

EnviroTalk

Fall 2011

Complete our survey for a chance to win

Enclosed in this issue of EnviroTalk is a reader survey card. Please let us know how useful you find this publication so we can continue to meet your needs and interests.

Fill out the survey and drop it in the mail (postage paid) or complete the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/EnviroTalk2011. Complete the survey by Sept. 30, 2011, to be entered in a drawing to win a TAGRO sweatshirt.



It's not just another Pretty tree

Trees are a proven way to reduce stormwater runoff, erosion and flooding by soaking in and filtering rainwater naturally. Trees also give us cleaner air, higher property values, energy savings and more enjoyable neighborhoods.

Tacoma is working to increase tree coverage from its current 19 percent canopy to 30 percent by 2030.

How to help grow Tacoma's tree canopy:

- ❁ **Plant a tree.** The Urban Forestry program has resources for selecting the right tree for the right place.
- ❁ **Maintain your trees.** Taking care of older trees makes a bigger impact on Tacoma's overall tree coverage. According to the U.S. Forest Service, for every \$1 spent on tree maintenance, \$9 is recouped in property value alone.
- ❁ **Check before you cut.** Many trees that get cut down because a homeowner thinks they're too big, hazardous or messy are simply in need of basic tree maintenance such as pruning. When you take into account the cost of cutting down a tree, lost property value and lost energy savings, hiring a consulting arborist could save you thousands.
- ❁ **Attend a free class.** See page 2 for workshops about choosing, planting and pruning trees.

www.cityoftacoma.org/evergreentacoma
(253) 591-2048



Keep right-of-way **CLEAR** of vehicles, debris

City of Tacoma garbage, recycling, street sweeping and emergency services vehicles need room to work.

Property owners are responsible for making sure rights-of-way such as alleys, sidewalks and planting strips are properly maintained and accessible.

- Keep the full width of sidewalks, streets and alleys clear of vegetation and debris.
- Vegetation near intersections and driveways must not exceed 2 feet in height.
- Prune limbs to 14 feet above streets and 8 feet above sidewalks.
- Plant trees with a mature height of less than 25 feet under power lines.
- Don't block driveways or alley entrances of other properties. Leave at least 5 feet on either side of any access point.
- Don't park on planting strips, sidewalks, crosswalks or within designated turn-around areas.
- Raised bed planters are allowed but require a no-fee permit and must meet requirements.

www.cityoftacoma.org/righttree
trees@cityoftacoma.org
(253) 591-2048



E-readers and tablets now accepted for free recycling at all E-Cycle Washington locations.

Ecyclewashington.org
1-800 RECYCLE

2

Giving Tacoma a clean sweep

Tacoma's street sweepers prevent debris and contamination from entering local waterways through storm drains.

When it's your street's turn, please do your part:

- **Move vehicles** off the street between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- **Remove garbage**, recycling and yard waste containers from the street.
- **Provide sweepers access by pruning bushes and tree branches.** The full street must be clear of obstructions up to 14 feet high.

Watch for a postcard in the mail or check the online schedule to find out your next street sweeping date.

www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping
(253) 591-5588



2010 by the numbers

- Swept 13,725 miles of streets
- Removed 4,756 tons of debris

FREE HOME & GARDEN WORKSHOPS

The following workshops will be held at the City of Tacoma EnviroHouse (Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.). Workshops are open to Tacoma and Pierce County residents. Schedule is subject to change. Registration is required.

September

17	Weatherize: Energy-Saving Window Options	10:30 a.m.
18	Fall Planting & Winter Garden Prep	1:30 p.m.
24	Natural Daylight: Solatube Self-Install Demo	10:30 a.m.

October

1	Pruning Landscape Trees & Shrubs	10:30 a.m.
2	Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain	1:30 p.m.
8	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting	10:30 a.m.
15	Designing a Sustainable Landscape	10:30 a.m.
22	Tree Selection & Planting	10:30 a.m.
29	Weatherize with Energy-Saving Improvements	10:30 a.m.

www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse
ehouse@cityoftacoma.org
(253) 573-2426

EnviroHouse
CITY OF TACOMA

Don't be a drip!

Vehicles are one of the biggest contributors to stormwater pollution that ends up in our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound. Motor oil, brake dust, tire wear, tailpipe emissions and car wash residue – it all adds up.

