

ENVIROTalk

Summer 2012

RECYCLING Review

Food waste recycling

Are you recycling your food waste? We hope so. Here's a reminder of the kinds of food allowed in your brown yard waste container:

Yes

- Fruit and vegetables
- Leftovers/kitchen scraps (including coffee grounds/filters)
- Breads, grains, pasta, cereal
- Meat, poultry, seafood (including bones and shells)
- Dairy and eggs (including shells)

No

- Plastic, glass, metal
- Liquids, grease, oil
- Cardboard, pizza boxes
- Plastic or compostable bags
- Paper (OK to line bucket with newspaper or paper bag)

Tip: You may choose the types of food waste you recycle and at what time of the year.

www.TacomaRecycles.org



A HOME RUN

for water pollution prevention

Clay Huntington Way, the road to Cheney Stadium formerly known as Cheyenne Street, is now Tacoma's first porous asphalt road. This type of paving improves water quality by filtering pollutants out of rainwater runoff and preventing erosion problems from heavy flows during storms. Part of the south parking lot also got an upgrade of porous asphalt. The Cheney Stadium Sustainable Stormwater Project received Greenroads Silver Certification in April. Greenroads is a sustainability rating system that encourages a holistic way of roadway design and construction.

See if you can spot these improvements next time you attend a Tacoma Rainiers game:

- ✿ Tacoma's first porous asphalt road
- ✿ Porous asphalt in the south parking lot
- ✿ Two rain gardens
- ✿ Sustainable landscaping and more than 100 new trees
- ✿ A wider street to accommodate shared bicycle access (and bike racks too!)
- ✿ Sidewalks for better pedestrian access
- ✿ Energy-efficient LED street lights
- ✿ Electric car charging stations

www.cityoftacoma.org/stormwater
(253) 591-5585

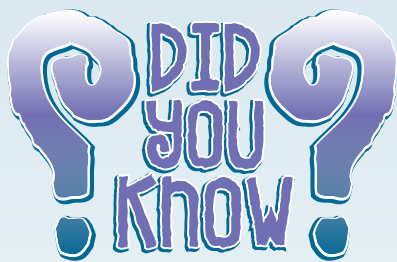
What you can do to keep Tacoma's waterways clean:

- Walk or ride a bicycle instead of drive
- Carpool or use mass transit
- Pick up after your pets
- Minimize use of yard chemicals
- Use a commercial car wash
- Fix vehicle leaks
- Dispose of cigarettes properly
- Plant a tree
- Build a rain garden
- Use pavers in landscaping projects instead of pavement

Puget Sound
Starts Here.org

Free workshops

All workshops are open to Tacoma and Pierce County residents. Registration required. Schedules are subject to change.



... that the dirty soap and grime from parking lot or driveway car washes flows down storm drains directly – untreated – into our local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound?

Have a dirty car? Take it to a commercial car wash or look for a Clean Bay Car Wash fundraiser.

Want to host a car wash fundraiser? Check out a free, pollution-prevention Clean Bay Car Wash Kit.

Clean Bay Car Wash Kits direct dirty wash water into the wastewater system or into nearby landscaping where it is treated or filtered by the soil.

www.cityoftacoma.org/carwashkits
(253) 502-2220



Reusable water bottles

According to thewaterproject.org, the average American spends more than \$100 per year on bottled water, and less than 15 percent of the empty plastic bottles are recycled. What can you do? Ditch disposable plastic water bottles and try a reusable water bottle instead. Reusable water bottles have an average price of about \$10 and come in all shapes, sizes and materials.



Home & Garden Workshops at the EnviroHouse

Date	Title	Time
June 2	Herb Gardens: Growing, Preserving	1:30-2:30 p.m.
June 9	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting	10:30-11:30 a.m.
June 10	Green Roof Plants and Installation	1:30-2:30 p.m.
June 16	Companion Planting – Part 1	10-11 a.m.
June 23	Natural Yard Care & Pest Management	10:30-11:30 a.m.
June 30	Companion Planting – Part 2	10-11 a.m.
June 30	Backyard Chickens: Getting Started	1:30-2:30 p.m.
July 14	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting	10:30-11:30 a.m.
July 21	Solar Power: How it Works & Incentives	10:30-11:30 a.m.
July 22	Fall Planting & Winter Garden Prep	1:30-2:30 p.m.

The City of Tacoma EnviroHouse is located at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.

For updated information or to register for workshops, please visit www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse, email ehouse@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 573-2426.

