Want to learn more about sustainability? 

Our presentations are designed to be read online or to be presented by our staff at your event or group meeting.

Contact sustainability@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 591-5172 to book!
Sustainability Challenge 2.0

How green can you go?
Areas of Sustainability

- Natural Systems
- Transportation
- Air and Food
- Materials
- Buildings and Energy
- Climate Resilience
Natural Systems
Our region is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty and resources. Fortunately, we have great local organizations working to protect our natural systems. Let’s take a look at some of their programs and resources.
Curb Marking

Water that goes down Tacoma storm drains goes directly into Puget Sound, without being treated.

Citizens for a Healthy Bay is marking all storm drains with the “No Dumping” plate. [Volunteer](#) and help keep our waters clean!

[Volunteer Opportunity]

Only Rain Down the Drain
Soil Aeration

Hands-off lawn management is not always the most sustainable! Unhealthy lawns act as an impervious (waterproof) surface.

Using a soil aerator has many benefits:

- Reduces stormwater runoff
- Improves nutrient exchange in soil
- Increases water uptake

Spring/Fall is the best time to aerate.
Make a Splash Grant

Develop a Tacoma-based project that will help educate residents and protect and restore our surface water resources. Tie-ins with the Puget Sound regional stormwater pollution prevention campaign, Puget Sound Starts Here, are encouraged.

Apply and get up to $4,000 funding at:

cityoftacoma.org/MakeASplash
The City of Tacoma awards Sustainability Small Grants to help educate residents, and protect and restore our environment and quality of life.

Strong grant applications demonstrate a benefit the Environmental Services utilities, and help address the causes or impacts of climate change. Apply and get up to $5,000 funding at: cityoftacoma.org/ESGrants
Washing your car releases heavy metals, oil and toxins. At a car wash, water is treated before it is released.

Visit a local car wash:
- Elephant on Pacific Ave
- Classy Chassis

If you can’t go to a car wash, do the next best thing: wash your car on your lawn, not in the driveway.

To raise money for your nonprofit while protecting Puget Sound, check out CharityCarWash.org.
Air and Food
Prevent Wasted Food at Home

More than 40% of food produced in America goes uneaten, and households are responsible for 43% of all of that wasted food.

Learn strategies for saving food and money, and take the at-home Food: Too Good To Waste Challenge at cityoftacoma.org/PreventingWastedFood

Learn to preserve your food by taking a class at the Center for Food Preservation Arts Located at 1323 South Yakima
Glean with HPC

Harvest Pierce County partners with farmers and landowners to reduce food waste during growing season through gleaning.

How to glean:
1. Get together with a group through Harvest Pierce County
2. Pick up leftover crops from local farmers fields and urban fruit trees
3. Take crops home and donate to food banks, meal sites, and community organizations.

Since 2013, HPC volunteers have harvested over 300,000 pounds of food for food banks.
Community Gardens

We have more than 70 local community gardens, orchards and food forests! Neighbors come together to grow both food and friendships.

1. **Find** a community garden close to you and request a plot
2. Plant and grow produce
3. Enjoy

No nearby gardens? Get together with some friends and [create a new one](#)!

Already have gardening skills? Volunteer your time to teach new gardeners!
Clean Air: Do Your Part

In order to improve air quality, Air Safe Pierce County will buy back or replace your eligible old wood stove as part of the Wood Stove Program.

- Be alert for Burn Bans
  - Text ‘PIERCEBURN’ to 313131 to receive alerts
- Know difference between Stage 1 and 2 restrictions
  - Stage 1: Certified wood stoves and pellet stoves allowed
  - Stage 2: All wood burning prohibited
Indoor Air Quality

House plants absorb impurities from the air to create a healthier indoor environment.

**Aloe vera**
Takes benzene out of the air (found in paints and cleaners)

**Boston fern**
Acts as a humidifier and takes formaldehyde out of the air.

**Spider plant**
Absorbs dust and allergens; helps with allergy problems.

Be sure to ask if your plants were treated by pesticides before you buy!
Chinook Book offers a great opportunity to support local businesses that care about the products they are selling, and also the community they are serving.

Buy the book or [download the app](#) and discover local sustainable businesses and get great deals in Tacoma and around the Puget Sound!
Buildings and Energy
Tacoma Power’s largest source of generation is hydropower. In fact, **90%** of all TPU power comes from hydro!