Help reduce water pollution:

- ✿ Regularly maintain your vehicle.
- ✿ Be on the lookout for leaks.
- ✿ If you spot drips coming from your vehicle, use cardboard to catch the drips until you can get them fixed. (Make sure to dispose of stained cardboard in the trash, not the recycling!)
- ✿ Carpool or take public transit when possible.

Puget Sound Starts Here.org

EcoFind

An oldie but a goodie

As the weather gets cold, keep your food and beverages hot with a thermos or insulated travel mug. Using insulated containers for soups, stews, casseroles and hot beverages helps keep disposable products out of the landfill and can

save you money.



RESOURCE LIST

Fall 2011

Resource	Phone	Website
Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard waste)		
Information line (recorded message)	565-5955	
General questions	591-5543	www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste
Call-2-Haul	573-2468	www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul
EnviroHouse	573-2426	www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse
Hazardous waste	591-5418	www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste
Landfill scalehouse	593-7724	
Wastewater/Surface water		
General questions	591-5588	www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater
Billing questions	502-2100	www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater
Sewer backups, Street flooding & Street sweeping	591-5585	www.cityoftacoma.org/flood www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping
TAGRO	502-2150	www.tagro.com
Leaf disposal		www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available. Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.

Growing SEASON CAN KEEP ON GOING

Don't put your gardening gloves to bed just yet. Fall is the perfect time to add a little TAGRO magic to your yard and garden.

- ▶ **Grow greens and veggies outdoors** all winter by filling a raised bed with TAGRO Potting Soil and creating a winter hoop-house (inexpensive greenhouse) with PVC pipe and plastic.
- ▶ **Grow herbs and greens indoors** with containers of TAGRO Potting Soil and your favorite edibles.
- ▶ **Treat your lawn** to a thin layer of TAGRO Mix and overseed in spotty areas.
- ▶ **Give trees and shrubs a healthy start** by adding TAGRO Mix to the planting hole.



Open year-round!
2201 Portland Ave.,
Gate 6, Tacoma

www.tagro.com
(253) 502-2150

RECYCLING

review

Recycling Center

The Recycling Center at the Tacoma Landfill takes all of the same recyclables collected curbside – and then some. You must separate your recyclables and place them inside individually marked bins. Please rinse out bottles, jugs, jars, tubs, cans and other items that may have food residue.

Accepted items at the Recycling Center

- Mixed paper
- Newspaper
- Magazines & catalogs
- Phone books
- Corrugated cardboard
- Plastic-coated food boxes & cartons
- Plastic bags (grocery, department store, dry cleaning)
Put inside one bag and tie at the top
- Bubble wrap
- Pop, water & juice bottles
- Clear plastic bottles & jugs
- Colored plastic bottles & jugs
- Uncolored plastic bottles & jugs
- Plastic tubs, jars & trays
- Tin & aerosol cans
- Aluminum cans, clean foil & trays
- Clear glass bottles & jars
- Brown glass bottles & jars
- Green glass bottles & jars
- Blue glass bottles & jars
- Red glass bottles & jars
- Packing peanuts (secure in bags or boxes)
- Scrap metal (30 lbs or under and less than 4 feet in length or width, no lawnmowers)
- Inkjet or laser printer & toner cartridges (empty)
- Batteries
Separate into three bins:
1) Household 2) Ni-Cads 3) Other
- Cell phones, batteries, chargers

www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle

GREENER CLEANER

Greener cleaner printable recipe cards

Now you can print EnviroTalk greener cleaner recipes in a convenient recipe card format. Visit www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners and click on a recipe, print and file for quick reference.



GOT A LOAD?

Secure it

Whether transporting a load of junk to the landfill or moving to a new home, make sure you secure your load.

How to secure your load

- ☒ **Tie down** with rope, bungee cords, netting or straps. Tie large items directly to your vehicle.
- ☒ **Cover** with a sturdy plastic or canvas tarp or a net.
- ☒ **Place lighter-weight items** at the bottom of the load.
- ☒ **Keep material level** with the truck bed or trailer unless tied down or covered with a net or tarp.

Why secure your load

- ☒ It's the law.
- ☒ Prevents road debris and related traffic accidents.
- ☒ Saves you from fines for unsecured loads (\$194) and littering (\$103-\$5,000).

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/litter



Flood prevention 101:

KEEP leaves OUT of the street

Leaves and debris left on streets or walkways can clog storm drains and cause streets and homes to flood.

