

# ENVIRO TALK



## GRITTY TO GREEN: TREES AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN TACOMA

p. 8-9

Winter 2022

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BLUEBERRY BUSHES**

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# Shop Local, Shop Green at Tacoma EnviroStars Businesses



Tacoma businesses can go green and save money by joining EnviroStars, Washington's green business program. EnviroStars businesses commit to taking action that limits their environmental impact and protects employees. Over 30 Tacoma businesses are currently part of the EnviroStars program – and the City of Tacoma is encouraging more businesses to join!

Businesses interested in becoming an EnviroStars green business are required to complete actions in six categories: energy, transportation, pollution prevention, waste and recycling, wastewater, and water conservation. Simple actions like replacing inefficient lightbulbs with LEDs, properly disposing of hazardous waste, or offering bike parking for employees can earn businesses points toward achieving EnviroStars certification and recognition.



health of our environment and community. If they haven't already, you can encourage your local business to become EnviroStars certified.

"We learned of the EnviroStars program and wanted to be involved," said Becci Ryder, Director of Business Strategy for Dancing Goats Coffee, an EnviroStars business in downtown Tacoma. "Working with other certified businesses lets us know we are partnering with others that have the same values of sustainability."

**According to a survey conducted by EnviroStars, over 70% of Pierce County residents think it's important to buy from environmentally minded businesses.**

As you prepare for the holiday shopping season, consider supporting businesses who prioritize the

Visit [envirostars.org](http://envirostars.org) or call 1 (877) 220-7827 to find a list of local EnviroStars businesses near you or to learn more about enrolling your business.

# FOCUS ON THE TACOMA RECYCLE CENTER

The Tacoma Recycle Center (TRC) is a resource for residents to drop off recyclable materials, including some items not recycled in curbside bins. Brian Bates, a TRC Solid Waste Worker, shares how customers can make the most of a trip to the center.

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN ITEMS THE TRC ACCEPTS?

At the TRC, we recycle many groups of items like paper, plastic, glass, metal, and batteries, with some exceptions. Corrugated cardboard and most paper products are accepted except for gift wrap. We accept three different types of plastic: rigid, foam and film. For rigid plastic, think jugs, tubs, and bottles. With foam, we accept blocks of Styrofoam, which breaks into pieces easily, and polyethylene foam blocks which are squishy, glossy, and very flexible. And we take plastic film and plastic bags as long as they are 100% plastic, clean and stretchy. Glass bottles, jugs, and jars are also accepted.

Residents can drop off metal and aluminum cans, scrap metal (including electrical wire and holiday lights), and metal appliances consisting of at least 70% metal, including water heaters. Refrigerators go to the Recovery and Transfer Building with a disposal fee.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE LESSER-KNOWN ITEMS THE TRC ACCEPTS?

Some lesser-known items we accept include shredded paper (placed in a paper bag), computer towers, cords, and ink cartridges but no monitors, keyboards, or mice. We take clean plastic clamshells and microwaves with the glass plate removed. Motor oil is also recycled at the TRC. Lastly, we have donation receptacles for bikes, clothing, and non-library books.

## WHAT TYPES OF BATTERIES ARE ACCEPTED FOR SAFE RECYCLING OR DISPOSAL?

At the TRC, we accept all alkaline and rechargeable batteries, including lithium-ion, nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd), and nickel-metal hydride (Ni-Mh) batteries that are hand size and will fit into our receptacles. We do not accept lead acid batteries like car batteries, but they can be handed over at the Household Hazardous Waste building located next door to the TRC.

## HOW DOES THE TRC CURRENTLY HANDLE STYROFOAM?

When our Styrofoam machine is running, the clean blocks are densified and recycled. Currently, this machine is down, so for now, Styrofoam is being disposed of at the county landfill. An estimated time for the machine to be running again is early next year.

