNER PROFILES

*Puget Sound Starts Here* is a coalition of more than 300 Puget Sound organizations dedicated to improving water quality in Puget Sound and local lakes, rivers and streams. The program, comprised of 57 cities and counties and more than 200 non-profit and non-governmental organizations, is led by the Puget Sound Partnership, STORM (Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities), and Washington State Department of Ecology.

### **Puget Sound Partnership**

The Puget Sound Partnership was created in 2007 by the Washington State legislature. Charged with restoring and protecting Puget Sound, the Partnership developed a comprehensive Action Agenda that identifies work needed to protect and restore Puget Sound by 2020, based on science and with clear and measurable goals for recovery.

The Partnership formed ECO Net (Education, Communication and Outreach Network), a Puget Sound-wide network devoted to building and strengthening relationships among organizations committed to enhancing public awareness, involvement and environmental education. ECO Net's membership is comprised of teachers, program coordinators, public outreach specialists, volunteers and others who are involved in delivering education and public outreach in the Puget Sound region.

### **STORM**

STORM is the acronym for **ST**ormwater **O**utreach for **R**egional **M**unicipalities, a regional consortium of city, county and state stormwater professionals. The organization's mission is to improve surface water quality by reducing non-point source pollution. STORM fulfills this mission by advancing public behavior change through the promotion of targeted, measurable actions. Membership in STORM is comprised of more than 50 municipalities that hold National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits (both Phase 1 and Phase 2 permit holders).

### **Washington State Department of Ecology**

The Department of Ecology's (DOE) mission is "to protect, preserve and enhance Washington's environment, and promote the wise management of the state's air, land and water for the benefit of current and future generations." DOE focuses on preventing and cleaning up pollution as means to fulfill its means. As a state agency, DOE's responsibilities extend well beyond the Puget Sound region. However, protecting and restoring the Sound itself, along with the many lakes, rivers and streams in the region, is a top priority.