2good2toss.com boasts new look and price limit

Now it’s easier than ever to post or browse reusable items on 2good2toss.com, which features an improved look and navigation as well as a higher price limit of $199.

Whether you want to give away or sell items that are too good to go to the landfill or you want to browse for bargains, check out 2good2toss.com for a variety of items in more than 40 categories, including listings for local garage sales.

By using 2good2toss.com, you’re helping save landfill space, disposal costs and reduce methane emissions.

For more information: (253) 573-2415 www.2good2toss.com

EXPLORE the ‘GREEN’ outdoors

Summer is a great time to get out of the house and spend quality time with friends and family. Whether you are going for a day trip or a weekend getaway, here are a few tips to make your picnic or camping adventure more environmentally friendly:

- Pack durable dishes and silverware that can be reused.
- Check your local secondhand store for gently used gear like lanterns, cook stoves and coolers.
- Instead of buying a new vinyl tablecloth, bring an old fabric one from home or use a large beach towel.
- Reuse a plastic bag to store all your recyclable items. When you get home, dump the contents into your blue recycling container.
- Purchase food items with minimal packaging so you have less to throw away.
- Bring a reusable water bottle from home that you can fill at the park, or bring a large jug and drink from a reusable cup.
- Use biodegradable soaps and detergents to wash dishes, clothes and yourself. (Note: you should never bathe in a lake or stream using soap. Even biodegradable soap can harm aquatic life.)
- Deter pesky mosquitoes by using citronella candles or netted outdoor tents.

For more seasonal waste reduction tips: www.cityoftacoma.org/wastefree
SOAK IT UP!
Low-impact landscapes functional...and fabulous

Rain gardens can be a great option for homeowners looking for a functional, low-maintenance landscaping feature that incorporates both environmental and aesthetic value. Add some pavers and a bench or two and you can turn this functional tool into a serene space for relaxing.

Benefits include:
- Keeping pollutants from reaching local waterways
- Reducing flooding problems
- Providing habitat for beneficial birds and insects
- Refreshing local groundwater
- Reducing yard maintenance

For basic assistance and guidance with placement, sizing and plant selection, call (253) 591-5588 or e-mail mhoppin@cityoftacoma.org.

For more information:
www.cityoftacoma.org/raingardens

Check out the EnviroHouse for other low-impact landscaping ideas, including rain barrels, pervious pavement, native plants and more. Located at the Tacoma Landfill (3510 S. Mullen St.), the EnviroHouse is a permanent model home showcasing green building and natural landscaping ideas, materials and techniques to create a healthy home and planet.

For more information:
(253) 573-2426
www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse

EcoOfFind

IT’S IN THE BAG

Reusable grocery bags are great for keeping pesky plastic sacks out of the landfill and out of the environment, but what about plastic produce bags? Though they are recyclable, often times they are too soiled and must be thrown in the trash. Now you can avoid using plastic produce bags altogether by investing in reusable ones. Reusable produce bags are generally made of all natural or organic cotton and feature a drawstring closure. They are also washable and very durable and can usually hold up to two-and-a-half times more produce than a flimsy plastic bag.

To purchase reusable produce bags, visit your local health food store or an online retailer.

Q & A

PLASTIC

Q: Can I recycle the plastic pots and trays that come with annuals, perennials, shrubs and other plants?
A: No, all types of plastic plant containers (pots, baskets, trays, hangers) should be reused or thrown in the garbage. Ask retailers if they’ll take back their containers for reuse.

Please remember...

The Tacoma Landfill, Recycling Center and Household Hazardous Waste Facility will be closed on the Fourth of July. Garbage, recycling and yard waste collection will remain on regular schedule for both Fourth of July and Labor Day.
Central Treatment Plant upgrades

The City of Tacoma just completed a $95 million upgrade of its Central Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Upgrades include:
- Additional wastewater treatment capacity to handle major storms, and urban growth through 2020
- Upgrades to parts of the existing plant that are more than 40 years old
- A new wet weather treatment process that allows for quick treatment during heavy rain

A major storm in January was the first “real world” test of the new peak wet weather treatment process, and it passed with flying colors. During this heavy rainstorm, 130 million gallons flowed through the plant each day, compared with the average 20 million gallons per day. The new peak wet weather treatment process was able to quickly treat 40 million gallons of flow that, in the past, would have overflowed as partially treated wastewater to the Puyallup River or untreated wastewater to the Foss Waterway.