Edible Garden Workshops at the TAGRO Office

Date	Title	Time
June 9	Garden Bugs: The Good, the Bad & the Slugly	10 a.m. - Noon
July 14	Planning Your Fall & Winter Garden	10 a.m. - Noon
July 26	Recycled Art & Crafts for the Garden	6-8 p.m.
Aug. 18	How to Harvest, Prepare & Preserve Your Bounty	10 a.m. - Noon
Sept. 15	Composting Basics	10 a.m. to Noon
Oct. 13	Putting the Garden to Bed	10 a.m. to Noon

TAGRO is located at 2201 Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma.

To register or for more information, contact Kristen Mclvor, Tacoma-Pierce County Community Garden Program, at (253) 363-1846 or kmcivor@forterra.org.

Natural Yard Care Workshops at Tacoma Nature Center

Date	Title	Time
July 11	Natural Yard Care Family Fun Night:	6:30-8:30 p.m.
& July 18	Music, Healthy Snacks & Fun. Bring the kids (5 and older)	

The Tacoma Nature Center is located at 1919 S. Tyler St., Tacoma.

To register or for more information, contact Walt Burdsall, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, at (253) 798-4708 or wburdsall@tpchd.org.

RESOURCE LIST

Summer 2012



Resource	Phone	Website
Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard/food waste)		
Solid Waste information line (recorded message)	565-5955	
Solid Waste general questions	591-5543	www.TacomaRecycles.org
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
TAGRO	502-2150	www.tagro.com
Sewer backups, Street flooding & Street sweeping	591-5585	www.cityoftacoma.org/flood www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping
Water pollution hotline	383-2429	

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

Tee up at Tacoma Firs

Practice your swing at Tacoma Firs Golf Center, which features 60 covered tee stations, an 18-hole miniature golf course, natural-grass putting green and 50-yard short practice area.

Tacoma Firs Golf Center (4504 S. Tyler St.) is located on previously unused land at the Tacoma Landfill, and it operates under a revenue-sharing agreement with the City.

www.tacomafirsgolfcenter.com
(253) 472-6899



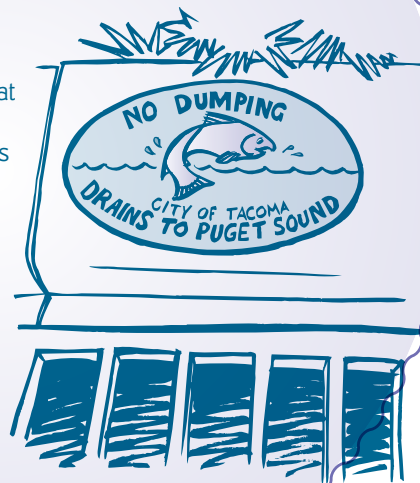
VOLUNTEER, & MARK & PROTECT

What goes down storm drains isn't just rain. It's runoff from construction sites, dumped chemicals, and other pollution that rainwater picks up as it flows across roofs, lawns, driveways and roads.

Storm drain markers offer a reminder that what goes down Tacoma's storm drains flows directly – untreated – into Tacoma's waterways and eventually Puget Sound.

To sign up or to find out more about marking storm drains in your neighborhood, contact the City of Tacoma's EnviroChallengers, envirochallenger@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5061.

www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater



Puget Sound
Starts Here.org

Answer key to the Spring issue's puzzle.

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



Toss it!

Is it really garbage? Sometimes the answer is yes. Here is a list of common items that are mistakenly put in the recycling bin:

- ❁ Caps and lids (*plastic and metal*)
- ❁ Disposable diapers
- ❁ Facial tissue
- ❁ Paper towels
- ❁ Pizza boxes
- ❁ Plastic food packaging
- ❁ Styrofoam clam shell and paper take-out containers



TacomaRecycles.org
(253) 591-5543

GREENER CLEANER

No more fruit flies

Keep pesky fruit flies out of your kitchen by creating an all-natural fruit fly trap.

1. Take a shallow jar and pour 1 to 2 inches of fruit juice or cider vinegar into it.
2. If the jar has a lid, carefully poke several holes in it. If the jar doesn't have a lid, cover it tightly with plastic wrap and poke several holes in it.
3. Place your trap in the infested area.
4. When the jar is full, pour the contents down the drain and start over.

www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners



24-hour water pollution hotline (253) 383-2429

Activities to report include:

- Construction site runoff
- Accidental spills
- Leaking dumpsters
- Soapy or discolored water running into storm drains
- People dumping oil, chemicals or other waste into or near storm drains, creeks, lakes or Commencement Bay.

