

EnviroTalk

Summer 2014



A model of green living

The City of Tacoma EnviroHouse is a permanent model home where visitors can examine a variety of green materials, products, and natural landscape and garden ideas on display in a residential setting.

Drop-in visits, pre-arranged group tours and free workshops are available for visitors to learn how to live sustainably, conserve energy, use water wisely, and be good environmental stewards.

So if a workshop doesn't fit your plans, you can stop by on your own schedule and explore ideas for your home and yard with the EnviroHouse guide.

Regularly Staffed Hours

Wednesday - Friday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Weekends
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

It's time for 'Summer School' at the EnviroHouse: SIGN UP FOR a FREE WORKSHOP!

If you want to live a more earth-friendly lifestyle, free workshops at the EnviroHouse can help you get started.

Workshops, on home and garden topics of interest to visitors, are open to Tacoma and Pierce County residents. Sessions are offered most Saturdays and a few Sundays, excluding August.

The schedule is updated seasonally on the website and is available at the EnviroHouse. Watch for the fall schedule in the next issue of EnviroTalk.

Registration is required.

Go to cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse or call (253) 573-2426.

Workshop space is limited by the availability of parking.

Summer 2014 Workshops (all on Saturdays):

June

- 7 10:30 a.m.
Backyard Chickens: Getting Started
- 14 10:30 a.m.
Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
- 21 10:30 a.m.
To be announced – see website
- 28 10:30 a.m.
Square Foot Gardens: Grow More

July

- 12 10:30 a.m.
Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
- 19 10:30 a.m.
Solar Power: How it Works & Incentives
- 26 10:30 a.m.
To be announced – see website

Location: City of Tacoma EnviroHouse at the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center (formerly the Tacoma Landfill), 3510 S. Mullen St., Tacoma 98409



GRASSCYCLE YOUR WAY TO A HEALTHIER LAWN

Mulch mowing – or grasscycling – is the way to a naturally healthier lawn.

The process is simple:

✿ Use a mulching mower that chops grass clippings into tiny bits and blows them into the lawn.

or

✿ Use a regular or push-reel mower and leave clippings on the surface.

Keep the clippings on your lawn. Don't blow them into the street. After they've been cut, grass clippings break down quickly. They return nutrients to the soil and reduce the need for water.

You'll save time and energy and help the environment by reducing the number of truck trips required to haul yard waste to the compost facility.

For more natural yard care tips, see cityoftacoma.org/naturalyards



'Urban Green' a lifestyle program

The City of Tacoma is now producing "Urban Green," a program that explores sustainable living and environmental efforts in Tacoma.

The inaugural edition of the TV Tacoma program features the Foss Waterway's story of recovery and how the Recycling Center, with your help, recycles polystyrene at the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center.

Each new program includes interviews, food segments, EnviroChallenger tips, features and ways to learn, or do, more.

You can watch the show anytime at TVTacoma.com. Cable TV subscribers can watch TV Tacoma on Channel 12. "Urban Green" is also available to Click! subscribers anytime via on-demand local programming services.

TV Tacoma air dates/times:

Monday

10 a.m., 7 p.m., 11 p.m.

Tuesday

10 a.m., 4 p.m., 9 p.m.

Wednesday

3 p.m.

Thursday

midnight, 8 a.m., 8 p.m.

Friday

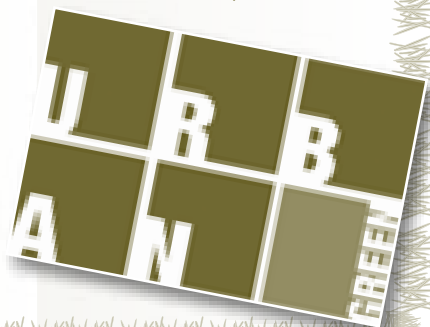
1 p.m.

Saturday

1 a.m., 7 a.m., 11 a.m., 8 p.m.

Sunday

4 a.m., noon, 7 p.m.



RECYCLING review

PLASTIC BAGS – such as those from grocery stores, drycleaners and department stores – can be recycled in the City of Tacoma.

Place all of your plastic bags inside one bag and tie it at the top, then toss it into your blue recycling bin. (No individual bags – they get caught in the sorting equipment.)

You can also put plastic bags to work. Reuse them to:

- ✿ Pick up pet poop or scoop up cat litter.
- ✿ Store shoes in your suitcase.
- ✿ Hold laundry when you're on vacation.
- ✿ Collect trash in your car.
- ✿ Line small garbage cans.
- ✿ Cushion items in a shipping box.

Many stores that use plastic bags also collect the bags for recycling.

But best of all, take a reusable bag to the store so you don't need a plastic bag at all.