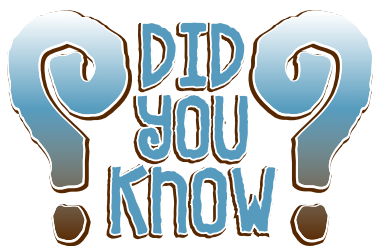
City of Tacoma residents are responsible for collecting and disposing of leaves and other debris from their property, including the right-of-way between their sidewalk and the street.

Wondering what to do with fallen leaves?

- ❏ Use leaves as compost in your garden.
- ❏ Place leaves in your brown yard waste container for pickup.
- ❏ Take leaves and yard waste to the Tacoma Landfill (no additional fee for City of Tacoma residential customers).

Report flooding problems:
(253) 591-5585

www.cityoftacoma.org/flood



You can sign up for the Tacoma EnviroNews listserv, which provides a way for city government, Tacoma residents, community activists and environmental organizations to share environmental news. To

subscribe, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to Tacoma-Environews-Request@cityoftacoma.org. You can also follow your favorite quarterly newsletter, EnviroTalk, on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk](https://twitter.com/EnviroTalk). Or "like" the City of Tacoma's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma.

FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

It's coming, Tacoma – food waste recycling. Beginning in early 2012, you will be able to recycle all food waste.

Solid Waste Management customers living in single-family homes will recycle food waste inside their existing City-supplied brown yard waste containers.

Stay tuned; more details to come.

For more information: (253) 591-5543

EnviroKIDS

Plastic bag pumpkin

What you need:

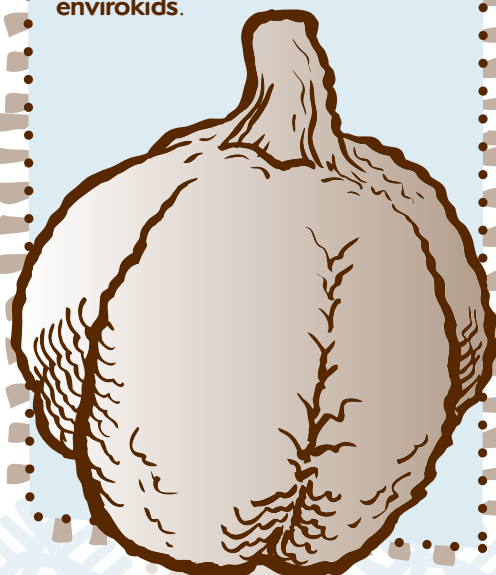
- ❏ 40 plastic grocery bags
- ❏ 3 rubber bands (3" diameter)
- ❏ Newspaper
- ❏ Paper towels
- ❏ Papier-mache paste
- ❏ Paint

How to make it:

1. Loosely stuff plastic bags inside each other one at a time.
2. Compress lightly and tie the outside bag in a knot.
3. Put rubber bands around the pumpkin so it is split into 6 uniform sections.
4. Adjust the rubber bands on top to be as close to the stem (the knot) as possible.
5. Cover the pumpkin with 1 layer of papier-mache made with newspapers.
6. Run your finger over the creases where the rubber bands are so the creases stay prominent.
7. Let the papier-mache dry overnight.
8. Cover the pumpkin with 1 layer of papier-mache made with paper towels.
9. Let the second layer of papier-mache dry overnight.
10. Paint your pumpkin any way you like!

Source: www.artprojectsforkids.org

Find more projects for kids at www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids.



Woo hoo!
Coming
soon...

EnviroTalk

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(253) 591-5051



Recycled and recyclable
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PW 512005 016 0811 a



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

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Garbage & recycling

Holiday collection schedule

Collection will be on regular schedules for **Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day** and **New Year's Day**.

If your regular garbage, recycling or yard waste collection day falls on Thanksgiving or the day after the holiday, your collection will be one day late during that week only.

Holiday	If your regular pickup day is...	Your pickup day will be...
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, Nov. 24 Friday, Nov. 25	Friday, Nov. 25 Saturday, Nov. 26

For more information:

- Recorded message specific to the upcoming holiday, (253) 565-5955, press 2
- Collection calendar with holiday schedule specific to your home, www.cityoftacoma.org/collectioncalendar



If you need this information in an alternative format, please call (253) 591-5051. People with hearing or speech impairments may contact us through Washington Relay Services, 1-800-833-6388 (TTY or ASCII).