This hotline is a joint effort of the City of Tacoma and Citizens for a Healthy Bay.

www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater

Clear the clutter with Call-2-Haul

Do you have a large, unsightly something-or-other that's taking up space? Get rid of that ripped sofa, stained carpet or non-working appliance with Call-2-Haul, a curbside and self-haul bulk disposal service available to residents living in single-family homes. Qualified customers are allowed two visits per calendar year.

Each visit, you're allowed:

- ❁ Up to three large items
- ❁ Up to 15 lightweight boxes or bags of smaller household junk

Schedule an appointment (curbside or self-haul):

- ❁ (253) 573-2468 (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., weekdays)
- ❁ www.tacomaservices.org

www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul





YOUR PLANTS ARE HUNGRY FEED THEM TAGRO

Summer is here and your plants need food to grow. Feed them nutrient-packed TAGRO Mix or Potting Soil and your flowers, vegetables, lawn and trees will grow up strong and healthy.

Need a little?

- ✿ Bring containers and shovel your own TAGRO Mix for free or empty a cart of Potting Soil (approx. 4 cubic feet) for just \$5.
- ✿ TAGRO Potting Soil is available by the bag at GardenSphere, Gray Lumber, H&L Produce in Lakewood, Northshore Ace Hardware, Portland Avenue Nursery, Tacoma Boys and Walker Ace Hardware.

Need a lot?

- ✿ Bulk TAGRO Mix (\$8 per yard for Tacoma residents) and TAGRO Potting Soil (\$30 per yard) are available year-round for pickup or delivery. Delivery fee based on distance.

www.tagro.com
(253) 502-2150

Bring us your blue bottles

Got blue glass bottles? We want them – separated from other colored glass – at the City’s Recycling Center (Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.).

The blue color combined with the glass’s highly reusable properties make it a valuable commodity in the recycling world. Lately, common products sold in blue bottles include beer, wine and liquor.

The blue glass collected at the recycling center is sent to a local company that recycles it for use in flooring, countertops, pool filtration, art and more.



EnviroKIDS

The winners are...

Tacoma students displayed their dedication to the environment as well as their artistic ability in this year’s EnviroChallenger/ EnviroKids Earth Day art contest. More than 140 students entered the art contest, which asked elementary and middle school students to draw a positive environmental behavior that they had learned about surface water, wastewater or solid waste from the City of Tacoma EnviroChallenger program.

Grades K-2 Division

- 1st place, Trey Hanson, second grade, Browns Point Elementary School
- 2nd place, Sebastian Bush, kindergarten, Seabury School
- 3rd place, Greta Hodges, first grade, Seabury School

Grades 3-5 Division

- 1st place, Brady Grahe, fifth grade, Lister Elementary School
- 2nd place, Julie Dinh, fifth grade, Lister Elementary School
- 3rd place, Jade Robinett, third grade, DeLong Elementary School

Grades 6-8 Division

- 1st place, Rahman Barika, eighth grade, First Creek Middle School
- 2nd place, Peter Jacobsen, sixth grade, Jason Lee Middle School
- 3rd place, Madalyn Hughes, sixth grade, Visitation Catholic School

To view the winning works of art, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids.

Prizes for the contest were donated by the Tacoma Rainiers and Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

EnviroTalk

in this iSSUE

- ✿ Water Pollution Preventionpage 1
- ✿ Free Home & Garden Workshops... page 2
- ✿ Summer Resource List page 3
- ✿ Call-2-Haulpage 4
- ✿ Garden with TAGRO .. page 5

We want to hear from you:
 EnviroTalk@cityoftacoma.org
 www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk
 (253) 591-5051



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

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What's that **WORLD**?

Below are seven statements that can be found in this issue of EnviroTalk. Each sentence has a missing word or phrase. Complete the sentence 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.

- The blue glass collected at the recycling center is sent to a local company that recycles it for use in flooring, countertops, pool filtration, art and more.
- Call-2-Haul is a _____ and self-haul bulk disposal service available to residents living in single-family homes.
- Clay Huntington Way, the road to Cheney Stadium formerly known as Cheyenne Street, is now Tacoma's first _____ asphalt road.
- Check out a _____, pollution-prevention Clean Bay Car Wash Kit.
- Ditch _____ plastic water bottles and try a reusable water bottle instead.
- Storm drain markers offer a _____ that what goes down Tacoma's storm drains flows directly – untreated – into Tacoma's waterways and eventually Puget Sound.
- Summer is here and your plants need _____ to grow.



Answers: 1. BLUE, 2. CURBSIDE, 3. POROUS, 4. FREE, 5. DISPOSABLE, 6. REMINDER, 7. FOOD

Please see pg. X for answers to last issue's puzzle.



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).