For those interested, there is another collection site that recycles Styrofoam free of charge. Styro Recycle, LLC, at 23418 68th Ave S., in Kent. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Their guidelines are that Styrofoam is clean and dry, with no tape, stickers, or labels. Visit [styrorecycle.com](http://styrorecycle.com) or call (253) 838-9555 for more information.

## WHAT ARE SOME ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING?

Plastics not accepted include plant potting containers, PVC pipes, molded vinyl plastic, and ABS plastic, which is the black plastic usually found in automotive components. Also, we don't take medicine bottles, including over-the-counter vitamins and supplements. Add to the list non-stretchy plastic bags and wrappers, such as loud potato chip bags or cellophane. We can't accept any kind of plastic bottle that held a chemical stronger than bleach, so no insecticide, motor oil bottles, or gas cans.

We turn away a lot of recycling simply because the materials have dirt or food waste. Recycling needs to be empty, clean, and dry.

Additionally, we don't accept packing peanuts, Styrofoam food containers, aluminum foil, or plastic food wrap (dirty or clean).

## WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND OUT MORE?

The TRC is located at the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center (3510 S. Mullen St.) and is open to residents of Tacoma and Pierce County seven days per week, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [cityoftacoma.org/recycle](http://cityoftacoma.org/recycle) or call (253) 502-2100.

# 2023 Garbage, Recycling and Yard/Food Waste

# Collection Schedule

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

## FEBRUARY

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## MARCH

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## APRIL

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## JUNE

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## JULY

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30	31					

## AUGUST

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27	28	29	30	31		

## SEPTEMBER

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## OCTOBER

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## NOVEMBER



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## DECEMBER

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

	If your regular pickup day is...	Your pickup day will be...
<b>Christmas Day 2022</b>	Is on Sunday this year and the RTC and Recycle Center are closed	All customers will be serviced on their regularly scheduled collection day
<b>New Years Day 2023</b>	Is on Sunday this year and the RTC and Recycle Center are closed	All customers will be serviced on their regularly scheduled collection day.
<b>Fourth of July 2023</b>	Tuesday, July 4 Wednesday, July 5 Thursday, July 6 Friday, July 7	Wednesday, July 5 Thursday, July 6 Friday, July 7 Saturday, July 8
<b>Thanksgiving 2023</b>	Thursday, November 23 Friday, November 24	Friday, November 24 Saturday, November 25
<b>Christmas Day 2023</b>	Monday, December 25 Tuesday, December 26 Wednesday, December 27 Thursday, December 28 Friday, December 29	Tuesday, December 26 Wednesday, December 27 Thursday, December 28 Friday, December 29 Saturday, December 30

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

This calendar, specific to the area of the city in which you live, shows the weeks you set out your garbage and recycling and your yard/food waste containers. Garbage and recycling are set out on the same day and yard/food waste is set out by itself on alternating weeks. To find your collection day and the holiday collection schedule specific to your address, go to [TacomaRecycles.org/collectionschedule](https://TacomaRecycles.org/collectionschedule).



# Stanford's Steak Garlic Butter Asparagus

Why not dress up dinner with a side of garlic butter asparagus? Chef Scott Letourneau from Stanford's Steak was recently on Urban Green to demonstrate Surf & Turf with this delicious side dish. To view this Urban Tabletop segment from episode 36, visit [cityoftacoma.org/UrbanGreen](http://cityoftacoma.org/UrbanGreen).

## Garlic Butter (Makes $\frac{3}{4}$ cup)

1 tbsp. olive oil  
1 tbsp. minced garlic  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tbsp. minced jalapeno  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. dried basil  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tbsp. lemon juice  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp. kosher salt  
1 tsp. whole grain mustard  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tbsp. chopped chives  
1 stick butter, softened

Place olive oil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Add garlic, jalapeno, and basil. Cook for 2-3 minutes until very soft. Add the lemon juice, salt, and mustard, then cook for 1 minute.