Tacoma Power has programs to help you conserve and lower your electric bill!
Kill-A-Watt (or Two)

Find out how much energy your appliances use. Borrow a monitor for free from your local Tacoma Library location. Request it at the front counter.

An Energy Use Monitor allows you to view wattage/energy use, cost, and CO\textsubscript{2} emissions.

- Helps prioritize which appliances to shut off when not in use, to save you the most money and reduce your footprint.
Some appliances are Electricity Vampires, sucking up energy even when they aren’t in use. Smart power strips let you control when outlets get energy, depending on their use.

Some appliances use nearly as much energy off as they do on.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appliance</th>
<th>On</th>
<th>Off</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samsung cable box</td>
<td>28 watts</td>
<td>26 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG washing machine</td>
<td>7 watts</td>
<td>4 watts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEDs are a great lighting option.

Look for the Tacoma Power sticker and save big!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LED</th>
<th>CFL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifespan</td>
<td>50,000 hours</td>
<td>8,000 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contains mercury</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional options (such as lighting modes/dimming)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clean Local Energy

Many homes in Tacoma have the potential to produce cost effective solar power. As of March 2017, 365 Tacoma Power customers were contributing to the power grid.

- **Tacoma Power** offers easy net metering and participates in the state and federal incentive programs
- Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union offers [low interest loans](#) for clean energy projects
Efficient Showerheads

- Save water and energy!
- Low flow, efficient showerhead
  - Annual savings of $60 and 3,600 gallons of water for a family of four
  - Look for less than 2 gallon/minute and the WaterSense EPA seal
- Smart Showerhead
  - Turn on shower
  - When water gets warm, automatically flows to a trickle
  - Pull cord when ready
Tacoma Water offers their customers showerheads, faucet aerators, shower timers, and leak detector dye tablets free of charge.

- Available for pickup at the main admin building at 3628 S 35th St.
- Tacoma Water can also do a free home walk through to find potential leaks
- Call (253) 502-8191 or email conservation@cityoftacoma.org to learn more
Transportation
Transportation

Transportation is responsible for 73% of greenhouse gas emissions in Tacoma. It’s time to think differently about getting from point A to point B.

Check out the offerings of Downtown on the Go, your transportation advocate for downtown Tacoma.

- **Walk Tacoma**: Free 1-2 mile walks led by local experts
- **Friday Forums**: Local leaders, experts, and the community talk about transportation issues facing Tacoma during the lunch hour
Express to Seattle

There are several options to avoid I-5 traffic:

- Bus route 590/594 direct from Tacoma to Seattle
  - Leaves every 5-10 minutes during commuter hours
  - $3.75 for an adult
- Sounder Train during commute hours
- All of these drop you right at the Link light rail for traveling within Tacoma
- Bring your bike
Link up with rideshares, vanpools, and keep track of your commutes.

- Log your sustainable trips and look for yearlong competitions and prizes such as Try Transit Month.
- Pierce County uses this data to help fund future sustainable transportation projects.
- Gradual acceleration can improve gas mileage by up to **40%**
- Check your tire pressure regularly
  - Under-inflated tires lower gas mileage - you can improve it by 0.6% on average by keeping tires inflated
- Remove unnecessary weight from your vehicle
Don’t idle!

If you’re parked for more than 30 seconds, turn it off.

Idling myths:
- Engines must idle before driving to warm up
- Idling is good for your engine
- Restarting a vehicle uses more gas than idling

Where we idle:
- Drive-thru
- Railroad crossing
- Schools
- Banks
Electric Vehicles

Washington has a statewide goal of 50,000 EV’s on the road by the end of 2020. There are currently over 13,000. Ready to make the switch?

Tax Incentives

- Up to $7,500 Federal Tax Credit depending on battery size, manufacturer’s expiration and tax owed

Find a public charging center at plugshare.com
May is Bike Month!

May 2018 is the 11th annual Tacoma-Pierce County Bike Month – a celebration of biking as a healthy, sustainable form of transportation brought to you by the City of Tacoma, Pierce County and many community organizations.

Visit BIKE253.com for rides and events.