Answer key for puzzle in the Spring 2014 issue:

D G M S T R D M Z H S V B W A
Y S W A T E R W A Y S I Y Q U
I U J M M D P R U N I N G X A
T H P I C K U P R G W W O F W
W M F Q Y Y Z V E C O C Y Y W
C G M M Q F F B C M O K D N T
N U P B Y L J O Y A D U Q I T
E W E E Y U H G C I W X D I Y
C T Z W R S Y U L B G L Y J U
W M B I G H R O A D W A Y S S
N E Z S W A K Z B F S A V G C
F L K D L B F O L J W K Y J R
B Y Z P P L U X E U R I H F A
M L P A X E A Z S X I V M O P
E G F N V J S A M X I Y P V S

GET GROWING

WITH FREE GARDENING WORKSHOPS!

The Harvest Pierce County program offers a series of free workshops for gardeners. Check out the summer schedule:

Edible Gardens Summer Classes

✿ **Garden Bugs, Plant Diseases & Nontoxic Alternatives**
10 a.m. – noon, June 21

✿ **Summer Harvesting & Planning and Planting Your Fall Garden**
10 a.m. - noon, July 1

✿ **Composting Basics**
10 a.m. - noon, September 20

Location: TAGRO, 2201 E. Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma 98421

See harvestpiercecounty.org for more information.

Gallucci Summer Workshops

✿ **Community Barter and Art Celebration**

11 a.m.-4 p.m., July 20

✿ **Ongoing free workshops** throughout the summer
(see website for more details)

Location: Gallucci Learning Garden, corner of South 14th and South G streets, Tacoma 98405

Visit galluccilearninggarden.com for more information.

TAGRO helps sponsor Harvest Pierce County, the Tacoma-Pierce County community gardens program, along with other public and private organizations and foundations.



RESOURCE LIST

SUMMER 2014

Environmental Services (Solid Waste, Surface Water, Wastewater)

Questions about billing and services for Solid Waste, Surface Water and Wastewater	502-2100	cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices
Questions about the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center (formerly the Tacoma Landfill)	591-5543	TacomaRecycles.org
EnviroHouse	573-2426	cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse
TAGRO	502-2150	tagro.com

Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Management Administration	591-5543	TacomaRecycles.org
Recorded Solid Waste Information Line	565-5955	
Call-2-Haul	573-2468	cityoftacoma.org/call2haul
Hazardous waste	591-5418	cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste
Landfill scalehouse	593-7724	

Surface Water Management & Wastewater Management

Sewer backups & Street flooding		cityoftacoma.org/sewerbackup
Street sweeping	591-5585	cityoftacoma.org/flood cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping
Leaf disposal		cityoftacoma.org/leaves
Tree resources	591-2048	cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry

Join the Conversation

E-mail listserv		cityoftacoma.org/environews
Facebook		facebook.com/CityofTacoma
Twitter		twitter.com/CityofTacoma

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

When is the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center OPEN?

Hours

8 a.m. - 6 p.m., every day, except New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Location

Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center
(formerly the Tacoma Landfill)
3510 S. Mullen Street
Tacoma 98409

JULY 4TH HOLIDAY ON THE HORIZON

If Friday is your regular collection day for Solid Waste services, please note that your pickup will be delayed from Friday,

July 4, to Saturday,

July 5. All other collection will be on the regular schedule that week.



502-2100
IS THE NUMBER
TO CALL



If you need information about your Environmental Services utilities – Solid Waste, Surface Water and Wastewater – start with this number: **(253) 502-2100.**

Call this number to:

- ✿ Ask about your Solid Waste, Surface Water or Wastewater bill
- ✿ Start Solid Waste services (garbage, recycling and food/yard waste)
- ✿ Change the size or number of containers for Solid Waste
- ✿ Report missed garbage, recycling or yard waste pickup
- ✿ Report broken or missing garbage, recycling or yard waste containers
- ✿ Temporarily stop Solid Waste service when you'll be out of town
- ✿ Ask about your Surface Water or Wastewater services

And to find out:

- ✿ What goes in the recycling or food/yard waste containers?
- ✿ How many recycling or food/yard waste containers can you have?
- ✿ What day will your Solid Waste be picked up?
- ✿ When is the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center (landfill) open?
- ✿ Where is the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center (landfill) located?
- ✿ Where should Solid Waste containers be placed for pickup?
- ✿ How to arrange for a dumpster.

This new one-number system will get you to the right person faster.

cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices

HILLTOP ROASTS 200+ new trees

Thanks to the "Diversitree" project, more than 200 new trees have been planted in the Hilltop community.

