2011: challenge yourself to Rethink1 Habit

The New Year is a great opportunity to review the way you live and rethink some of your daily choices. Even one change can add up to a big difference.

A few simple ideas that help keep our environment healthy:

- Wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of in the street or driveway.
- Remember to take your reusable bags to the store when shopping.
- Pick up after your pet daily. Bag the waste and place it in the trash.
- Don’t throw cigarette butts on the ground; put them in a bin.
- Collect cooking grease in a container. You can reuse the grease as cooking oil, or wait for it to cool and discard in the garbage.
- Use washable rags rather than disposable wipes when cleaning.
- Compost your yard and garden waste at home.
- Try a new greener cleaner recipe, such as the one on page 3.
- Use fewer chemicals in your lawn and garden by trying more natural yard care activities.
- Choose products that have less packaging; buy in bulk.
- Purchase experience gifts or make homemade gifts for birthdays and holidays.

10 ways to reuse wrapping paper

Before recycling leftover wrapping paper, consider these creative ways to reuse the pretty patterns, colors and non-recyclable metallic paper.

1. Shred it and use as packing material
2. Use it for children’s paper craft projects
3. Cover books, shoe boxes or pencil holders
4. Create sewing patterns by drawing your design on the white side and cut
5. Use it for shelf paper in your pantry or closet
6. Line your dresser drawers
7. Decoupage a chair seat, the top of a stool or the front of a dresser
8. Frame your favorite pieces as works of art
9. Decoupage a flower pot
10. Lay your favorite pattern beneath a sheet of glass on your desk or coffee table

Source: Real Simple
Enjoy *FRESH* salads all winter

with TAGRO Potting Soil

Extend your growing season with an indoor lettuce bowl.

**Ingredients:**
- TAGRO Potting Soil
- Lettuce seeds
- A container at least 8 inches wide and 9 to 12 inches deep

Sprinkle seeds over the soil, then cover with a light layer of Potting Soil. Keep soil damp and set the container in a sunny window. Thin plants as needed. After two to four weeks, the plants should be established and you can start harvesting lettuce leaves. Enjoy!

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**Get TAGRO Potting Soil by the bag:**
- Portland Avenue Nursery, 1409 E. 59th St.
- GardenSphere, 3310 N. Proctor St.
- Gray Lumber, Sixth Avenue & Proctor Street

TAGRO Mix and TAGRO Potting Soil are also available in bulk for pickup or delivery at 2201 Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma.

Winter hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (253) 502-2150

www.tagro.com

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**What to do with light bulbs**

*Fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs):* Recycle them at no additional charge:
- City of Tacoma Household Hazardous Waste Facility (Tacoma Landfill)
- Bartell Drugs (all locations)

*Incandescent bulbs:* Securely wrap or bag and place in the garbage.

www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste (253) 591-5418

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**YES**
- Glass bottles & jars: clear, brown, green
  (Remove caps & lids and place them in the garbage.)
- Household batteries: rechargeable, alkaline
  (Seal only batteries inside a clear plastic baggie and place in your glass bin. No light bulbs, broken glass or needles.)

**NO**
Securely wrap or bag these items and place in your garbage container.
- Incandescent bulbs
- Broken glass
- Ceramics, mugs, dishes, Pyrex
- Mirrors
- Vases
- Window or plate glass

Find a more complete list of what is and isn’t recyclable at www.cityoftacoma.org/recyclingreview.

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**RECYCLING**

While some communities no longer accept glass curbside, Tacoma still offers this convenient service. Residential customers may recycle glass and batteries curbside in a separate City-provided small blue bin. Here’s a review of what’s accepted and not accepted.

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**Extend your growing season with an indoor lettuce bowl.**

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- TAGRO Potting Soil
- Lettuce seeds
- A container at least 8 inches wide and 9 to 12 inches deep

Sprinkle seeds over the soil, then cover with a light layer of Potting Soil. Keep soil damp and set the container in a sunny window. Thin plants as needed. After two to four weeks, the plants should be established and you can start harvesting lettuce leaves. Enjoy!
Scented pine cone garland

Materials
- Pine cones
- Twist ties or floral wire, cut in 6-inch lengths
- Twine, cut to chosen length of garland
- Cinnamon essential oil, 10-20 drops (choose desired strength)
- 2 cups (16 oz.) water
- Spray bottle

Instructions
1. Gather cones from under pine, redwood, cedar, Douglas fir or other evergreen trees. The scales on the cones should be slightly to fully opened.
2. Allow the cones to dry for a few days in a warm, dry area.
3. Mix water and essential oil in a spray bottle. Spray cones enough to make damp. Place pine cones in a plastic bag and seal for 24 hours.
4. Wrap the wire around the bottom of the cone, slipping the wire between the open scales. One or two wraps should be sufficient. Twist the wire over itself to secure.
5. Leave the tail of the wire hanging free for attaching your cone to the twine.
6. Repeat with other pine cones to make garland the desired length.

www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids

Freshen your carpet for holiday entertaining

Try this natural sanitizing and freshening carpet solution that is safe for kids and pets.