Remove from the heat and allow to cool to room temperature. Place the mixture, chives, and softened butter in a stainless bowl and blend well with a wire whisk until fully incorporated. Transfer to a clean container and chill well.

## Cooked Asparagus (Serves 2)

1 bunch of asparagus, trimmed  
1 tbsp. oil  
2 tbsp. garlic butter  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. seasoning salt

Place asparagus on cutting board and remove the woody ends. Add oil to a pan and heat to medium-high. Cook asparagus for about 5 minutes, rotating the spears until cooked al dente. Brush with garlic butter, dash with seasoning salt and serve.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Holiday Light Recycling

The Tacoma Recycle Center (3510 S. Mullen St.) accepts holiday lights year-round. If lights are part of a decoration, they must be removed and recycled separately.

Call (253) 502-2100 for more information.

## What To Do When a Street Floods?

Street flooding is often caused by a storm drain clogged with leaves, plastic bags, or other debris. To keep these clear, use a rake, broom, or blower to regularly remove debris from the storm drains near your home or business. With more than 18,000 storm drains to manage, the City needs your help, especially during heavy rains. If a storm drain on your street is clear, but there is still street flooding, call (253) 591-5585.

Visit [cityoftacoma.org/streetflooding](http://cityoftacoma.org/streetflooding) to learn more.

## Weather Emergencies in the Right-Of-Way

During the winter, fallen trees, landslides, and street flooding can occur. The City's Street Operations Division works with the Environmental Services Department on weather-related cleanups. These teams remove landslides and downed trees that are blocking streets or sidewalks. When this happens, City crews are available to respond to community emergencies twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Tree debris removal that is not blocking the street or City right-of-way is the responsibility of the property owner. To report the location of a downed tree or a landslide in the right-of-way, call (253) 591-5495. For tips on preparing for winter weather and more, visit [cityoftacoma.org/inclementweather](http://cityoftacoma.org/inclementweather).

# How-To: Pruning Blueberry Bushes

The best time to prune blueberry bushes is in the colder part of winter after the leaves drop, ideally after the chance for severe cold is over and before any new growth has started. That way, it will be easier to evaluate winter damage and to see how many fruit buds have sprouted. Here are some helpful tips to get started.

## Step 1:

**Assess** new growth (red stems with buds) and brown or dead woody stalks.

## Step 2:

**Take** out one to two of the older woody stalks, cutting close to the base.

## Step 3:

**Prune** or remove weaker stems or branches that are crossing or rubbing stronger ones.

## Step 4:

**Remove** growth that is less than 3" in length.

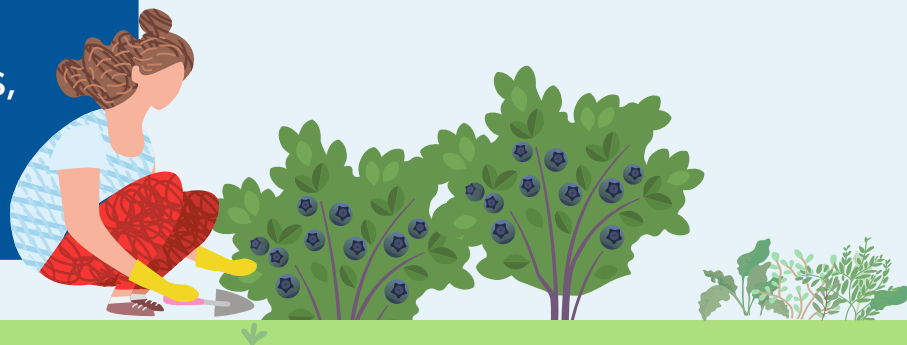
## Step 5:

**Cut** out dead sprouts, twigs, or branches with no new growth.

To watch this EnviroHouse How-To video, visit <https://rb.gy/swflmv>. You can also view the entire How-To video library at [youtube.com/cityoftacoma/playlists](https://youtube.com/cityoftacoma/playlists).