Why are trees so important? Trees:

- ✿ Make our city look and feel better
- ✿ Make it easier to breathe and contribute to cleaner water
- ✿ Protect your home, sidewalks and roads from UV exposure
- ✿ Increase property values and make shopping more enjoyable

The diversity of trees planted in the Hilltop community includes:

- ✿ A mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees for a healthier urban forest
- ✿ A range of tree sizes at installation to stagger the ages
- ✿ A demonstration area of more than 20 species of trees appropriate for planting under power lines
- ✿ Trees selected for their urban durability, to reduce the likelihood of conflicts with streets and sidewalks

Still to come: The City is constructing three medians on South 11th Street for planting trees.

The Diversitree project was made possible by an anonymous donation of \$100,000 to The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. The Donald R. and Mary E. Williams Horticulture Fund provided \$30,000 for three years of project maintenance. Other funders include the USDA Forest Service, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Department, and Environmental Services.

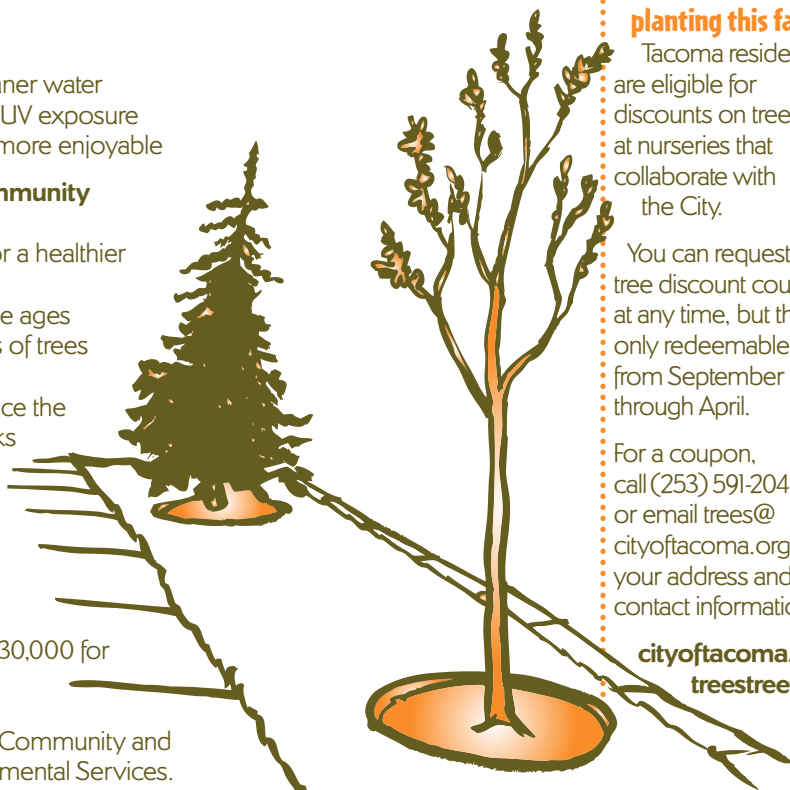
Plan ahead for tree planting this fall

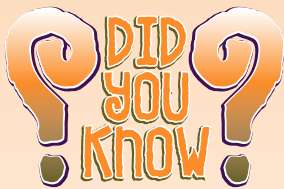
Tacoma residents are eligible for discounts on trees at nurseries that collaborate with the City.

You can request a tree discount coupon at any time, but they're only redeemable from September through April.

For a coupon, call (253) 591-2048 or email trees@cityoftacoma.org with your address and contact information.

cityoftacoma.org/treestreet





Surface Water Management is installing a new filtering system in downtown Tacoma to help clean polluted rainwater before it flows into the Foss Waterway.

The surface water utility, which directed the massive cleanup of the waterway, leads the City's efforts to keep it clean. And you can help! Go to fixcarleaks.org to find a list of participating mechanics offering free leak checks and a discount on leak repairs this summer.

On your pickup day, set it out this way

Solid Waste Management uses trucks with mechanical arms to empty your garbage, recycling and food/yard waste containers. This saves time and money and improves safety, but it only works when containers are set out properly.

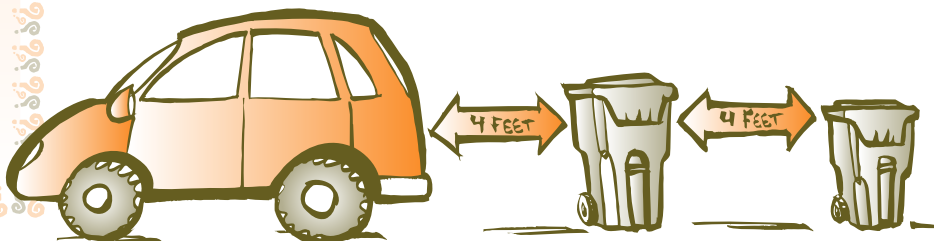
Here's what you need to do:

- ✿ Put your containers out by 7 a.m. on your pickup day.
- ✿ Set each container four feet from other containers, vehicles, telephone poles, fences, buildings and other objects.
- ✿ Place containers with the lid opening toward the street or alley.
- ✿ Remove containers from the curb or alley after they have been emptied.

