

## Working together to address stormwater pollution



ECOSS works with small to medium-sized businesses, many without the knowledge and resources, to incorporate environmentally responsible practices. Among the free services offered by ECOSS, our stormwater technical assistance program helps businesses tackle complex issues ranging from navigating stormwater permits to implementing sustainable operational practices, otherwise known as Best Management Practices.

Boatyards are subject to some of the strictest regulations pertaining to stormwater pollution. This is due to several factors, including the types of activities done to maintain and repair boats, their proximity to waterfronts and their potential to contaminate adjacent waters.

One such boatyard, Lake Union Yacht Center, received ECOSS' assistance in October 2006. During a routine visit by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), the inspection team recognized the great work the facility achieved to minimize their impact on Lake Union. However, the business needed assistance with several key compliance items that the boatyard staff did not know how to address. SPU referred the business to ECOSS and we began working closely with Lake Union Yacht Center employees to help bring their operations into environmental compliance. ECOSS provided Lake Union Yacht Center with emergency spill response kits, worked with them to implement Best Management Practices and assisted in the development of a stormwater pollution prevention plan.

Since ECOSS' initial visit, Lake Union Yacht Center has nearly doubled in size and continues to explore new ways to reduce their impact on the environment. Using our ideas and suggestions, the boatyard has installed stormwater treatment devices in their storm drains and also moved some operations to a new indoor area that greatly minimizes their potential to contaminate stormwater.

Small businesses such as Lake Union Yacht Center are interested in doing their part to reduce pollution and retain the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Oftentimes, businesses are in need of some help to get started in right direction - ECOSS is that help.



*A Spill Kit can greatly reduce the impact of a business' accidental spill on nearby water bodies.*