DID YOU KNOW?

... that cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world (approximately 4.3 trillion per year)?

Cigarette butts tossed into the street don’t just vanish, they get washed down our storm drains and collect in our local waterways, creating a toxic mess that can take 25 years to disintegrate.

One cigarette butt might not seem like much, but they all add up.

If you smoke, please dispose of your cigarette butt in a proper receptacle, such as a “butt can” or personal ash tray.

www.cityoftacoma.org/cigarette litter

Keep an eye out for pollution

If you see activities that might threaten the health of our local waterways, call Tacoma’s 24-hour Water Pollution Hotline at (253) 383-2429. (You may remain anonymous.)

Types of activities you should report include:
- Construction site runoff
- Accidental spills
- Leaking dumpsters
- Discolored or detergent-like water running into storm drains
- People dumping oil, chemicals or other waste into or near City storm drains, creeks, lakes or Commencement Bay.

The hotline is a joint effort between the City of Tacoma and Citizens for a Healthy Bay.
**Greener cleaning essentials**

You might have seen recipes for various environmentally safe cleaners, but do you know what all of those ingredients do? Below are eight essential ingredients used in “Greener Cleaner” recipes with a short description about why they are so useful.

- **Baking soda** works as a scrubbing agent and reacts with water, vinegar or lemon by fizzing, which helps speed up cleaning.
- **Borax** disinfects, bleaches and deodorizes.
- **Distilled white vinegar** disinfects and breaks up dirt.
- **Hydrogen peroxide** disinfects and bleaches.
- **Lemon juice** cuts grease and, when mixed with sunlight, can bleach surfaces.
- **Olive oil** picks up dirt and polishes wood; even the cheaper grades work well.
- **Tea tree oil** disinfects and deodorizes.
- **Essential oils** add a “clean” smell to your homemade cleaners. Some of the most popular essential oils include lavender, citrus and eucalyptus.

Find greener cleaner recipes at [www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners).

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**Mark a drain, save a fish**

Water that goes down Tacoma’s storm drains flows directly – untreated – into Tacoma’s waterways, carrying with it all the pollutants picked up along the way.

The City of Tacoma’s storm drain marking program offers a friendly reminder that stormwater drains directly to the nearest lake, stream or Commencement Bay. This effort is a partnership of the City of Tacoma, Citizens for a Healthy Bay and the Pierce Conservation District Stream Team.

Would you or your group like to volunteer to mark storm drains? To arrange for materials, contact CHB volunteer coordinator Jeanine Riss at (253) 383-2429 or e-mail volunteer@healthybay.org.

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**Resource List Summer 2009**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Call-2-Haul</td>
<td>573-2468</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul">www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>EnviroHouse (green building exhibit)</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/EnviroHouse">www.cityoftacoma.org/EnviroHouse</a></td>
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<td>Landfill scalehouse</td>
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<td>Sewer backups</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle">www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle</a></td>
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<td>Solid Waste Management Information line</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste">www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste</a></td>
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<td>TAGRO</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.tagro.com">www.tagro.com</a></td>
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<td>Wastewater/Surface water (general questions)</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater">www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater</a></td>
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<td>Water pollution hotline</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available.
Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.
The odds of getting West Nile virus from a mosquito bite are minimal – and we’d like to keep it that way. Help discourage mosquito populations and avoid annoying bug bites by following these simple steps:

- Empty anything around your house that holds standing water (old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys, etc.).
- Change the water at least twice a week in birdbaths, fountains, pet bowls and wading pools.
- Clean clogged roof gutters and make sure they drain properly.
- Fix leaky outdoor faucets and sprinklers.
- Make sure windows and doors are “bug tight.”
- Try to stay indoors at dawn and dusk.
- When you’re in mosquito-infested areas such as woods and wetlands, wear long sleeves and pants, and apply insect repellant with DEET.

For more information:
(253) 798-6578
(Health Department)
www.cityoftacoma.org/westnilevirus
Planning a charity car wash?
Make your organization’s next fundraising car wash fish-friendly by using a free, easy-to-use Clean Bay Car Wash Kit from the City of Tacoma.

For more information:
(253) 502-2220
www.cityoftacoma.org/carwashkits