Also note:

- ✿ Each container must weigh less than 250 pounds, and the lid must sit flat on top. You will be charged an additional fee for overfilled containers.
- ✿ If you leave other garbage within five feet of your container, we will pick it up, but you'll be charged an additional fee for extra garbage.

Was your container missed? Call **(253) 502-2100**.



MOVING? REMODELING? LARGE AMOUNTS OF GARBAGE OR RECYCLING?

If you are moving, remodeling or have an extra amount of garbage for any reason, contact Solid Waste Management for a temporary garbage drop-off box.

Fees vary based on the size of the box, the number of days you have the container and how many times it needs to be emptied. Containers range in size from 2 to 40 cubic yards.

You can also rent a temporary drop-off box for recycling.

Call **(253) 502-2100** or email solidwaste@cityoftacoma.org for information.

TacomaRecycles.org

KEEP ON RECYCLING AND TAKE IN A FREE MOVIE AT THE BALLPARK

Check out Rhubarb, the reindeer who loves to recycle, at Cheney Stadium this summer.

Solid Waste Management, Surface Water Management and Wastewater Management help support the Rainiers. In turn, Rhubarb reminds people of sound environmental behaviors.

You'll also be reminded to recycle when you take in one of the free movies at the ballpark this summer.

The Franciscan Summer Movie Series is set for these Fridays at 6:30 p.m.:

July 18 – Frozen

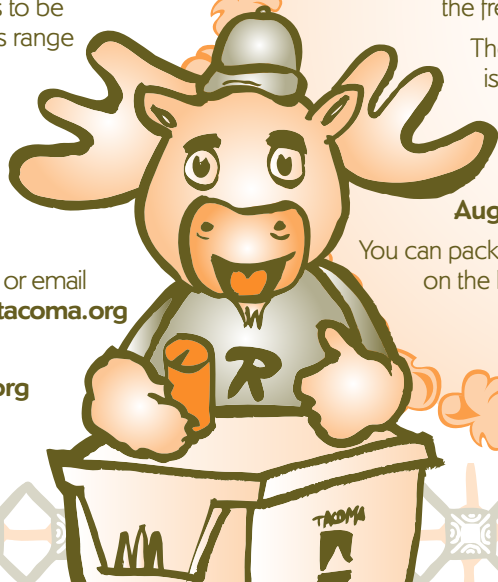
August 1 – The Lego Movie

August 15 – Despicable Me 2

August 29 – Mr. Peabody & Sherman

You can pack a picnic and sit in the outfield for a free movie on the largest video board in the South Sound.

Visit tacomarainiers.com for more information.



EnviroTalk

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- ✿ Enjoy free movies at Cheney Stadium page 5

We want to hear from you:
EnviroTalk@cityoftacoma.org



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

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What's that **WORD**?

Complete the sentences below (you'll find the answers in this issue of EnviroTalk) and then find the word or phrase in the word search below. If you get stumped, the answers are at the bottom. A key to this word search will be featured in the next issue of EnviroTalk.

- Trees help you by increasing property values and enhancing the shopping environment.
- If you want to live a more earth-friendly lifestyle, free _____ at the EnviroHouse can help you get started.
- Surface Water Management is installing a new _____ system to help keep pollution out of the Thea Foss Waterway.
- Grass clippings return _____ to the soil and reduce the need for water.
- "Urban Green" is a new TV Tacoma program that explores _____ living and environmental efforts in Tacoma.
- TAGRO helps sponsor Harvest Pierce County, the Tacoma-Pierce County _____ gardens program.
- Place all of your plastic bags inside one bag and tie it at the top, then toss it into your _____ recycling bin.
- Rhubarb reminds people of _____ environmental behaviors.

Z	U	T	Q	E	M	Z	X	X	E	G	J	B	U	U
N	U	S	V	U	F	S	X	X	W	U	Q	L	C	U
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I	I	W	V	K	R	R	E	O	N	P	I	T	Q	N
C	L	H	I	S	A	A	N	M	S	R	S	U	H	G
E	T	X	U	H	G	Y	T	M	H	O	X	X	A	A
G	E	S	S	O	P	T	S	U	I	P	W	K	P	L
C	R	A	I	P	J	V	Z	N	N	E	I	Y	P	N
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T	N	V	L	P	L	O	H	T	U	T	K	U	Q	R
M	G	X	A	V	B	U	G	Y	V	Y	F	F	U	N

Answers: 1. PROPERTY, 2. WORKSHOPS, 3. FILTERING, 4. NUTRIENTS, 5. SUSTAINABLE, 6. COMMUNITY, 7. BLUE, 8. SOUND

Please see p. 2 for answers to puzzle in last issue.



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 ASCL).