

ENVIROTalk

Fall 2003

2GOOD2TOSS.COM

Reusable building materials & large household items

Do you have perfectly good large household items or building materials that are set to go to the landfill? Hold on!

A new, free online option — 2good2toss.com — will help you get rid of usable items such as appliances, furniture, electronic equipment, brick, carpet, doors, windows, cabinets and more.

2good2toss.com provides a free, easy way for residents and businesses to post and browse items — from \$0 to \$99 — that still have life left in them. By exchanging items on 2good2toss.com, you'll be contributing to a healthy environment while adding some "green" to your pocketbook.

Because the exchange is brand new, inventory is needed. Post your reusable large household items and building materials on 2good2toss.com today and help Tacoma and Pierce County establish a successful reusable exchange network.

Part of a state-wide effort to save landfill space and encourage reuse practices, 2good2toss.com is sponsored by the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, the Washington State Department of Ecology and I-WasteNot Systems.

NEW from TAGRO

Can something that comes from your toilet be good for your plants? You won't believe how good. The City's Wastewater Management utility announces two exciting new TAGRO products — potting soil and mulch.

Potting Soil

House plants in a slump? The root of the problem could be your soil. Try the new TAGRO Potting Soil especially designed for container-grown plants.

TAGRO Potting Soil is a nutrient-rich blend of Tacoma biosolids, high-quality maple sawdust and clean, aged bark. TAGRO Potting Soil is safe for indoor and outdoor use, and works in both flower and vegetable gardens. It is perfect for outdoor raised planting beds. \$30/yard.

Mulch

Fall is the perfect time to add mulch to your outdoor gardening routine. Made of quality Tacoma biosolids and a blend of fir and hemlock sawdust, the City's new TAGRO Mulch will pamper your landscape.

Weed-free TAGRO Mulch moderates the temperature and moisture content of your soil and is nitrogen-balanced to provide a slow-release of nutrients. TAGRO Mulch also protects garden beds from winter cold and summer heat while increasing overall fertility. \$12/yard.



Get Growing with new TAGRO PRODUCTS!

CENTRAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
2201 Portland Avenue

September
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
October-December
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.tagro.com
502-2150

TAGRO Potting Soil and TAGRO Mulch products were tested by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EnviroChallenger educators

To meet the demand from Tacoma teachers for more EnviroChallenger lessons, the City added another EnviroChallenger Educator to the program.

Meet Sarah Amber Armstrong, formerly a fourth-grade teacher at Enatai Elementary in Bellevue.

Armstrong joins veteran environmental educator Bruno Bowles. Their goal is to log more than 800 lessons in Tacoma classrooms this year, representing a 50 percent increase from last year.

Learn more about the program at www.envirochallenger.com



Reminder: PICKUP one DAY late on FOUR MAJOR HOLIDAYS each YEAR

Garbage collection schedules may not be the first thing on your mind during the holidays, but remember Solid Waste Management does not pick up garbage, recycling or yard waste on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and the Fourth of July.

If your regular collection day comes on a holiday or the days following a holiday, your collection will be one day late during that week.

For example, Thanksgiving is on a Thursday and let's say your regular pickup day is Thursday. Because of the holiday, you'll have a Friday pickup. Friday customers will have their items picked up on Saturday. All days that fall before a holiday are on schedule.

The City of Tacoma landfill, recycling center and household hazardous waste facility also will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and the Fourth of July.

For the 2003 garbage and recycling collection calendar, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste/calendar



RUB your TUB the RIGHT way

Not many people like to clean the bathroom — but almost everyone enjoys a hot bath in a clean tub. How scrubbed is your tub? If you've used a product labeled "hazardous" or "caution," it might not be as clean as you think. Common household cleaners often emit toxic odors and/or may leave a harmful residue that could be floating in your next bubble bath.

Scrub your tub the right way with this non-hazardous, easy-to-make cleaner.

What you'll need: 1 2/3 cups baking soda, 1/2 cup high-quality liquid soap, 1/2 cup water, 2 Tbsp. white distilled vinegar, and a 16-oz squeeze container.

What to do: Mix baking soda and liquid soap in a bowl. Dilute with water. Add vinegar last. Stir until lumps are gone. If it pours from the bowl into the squeeze container then it's the right consistency, otherwise it's too thick and needs more water. Shake well before using and squirt on surface to be cleaned. Use with a soft sponge to prevent scratching. Rinse well. This cleaner works great in the tub, sink and toilet bowl, and can also be used on floors, garbage cans and for any greasy, grimy job.

For other earth-friendly recipes, visit
www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners



Free digital thermometers still available

Do you have a mercury fever thermometer around your home? Join in Tacoma's mercury reduction effort and exchange it for a free digital model* at Tacoma's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.

