

ENVIROTalk

Spring 2002



Want to take the junk out of your mail?

If you're tired of sorting through credit card offers, catalogs and coupons to get to the good stuff, you need a junk mail reduction kit.

Watch your mailbox, a kit is on its way! In April, Solid Waste Management will send junk mail reduction kits to all of our customers. When you receive your kit, here's what you will need to do:

- ✿ Fill out the postcards in the kit.
- ✿ Place a stamp on each card.
- ✿ Mail.
- ✿ Enjoy a mailbox free of junk.

For more information about waste reduction, please visit www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste.

CHANGE the way you wash YOUR CAR

Did you know that washing your car on the street or in your driveway is like taking a bucket of soapy water and dumping it right into your neighborhood creek or lake?

When you wash your car on the pavement, the soapy water runs into the storm drains which lead directly to the nearest body of water without treatment. Most people still wash their cars this way because they don't know where the storm drains go or how bad soap is for the organisms that live in both fresh and salt water.

Luckily, there's an easy remedy to this problem. Just pull your car onto a grassy or gravelled area. Grass and gravel act like filters and keep the soap out of the groundwater. Contrary to popular belief, soap won't hurt your grass! And, parking your car on your lawn for short periods of time won't hurt the lawn, either.

You can also take your car to a car wash that recycles its wash water. Most of them do.

If you're holding a charity car wash this spring or summer, call Paul Tollefson, 253-502-2120, and borrow one of our free Clean Bay Car Wash kits. These kits have all the necessary equipment to keep the soapy water out of the storm drains and direct it instead to the sewer system where it gets treated before it's released back to the environment.

Only, clean, unpolluted water should go into storm drains. For more information, visit our website, www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices/waterservices.





with
**TAGRO
Mix**

Use TAGRO Mix in your vegetable garden and watch your greens produce a slew of blue. Blue ribbons, that is.

Wastewater Management earns blue ribbons year after year at the Puyallup Fair for vegetables grown in the TAGRO garden — almost 70 since 1992.

You too can achieve award-winning produce with TAGRO Mix. Growing vegetables with the fish-friendly soil amendment is easy and safe. TAGRO Mix is a “Class A/Exceptional Quality” biosolids product that exceeds all federal standards set up by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Here's how to get stunning results:

- ☀ Spread a full inch of TAGRO Mix over your garden area, till or turn in if desired.
- ☀ Stir TAGRO Mix into the planting hole when setting out seedlings or transplants.
- ☀ Use mid-season as a thin top-dressing to boost established crops.

Available year-round at Tacoma's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, TAGRO Mix also works great for lawns and flower gardens. We'll load your pickup for \$8, deliver it to your house for a minimal fee, or you can use our free, self-load area evenings and weekends for small quantities. Hours are weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April to September, and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 6 through May 18.

**For more information, visit
www.TAGRO.com or call
253-502-2150.**



Natural
YARDcare
fever
sprouts **savings**
at local retailers

It's more convenient than ever to purchase natural yard care products — and at discounted prices — during April's Northwest Natural Yard Days.

Beginning April 7 and continuing through the month, all Home Depot, Lowe's Home Improvement and McLendon Hardware stores in Pierce County will offer discounts on mulching mowers and other natural yard care products. Save on items such as water timers, organic fertilizers, compost, soaker hoses, rain barrels, insecticidal soap and weed pullers. Products will vary by store.

Want to recycle your old mower for free? The City of Tacoma will accept mowers April 13 at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Northwest Natural Yard Days is an outgrowth of the highly successful “Mower for Less” events offered in the past. Traditionally, Tacoma residents had only one day a year to receive such bargains. Puget Sound residents will now be able to receive discounts at 34 King and Pierce County stores from April 7 until April 30 at participating retailers.

**For more information, visit
www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste.**



Garbage and recycling cans are on the way

If you are one of the thousands of customers who requested but have not yet received your new yard waste, recycling or garbage containers from Solid Waste Management, we apologize for the delay.