Ingredients
- 2 cups (16 oz.) baking soda
- 10 drops essential oil of lemon
- 10 drops essential oil of peppermint
- 20 drops essential oil of lavender
- Glass jar with a lid

Directions
- Mix ingredients thoroughly in a glass jar
- Sprinkle on carpet
- Leave for 10 to 20 minutes
- Then vacuum
- Store the remaining solution in the jar with lid closed

You may use any combination of essential oils. Recipe tested by community relations office staff member. Please try this solution on a small area of your carpet first. www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners

It's going to be a wet one

The La Niña weather system forecast of a cold and rainy winter makes flood prevention efforts essential.

- Keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris by using a broom or rake.
- Dispose of leaves and yard waste properly by composting, placing them in your brown yard waste bin or taking them to the Tacoma Landfill (no extra charge for residential rate payers). Please do not blow leaves into the street.
- Direct downspouts at least 10 feet away from your home or business.
- Prevent bark, dirt and other landscape materials from washing into streets and clogging drains by using landscape barriers, such as rocks or sandbags.

Report stormwater flooding or sewage backups: (253) 591-5585
Street maintenance, street flooding, slides: (253) 591-5495
www.cityoftacoma.org/flood
How can you lower your bills?

Garbage & Recycling: Don’t throw your money away.
Solid waste charges are based on the size of your garbage container. If you find your 60-gallon can is consistently just half full, switch to a 30-gallon can and save more than $300 a year. But don’t try to stuff too much into your garbage can; all of your trash must fit so the lid closes completely.

Find waste reduction tips at www.cityoftacoma.org/reducereuse.

Wastewater: Stop pouring money down the drain.
Wastewater rates are based on how much fresh water you use – and then send down into the sewer system. Because water used on lawns and gardens doesn’t end up at the treatment plant, residential wastewater charges are based on the average of four months of water consumption during the winter.*

* Which four months your bill covers depends on your meter reading dates. Rates for residents who haven’t had a full four months of winter water consumption and those who don’t have Tacoma Water service are based on a citywide average.

Tips for saving all year:
• Wash full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine
• Turn off the water when shaving or brushing teeth
• Check for leaks and fix them right away
• Install a low-flush toilet, efficient clothes washer, low-flow showerhead and faucet aerators

Surface water: No easy tips for saving.
Surface water charges are based on the size of your lot and the level of development, which means no quick ways to reduce your costs.

Garbage rates based on volume:
Cut waste, cut your bill
When you recycle more and produce less trash, you’ll be rewarded with a lower garbage bill.

The City of Tacoma is phasing in solid waste rates based on the volume of garbage a household produces. This rate system calls for rates that are proportional, so a 60-gallon can will cost twice as much as a 30-gallon can.

Rates for 2011 will be posted online before Jan. 1 at www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates.

When phase-in is completed in 2013, the rate relationship will look like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can Size</th>
<th>Proportional Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-gallon can</td>
<td>1/2 x the cost of a 20-gallon can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-gallon can</td>
<td>2 x the cost of a 30-gallon can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-gallon can</td>
<td>3 x the cost of a 30-gallon can</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be able to use a smaller garbage can, you’ll need to recycle more and take other steps to cut back on how much you need to toss.