Community members can check the calendar for upcoming EnviroHouse workshops or view previously recorded webinars at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](https://cityoftacoma.org/workshops).

The EnviroHouse (3510 South Mullen St.) is open for walk-in visitors. For more information, including hours of operation, visit [cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse](https://cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse), email [ehouse@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ehouse@cityoftacoma.org) or call (253) 573-2426.





# Events

## Calendar of

### DECEMBER

- 15 Sustainable Tacoma Commission**, 5 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St., Room 248. For more information, visit [cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma](http://cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma), or call (253) 592-4788
- 25 The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center is closed Christmas Day**
- 26 City Services are open, and all curbside collection is on a regular schedule.**  
The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center administration office will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday
- 26 Tacoma Recycling Center**, 3510 S. Mullen St., begins to accept unflocked, undecorated Christmas trees without stands

### JANUARY

- 01 The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center is closed New Year's Day**
- 02 City Services are open, and all curbside collection is on a regular schedule.**  
The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center administration office will be closed in observance of the New Year's holiday
- 15 Last day to drop off your unflocked, undecorated Christmas tree** without a stand at the Tacoma Recycle Center, 3510 S. Mullen Street
- 19 Sustainable Tacoma Commission**, 5 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St., Room 248. For more information, visit [cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma](http://cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma), or call (253) 592-4788
- 28 Pruning Landscape Trees**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426

### FEBRUARY

- 04 Pruning & Care of Fruit Trees**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 11 Electric Vehicles – What to Know & What's New**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 16 Sustainable Tacoma Commission**, 5 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St., Room 248. For more information, visit [cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma](http://cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma), or call (253) 592-4788
- 18 House Plants Selection & Care**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 25 Fruit Tree Selection & Care**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426

# Gritty to Green: Trees and Public Health in Tacoma

The Tacoma Mall neighborhood has a rich history, and a green future. This neighborhood is known as an “urban growth center,” meaning it is expected to grow rapidly as Tacoma’s population and demand for housing and development increases. As the City of Tacoma plans for the future of this neighborhood, another important public and environmental health issue is being addressed – planting more trees.

The benefits of trees for human and environmental health in urban areas are well known, but Tacoma still has the lowest tree canopy cover of any assessed city in the Puget Sound region. The Tacoma Mall neighborhood has just 10% tree canopy coverage, exasperated by rapid development and densification as Tacoma’s population rises. With many rental properties and proximity to major commercial and industrial corridors, access to tree-related programs in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood has been historically limited.

Since 2020, the City has been strengthening community partnerships to promote the benefits of trees and access to greenspaces and to gather feedback from the Tacoma community about tree-related hopes and concerns. Through this work, the Urban Forestry team has partnered with a network of local and regional partners to focus on tree-related programming.

The City’s Urban Forestry team recently received a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, administered by

the Washington Department of Natural Resources Community & Urban Forestry program, to engage in a multi-year community greening effort in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood.

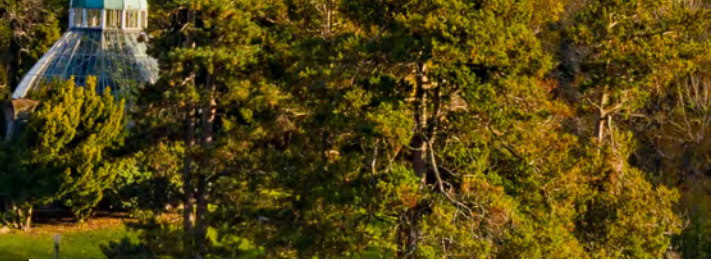
In 2022, the City partnered with the Tacoma Tree Foundation, The Nature Conservancy in Washington, and the University of Washington to launch the G.R.I.T. (Greening Research in Tacoma) project, which studies air and surface temperature impacts and mental health outcomes of tree planting. With funding from the Puget Sound Partnership, this project will ask residents about their experiences with tree planting, with the goal of encouraging community science in the neighborhood.