Join the Bike Everywhere Challenge
- Ride solo or join a team
- Log your trips at PierceTrips.com
- Win great prizes!
Biking in Tacoma

- Try Downtown on the Go’s Bike Buddy Program
- Free bike racks are available for Tacoma businesses
- Take your bike on the bus, LINK light rail or train
- Know Tacoma’s bike law: helmets, are required, and lights are required for night riding
Biking in Tacoma

Local Bike Groups:
- VeloFemmes
- Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club
- Kidical Mass Tacoma
- 2nd Cycle

Local Bike Shops:
- 2nd Cycle Bike Co-op
- Tacoma Bike
- Defiance Bicycles
- Old Town Bicycle
- Bike Tech
Material Management
First and foremost, we need to divert waste from landfills and our waterways. “Reduce” is the highest priority of the Three R’s.

Tacoma’s goal: Decrease waste by 11% per capita per day by 2020. You can help make this goal a reality!
Buy Less, Share More

**Fair Tradin’**
Is a bartering organization, only goods are exchanged, not money.

**Buy Nothing**
Dedicated to giving freely, without any strings attached. Join your neighborhood-specific Tacoma Facebook group.

**Tacoma Tool Library**
Lends household, yard and specialty tools, Annual Memberships between $20-40. Visit them at 754 S. 38th.
Managing Food Waste

Send foods scraps down the drain, on their way to become TAGRO.

Use an in-sink disposer!
Or, add your food waste to your brown bin.

Compost your wine corks- it’s a tree!

Leave the grease, it’s not recyclable.
Recycle Center

Drop off your hard-to-recycle items at the Tacoma Recycle Center.

Accepted Plastics:
- Garden pots
- Berry containers
- Lids
- Bags and other films (that you can poke your finger through)

Also:
- Styrofoam
- Christmas lights
- Electronics such as TVs and computers

For a full list of accepted items, see the City’s website.
Climate Resiliency
Community Resilience

Many of the actions we’ve covered so far will help build climate resiliency. One of the most important ways is to build a resilient community. This way we can help reinforce each other’s positive behavior changes.

A resilient community can be anywhere! Neighbors, family, faith groups, school, or work colleagues. The most important thing is creating a dialogue.
Raising Climate Awareness

The Sightline Institute conducts research and reporting to raise awareness on important environmental and social issues, especially in the PNW.

Climate Solutions cultivates partnerships in order to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to climate change.

The Climate Impacts Group, based out of UW-Tacoma, works to project how climate change will affect the Puget Sound on a finer scale. Their work helps local communities in their adaptation efforts.
Statewide Action

WA Governor Inslee has created data-driven performance goals for Washington. For example, the state wants to increase healthy salmon and steelhead populations from 16% to 25% by 2020.

Here you can see all of the state goals and progress along with many other resources.

W.E.C. has helped form a strong coalition of local, state, and national environmental groups to speak with a united voice and prioritize future actions.
Sharing Information – Local Opportunities

PUYALLUP WATERSHED INITIATIVE

PWI is working on long-term watershed planning. If you’re ready to help, consider joining one of their Communities of Interest to take action.

THE EnviroHouse

The EnviroHouse is an incredible resource, offering examples of sustainable building and free weekend workshops.

Tacoma Green Drinks

meets once a month in a casual way to connect with green professionals.
Other great local organizations to get involved with:

- Pierce Conservation District
- Tahoma Audubon Society
- Sierra Club
- Downtown: On the go!
- PierceTrips.com
- Citizens for a Healthy Bay
- Tacoma Tool Library
- Surfrider Foundation
Going from thought to action is the big leap that can be difficult for many of us. There are so many things to do, it can be hard to know where to start.
From Thought to Action

The best place to start? Whatever calls to you.

Don’t let too many options overwhelm you, pick efforts that interest you and take action today!

- Be involved with your local community and government
  — Phone calls and emails make a difference
- Engage neighbors and friends in this discussion
- Take a class or workshop
- Volunteer with a local group
- Give yourself credit for your personal environmental efforts
The problem is vast and we need to come together in order to effectively combat climate change and other environmental threats.

Supplement your individual efforts with community level actions.

Don’t just grow food in your own backyard - take it to the next level.

Start a community garden and get your whole neighborhood involved!
Looking to the Future

With the changes and the work we do together, we can leave behind a clean and bright future for the next generation.
Sustainability Speaker Series

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