Our manufacturer had unexpected problems and did not send our shipments on time. The containers have now arrived and we will deliver them to you as fast as we can. We hope to have all your orders filled by the end of April.

If you have not received your container(s) by the end of April, please let us know. Log on to our website www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste and click on "Service Request Form" or call our office, 253-591-5543.

Your patience is greatly appreciated!

RECYCLE your HOUSEHOLD junk

Although Tacoma's Call-2-Haul program picks up most of your household junk, there are a few things we don't take. Recycling non-Call-2-Haul items is easy if you know what to do and who to call.

Tires

You can bring your tires to the Tacoma Landfill for recycling. City of Tacoma residential Solid Waste customers will be charged the following rates:

Passenger and light truck tires

Off the rim: \$3.35 each, plus landfill tonnage fees*

On the rim: \$6.70 each, plus landfill tonnage fees*

Larger than 10 by 20

Off the rim: \$16.50 each, plus landfill tonnage fees*

We do not accept large tires on rims.

**City of Tacoma residential solid waste customers pay \$4 for the first 400 pounds and \$4.25 for each 100-pound increment thereafter.*

Scrap metal and vehicle parts

You may bring small amounts (less than two five-gallon buckets) of scrap metal to the Recycling Center at the Tacoma Landfill. We do not accept car, truck, motorcycle or boat parts. Bring those, as well as larger metal materials to a local commercial scrap metal recycler such as:

- ♻️ Calbag Metals Company, 253-572-6800
- ♻️ Joseph Simons and Sons, 253-272-9364
- ♻️ Schnitzer Steel Industries, 253-572-4000

Construction materials

Many local companies recycle construction materials, including:

- ♻️ Recovery One, 253-627-1180 (*All materials*)
- ♻️ Pierce County Recycling Composting and Disposal, 253-847-7555 (*Land clearing wood debris, untreated, unpainted wood*)
- ♻️ Fife Sand and Gravel, 253-922-7710 (*Wood, concrete, asphalt*)
- ♻️ Woodworth and Company, 253-582-5181 ext. 110 (*Concrete, asphalt, bricks, asbestos-free roofing materials*)
- ♻️ Tucci and Sons, 253-922-6676 (*Concrete, asphalt*)
- ♻️ New West Gypsum, 253-922-9343 (*Drywall*)

You may also bring your construction materials to the Tacoma Landfill for disposal. You will need to pay appropriate disposal charges and the materials will not be recycled.

Glass

Please call Jones Quarry, 360-352-1022, in Olympia to find out about recycling window glass and other non-safety glass.

If you have additional questions about disposal at the Landfill, please contact our Scale House staff at 253-593-7724. For recycling and hazardous waste disposal questions, please call 253-591-5543, or visit our Web site at www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste.

EnviroChallenge

Web sleuths from the Winter issue of EnviroTalk learned that the average person in Tacoma produces enough "raw material" to make about 70 dry pounds of TAGRO a year.

Test your knowledge again and complete the following: There are nine watersheds in the City of Tacoma. They are _____,

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____.

The first five Tacoma residents who e-mail us at envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org with the correct answer will receive an Environmental Services sweatshirt.

Hint — you can find the answer by visiting www.cityoftacoma.org/waterservices.

STENCIL that drain!

Did you know that the water that flows into storm drains goes directly into the nearest body of water without treatment?

Armed with cans of spray paint, volunteers will stencil the words, "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream" on hundreds of storm drains in Tacoma's Eastside on **June 22**.

The stenciling project is a free, hands-on event co-sponsored by the City, the Pierce Conservation District Stream Team and Citizens for a Healthy Bay. The "no dumping" message reminds people that activities such as flicking cigarette butts to the ground, spilling oil or

gas on pavement, or washing cars on pavement can pollute our surface waters and damage fragile habitats.

You can schedule your own stenciling event within City limits during spring/summer. The City provides

stenciling materials and application instruction free of charge to interested volunteer groups. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA and various church groups are some examples of organizations that have volunteered in the past.

For more information, contact Andrew Tengwall at Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 253-383-2429, or volunteer@healthybay.org.