www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates
Wastewater/Surface Water: (253) 502-2100
Solid Waste: (253) 591-5543
**Solid Waste Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General questions</td>
<td>591-5543</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste">www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded information line</td>
<td>565-5955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call-2-Haul</td>
<td>573-2468</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul">www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage</td>
<td>591-5543</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/garbage">www.cityoftacoma.org/garbage</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous waste</td>
<td>591-5418</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste">www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill scalehouse</td>
<td>593-7724</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>591-5543</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle">www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yard waste</td>
<td>591-5543</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/yardwaste">www.cityoftacoma.org/yardwaste</a></td>
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**Surface Water Management**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General questions</td>
<td>591-5588</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater">www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billing questions</td>
<td>502-2100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater">www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer backups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street flooding &amp;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street sweeping</td>
<td>591-5585</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping">www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAGRO</td>
<td>502-2150</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tagro.com">www.tagro.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water pollution hotline</td>
<td>383-2429</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf disposal</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves">www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Solid Waste, Surface Water, Wastewater)</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices">www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>EnviroHouse</td>
<td>573-2426</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse">www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail listserv</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalnews">www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalnews</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk">www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.twitter.com/TAcomaGROW">www.twitter.com/TAcomaGROW</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.twitter.com/CityOfTacoma">www.twitter.com/CityOfTacoma</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma">www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available. It is the first thing you will be asked and allows us to quickly access your information. Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.

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**Q. Who is responsible for maintaining the sewer line that runs from your house to the sewer main in the street or alley?**

**A.** That pipe belongs to the homeowner, who is responsible for maintaining it. The City is responsible for the rest of the wastewater system.

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**Construction at the landfill**

Due to construction of a transfer station and administration/shop building remodel at the Tacoma Landfill, there could be new locations within the landfill for customer service and certain disposal areas. Changes will be clearly marked with signage.

[www.cityoftacoma.org/landfill](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/landfill)

(253) 591-5543
# 2011 Recycling and Yard Waste Collection Schedule

This calendar, specific to the area of the city in which you live, shows the weeks you set out your recycling and yard waste containers. To find your garbage day and the holiday collection schedule specific to your address, go to [www.cityoftacoma.org/collectioncalendar](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/collectioncalendar).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>June</td>
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<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- = set out garbage and recycling (blue) containers on your regular collection day
- = set out garbage and yard waste (brown) containers on your regular collection day

## Holiday Collection Schedule

| Holiday           | Regular Collection Day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day 2010</td>
<td>On regular schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas 2011</td>
<td>On regular schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day 2011</td>
<td>On regular schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth of July 2011</td>
<td>Monday, July 4, Tuesday, July 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth of July 2011</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 5, Wednesday, July 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth of July 2011</td>
<td>Thursday, July 7, Friday, July 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth of July 2011</td>
<td>Friday, July 8, Saturday, July 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving 2011</td>
<td>Thursday, Nov. 24, Friday, Nov. 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving 2011</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 25, Saturday, Nov. 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas 2011</td>
<td>On regular schedule</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grease goes in the Garbage

Grease, fats, oils and gravy that go down your sink, toilet or garbage disposal can stick to the inside of your drain and sewer pipes and cause unpleasant, messy and expensive sewer backups.

What to do?

- Collect grease from pans into a jar or can, let cool, seal and place in the garbage.
- Put greasy food or fat trimmings into the garbage.
- Wipe greasy pots and dishes with a used paper towel or napkin.
- Recycle large amounts of cooking oil, such as from deep-fat fryers, for no additional charge at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.

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

E-Cycle Washington accepted items:

- Computers
- CPUs (towers)
- Laptops
- Computer monitors
- Televisions

Some locations may accept other electronics at no charge or for a fee. Contact the collector directly for details.

E-Cycle Washington locations in Tacoma:

- Goodwill (all locations, including donation station at the Tacoma Landfill), www.tacomagoodwill.org
- Green PC, (253) 473-4300
- Oakland Radio & TV, (253) 383-5277
- Saint Vincent de Paul, (253) 474-0519
- Tacoma Recycling, (253) 474-9559

Locations are subject to change.

E-Cycle Washington

Don’t trash your electronics, recycle them. Authorized collectors accept computers, monitors and TVs for free at many locations in Tacoma and Pierce County.

Through E-Cycle Washington, electronics manufacturers are taking responsibility for the cost of recycling these products. Authorized collectors handle and recycle your electronics safely and responsibly according to preferred processing standards overseen by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

1-800-RECYCLE
www.ecyclewashington.org

Note: The Tacoma Landfill does not accept computers, monitors, laptops or TVs.
Yard waste container
Cut your Christmas tree (unflocked, undecorated) in small enough sections to fit inside your yard waste container so the lid closes flat. **Trees left outside the container are not accepted.**

Landfill drop-off
Single-family residents may recycle their clean, unflocked trees at the Tacoma Landfill (3510 S. Mullen St.) Dec. 26 through Jan. 24. The landfill is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily (closed Christmas Day and New Year’s Day).

Dispose of flocked trees in the garbage.
For more information, call (253) 591-5543.