# **Citizen Science |** Diane Hennebert, City of Anacortes

## Q & A

1. What program do the volunteers use to input data?

A: Data is stored in a Google [Docs] spreadsheet, which Diane can access.

1. Any feedback on how it works for the volunteers and for you getting the data? We currently use a program called Fieldscope for our Student Watershed Monitoring program with mixed results.

A: The data coordinator sends Diane a monthly email that includes any exceedances of the reporting thresholds the City set. Attached to the email is a spreadsheet that includes the historical data for each outfall that had an exceedance (to see whether it is a trend at the spot or a one-time occurrence). If a volunteer has a concern that they feel needs to be addressed sooner, they contact the volunteer lead who calls or emails Diane.

1. Did any of the data trigger S4.F.1?

A: The data collected and observations by volunteers played a part in one S4.F.1 report.

1. Can you share a bit about what you're planning on doing with E. coli measuring?

A: E.coli sampling is being conducted on a trial basis at a few outfalls, with the intention to roll it out to the rest of the outfalls once the wrinkles in the process have been ironed out. Our current reporting threshold is 320 CFU/100mL (suggested by the Dept of Ecology). If a sample exceeds the threshold, it will be reported to the City and another sample will be taken within the next day or two. If the second sample exceeds the threshold the City will investigate and the volunteer program will monitor it more often if it is deemed necessary. If the original sample has a high enough colony count the City will investigate immediately.

***Chat response:*** Sounds like the E. coli is going to be tested with Coliscan Easygels--King County has been using Easygels for years and we love them! We've run side-by-sides using Easygels and our accredited lab, and the results are comparable. Easygels are great.

***Chat response:*** SnoKing Watershed Council uses 3 samples of Ecoli per month plus chemical, BIBI tests.

## Resource Materials

Sno-King Water Watchers Global Water Watch site for data entry and viewing Sno-King Watershed Council operates a community-based water monitoring (CBWM) program, Sno-King Water Watchers, in King County.

## Resource Materials Continued

**Water Watchers - SnoKing Watershed Council** <https://snokingwatershedcouncil.org/water-watchers/>

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