Tacoma and Pierce County residents are doing a great job keeping mercury — a toxic metal that can cause health problems and harm the environment — out of landfills. Since February, residents have recycled more than 6,300 mercury thermometers and thousands of fluorescent light bulbs and other mercury-containing products.

For more information about mercury pollution, alternative products and safe disposal, call the Mercury Matters 24-hour information line, 593-7716, or visit www.cityoftacoma.org/mercurymatters

* While supplies last. Bring mercury thermometers in a rigid container inside a leak-proof bag.



EnviroChallenge

Congratulations to the winners of the last EnviroChallenge — Paula Curtis, Matt Oberfeld, Margo Palmer, William Pannier and Nancy Robinson. They correctly identified the six areas of the Foss Waterway that the City cleaned up earlier this year — Thea's Park, Totem Marine Services, Wheeler-Osgood Waterway, Martinac Shipbuilding Corp, Johnny's Seafood and Middle/St. Paul Waterways.

This issue's challenge: Tacoma's Household Hazardous Waste Facility accepts a variety of hazardous materials. Out of the following items, which one is **not** considered hazardous **and** what must be done before it can go in the garbage?

- fluorescent light bulbs
- used motor oil
- oven cleaner
- latex paint
- finger nail polish/remover

The first five Tacoma residents to correctly answer both parts of the question will win an Environmental Services fleece blanket.* Visit www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices to find the answer.

* Limit one winner per household, per calendar year.

Solid Waste Management

3510 South Mullen St.
Tacoma, WA 98409

Garbage, recycling and yard waste collection	591-5543
Call-2-Haul	573-2468
Hazardous waste	591-5418
Scalehouse	593-7724
Recycling schedule	565-5955 (recorded message only)
Landfill hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily (except major holidays)	

Wastewater & Surface Water Management

2201 Portland Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98421

Customer Service	502-2100 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
Sewer backups	591-5585 (24 hours)
Storm flooding	591-5585 (24 hours)
Commencement Bay Water Pollution Hotline*	383-2429 (24 hours)

All prefixes are 253

*The City operates the Commencement Bay Water Pollution Hotline in conjunction with Citizens for a Healthy Bay.

Don't Trash That Bag!

Did you know plastic bags are recyclable in Tacoma? Simply stuff all your clean plastic bags — dry cleaning bags, grocery bags, produce bags and department store bags — into one bag tied at the top. Then, toss it in your big blue recycling container.



Choices
Convenience
A Click Away



www.tacomaservices.org

Soon you'll have more choices and greater convenience when it comes to your utility account.

When the City of Tacoma's new computer system is switched on late this year, you'll be able to pay your bill online, set up automatic payments with credit or debit cards, view your account balance and more. And, your bill will have a new look, with additional information and a cleaner, easy-to-read format.

Some City services may be affected by the change, so we ask for your patience for the next few months as we prepare to switch to our new system.

Visit www.tacomaservices.org for more information.



If you see activities that threaten the health of Commencement Bay or surrounding waters, call the

**Commencement
Bay Water Pollution
Hotline
383-2429**

The hotline is a joint venture between Environmental Services and Citizens for a Healthy Bay.

Give your storm drains some re-leaf

Fall in the Northwest always brings two things — rain and leaves. Fallen leaves can easily clog the storm drains in Tacoma, causing flooding problems in your neighborhood.

Keep the storm drains near your home clear of leaves, garbage and other gunk, paying special attention to drains near street corners and low areas. City staff does its best to keep drains clean, but with more than 17,000 drains to keep track of, they can't all be cleared on a regular basis.

One big storm could slow traffic, flood garages and basements, and wash out your landscaped yards — so help out when you can. Remember, you can always put leaves and other yard debris out with your regular yard waste pickup.



in this *ISSUE*



City of Tacoma
Public Works
Environmental Services
747 Market Street, Room 408
Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

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- ✿ **New TAGRO products**.....page 1
- ✿ **Holiday pickup schedule** page 2
- ✿ **Free thermometers** page 3
- ✿ **New online bill services**..... page 5

We want your feedback and story suggestions. E-mail us at envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org.

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Get your **GOLFgroove**SM at **THE LANDFILL**

Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out, you'll find something of interest at Tacoma Firs Golf Center.

Come out and practice — or learn — among the golf center's 80 tee stations, 18-hole miniature golf course, natural-grass putting green and 50-yard short practice area. Enjoy themed golf nights and lesson specials all year long.



Sunday—Bottomless Bucket Night: \$10 per person (5-7 p.m.)

Wednesday—Steak Night: Steak dinner and jumbo bucket of balls – \$10 per person (4-7 p.m.)

Wednesday/Friday—Family Night: Dinner and mini golf or regular bucket of balls – \$4.99 per person (4-7 p.m.)

Tacoma Firs is located on a portion of the City of Tacoma Landfill, 4504 S. Tyler St., and operates under a revenue sharing agreement with the City. Fall and winter hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day. For more information, call 472-6899 or visit www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste/golf

