



*Lending to people, Investing for resilience*

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Celebrating over 500 homeowners committed to cleaning the waters of Washington State**

**\$7.7 million invested to repair Kitsap County's failing septic systems**

BREMERTON, WASH. - Craft3 announced today it has supported the repair or replacement of more than 500 failing septic systems with the Clean Water Loan; 341 in Kitsap County alone!

Repairing or replacing a septic system is extremely costly and many owners are in danger of losing their property because they cannot obtain a loan or cover the costs out of pocket. Since 2003, Craft3 has offered an inclusive, affordable Clean Water Loan to cover the costs of designing, permitting, installing and maintaining residential and commercial septic systems. In selected areas, the loan can also be used to connect to municipal sewer systems.

With support from local and state government, as well as regional foundations and partner organizations, more than \$12 million in Clean Water Loans have helped 535 property owners repair or replace their failing septic systems in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce and Pacific Counties. As a result, over 283 million gallons of waste water has been treated, contributing to the improvement of local shellfish harvest areas.

Since partnering with Kitsap Public Health District to expand the Clean Water Loan to Kitsap, Mason and Jefferson County in 2007, over seven million dollars has been lent to property owners in Kitsap County, of which 40 percent were low-income. The Clean Water Loan serves homeowners with a broad range of household incomes and credit histories. It includes funds to cover the ongoing inspections, maintenance and repairs that ensure systems continue to work once installed.

"We rely on Craft3 to provide an option to our homeowners when they're faced with the often expensive process of fixing a failing septic system," shared Stuart Whitford, Kitsap Public Health District's Water Pollution Identification & Correction Program Manager. "Having the ability to direct a homeowner to that resource and to people who understand how septic systems work, the permitting process and financing is very rare. It's very helpful."

Applying for the Clean Water Loan is easy. Just visit [www.Craft3.org/CleanWater](http://www.Craft3.org/CleanWater) to apply online or download an application and then work with a local licensed or certified septic professional on a bid. By enabling borrowers to hire locally, the Clean Water Loan supports small business and job creation.

To learn more about the Clean Water Loan or to apply, visit [www.Craft3.org/CleanWater](http://www.Craft3.org/CleanWater) and [www.Craft3.org/CleanWaterVideo](http://www.Craft3.org/CleanWaterVideo).

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### **About Craft3**

Craft3 is a nonprofit community development financial institution with a mission to strengthen economic, ecological and family resilience in Pacific Northwest communities. They do this by specializing in loans to entrepreneurs, nonprofits, individuals and others who don't normally have access to financing. Craft3 then complements these financial resources with expertise, personal connections and other advocacy for their clients. Since 1994, Craft3 has invested more than \$345 million in Washington and Oregon's people and communities. Learn more at [www.Craft3.org](http://www.Craft3.org) and [www.Craft3.org/Videos](http://www.Craft3.org/Videos).