MARK that CURB!

Head of storm drain stenciling? How about storm drain

curb markers? The City debuted the use of innovative curb markers last summer, and plans on using them in areas of town with curbs and gutters. The City will use the traditional stenciling method in areas without curbs and gutters.

On **JULY 20**, volunteers will glue hundreds of the new markers to the curbs next to storm drains in North Tacoma. The markers are made of durable, non-fade plastic. They last an average of 10 years as opposed to the painted-on stencils, which last roughly two to three years. They carry a more Tacoma-specific "no dumping" message than the stencils.

You can schedule your own curb marking event within City limits during spring/summer. The City provides the materials and application instruction free of charge to interested volunteer groups.

For more information, contact Andrew Tengwall at Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 253-383-2429, or volunteer@healthybay.org.

Pull the plug and recycle your techno trinkets

May 11-12
Cheney Stadium



They were there in the morning to wake you up and stuck with you through college. They've cleaned your house, toasted your toast and printed your papers. They tuned in when you tuned out.

They're your old electronics: abandoned and gathering dust in your home. It's time to pull the plug and get rid of them. But don't throw your treasured techno trinkets in the trash. Say goodbye to your electronic has-beens between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the electronics recycling event on May 11 and 12 at Cheney Stadium.

Shed no tears. You may see your corded castoffs again. By recycling them, they'll be turned into something new. Something better. Something you can use again.

For only \$5 a carload, we'll collect the following items at the electronics recycling event:

- 🌀 Televisions*
- 🌀 Computer monitors*
- 🌀 VCRs
- 🌀 Computers
- 🌀 Scanners
- 🌀 Printers
- 🌀 Modems
- 🌀 Fax machines
- 🌀 Stereo equipment
- 🌀 Vacuum cleaners
- 🌀 Irons
- 🌀 Curling irons
- 🌀 Hairdryers
- 🌀 Small kitchen appliances
- 🌀 Alarm clocks
- 🌀 Cell phones
- 🌀 Telephones

**Limit of two total per carload. (One television and one monitor or two of one or the other.) After that, you will be charged \$5 per television or monitor.*

We will not take large appliances, microwaves or smoke detectors. You may dispose of them for a fee at the City of Tacoma Landfill. The electronics recycling event is for Tacoma and Pierce County residents only.

Stay tuned for more information. To learn about other ways to recycle, please visit www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste.

Stop Pollution!

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

**Commencement Bay
Environmental Hotline
253-383-2429.**

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

DRIVING RANGE at landfill IS UP TO PAR

Like to golf? Then you need to swing on over to Tacoma Firs Golf Center, located on a portion of the City of Tacoma Landfill.

Tacoma Firs offers one-of-a kind golf services including 80 tee stations on two levels, an 18-hole miniature golf course, natural grass putting green, 50-yard short practice area, pro shop and the Tee Line Grill Restaurant.

The Learning Center staff includes five PGA and LPGA golf pros.

While most people don't think of garbage and golf together, the unique arrangement of leasing unused land has worked out well for everyone involved. Tacoma Firs' owners lease the property from the City of Tacoma, with a revenue sharing clause in the lease agreement.

Tacoma Firs Golf Center is located at 4504 S. Tyler St. For more information, please call 472-6899 or visit our Web site at www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste.

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 2

We welcome your feedback about *EnviroTalk*. Contact us by e-mail at envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org.

PWK 5120 0021 (03/02)a

New **WEB** site talks trash & more

Want the word on water, the goods on garbage and more?

Then check out our new Web site:
[www.cityoftacoma.org/
environmentalservices](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices).

The site provides you with information on wastewater, surface water and solid waste services, rates and programs.

At the click of a mouse, you can use one of our electronic forms to start or change your garbage and recycling service. You can also learn to build a compost bin, make chemical-free cleaning products with common household items, and apply for low-cost loans to repair broken side sewers.

The site also offers a history of Tacoma's landfill and animated views of the surface water and wastewater systems.

So log on to our "home" page, pictured above, and learn to talk trash and a whole lot more.