The partners involved in the G.R.I.T. program hope that research conducted in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood can be applied to other cities dealing with climate-related public health challenges.

**“WE KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF THE DESIGN OF THE TACOMA MALL NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IT’S HOTTER THAN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS IN TACOMA,”**

said Lowell Wyse, Executive Director for Tacoma Tree Foundation. “When it’s a question of how your





neighborhood is designed, that means the City and community can be involved in looking at how green infrastructure can be incorporated.”

Other efforts continue to raise awareness of the public health benefits of trees. Urban forestry held a multi-day “pop-up forest” interactive experience inside the Tacoma Mall in April 2022, and local artists created temporary art installations focused on the benefits of trees and greenspace. The City also continues to integrate tree planting efforts into green infrastructure and street improvement projects, such as the Madison District Green Infrastructure Project in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood.

Tacoma residents can get involved in tree planting through several City programs. The Tree Coupon Program is available until March 2023 and offers \$30 discounts to purchase trees at local participating nurseries to be planted on residential properties. The Grit City Trees program offers residents free street trees to be planted in the public right-of-way. Applications for Grit City Trees are open annually in the summer and fall, but educational resources on planting, care, and maintenance are available year-round.



Research shows that neighborhoods with more trees have better public health outcomes. Trees help improve air quality, provide shade to keep people cool and help decrease stress levels.



To learn more and get involved in tree planting efforts in Tacoma, visit [cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry](https://cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry) or call (253) 502-2138. For information on the Tacoma Tree Foundation, visit [tacomatreefoundation.org](https://tacomatreefoundation.org).

Photo credit Hannah Letinich

# EnviroKids

## 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.

1. Tacoma residents can get involved in TREE planting through several City programs.
2. Tacoma \_\_\_\_\_ can go \_\_\_\_\_ and save money by joining EnviroStars.
3. Environmental Services has been working with students on the EnviroChallenger's \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Program.
4. The best time to \_\_\_\_\_ blueberry bushes is in late \_\_\_\_\_ to early spring.
5. The Tacoma Recycle Center is a \_\_\_\_\_ for residents to drop off recyclable \_\_\_\_\_, including some items not recycled in curbside bins.

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

1.) TREE, 2.) BUSINESSES, GREEN, 3.) ENVIRONMENTAL, CERTIFICATION, 4.) PRUNE, WINTER, 5.) RESOURCE, MATERIALS.



### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION MANAGER

## Lewis Griffith

The work Lewis does as a Division Manager can be different every day. Solid Waste Management has a lot of employees who operate a variety of special equipment. Some days Lewis coaches and mentors employees, and other times he is looking into new technology or equipment to help operations work even better.

"I like the chance to work with many great people, and I find it fun to collaborate to solve problems or overcome challenges. We are most successful when many people contribute to finding the best solutions," Lewis said.

Having a four-year college degree in Engineering, Environmental Science, or Business-related fields and at least four years of supervisory experience in a related field are helpful to be a Division Manager with Environmental Services.

# MEET



# Events

## Calendar of

### MARCH

- 01 TAGRO Spring Hours Begin**, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 2301 Cleveland Way, Central Treatment Plant, Gate 6, call (253) 502-2150 or visit [TAGRO.com](http://TAGRO.com)
- 04 Mason Bees: So Easy, So Productive**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 11 Heat/Cool with Super-Efficient Heat Pumps**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 16 Sustainable Tacoma Commission**, 5 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St., Room 248. For more information, visit [cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma](http://cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma), or call (253) 592-4788
- 18 How-To Make Felted Wool Dryer Balls**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 25 Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426

### APRIL

- 01 Native Plants to Enhance Your Habitat**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 08 Rain Gardens: Plan, Prep, Plant, Maintain**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 15 City Chickens & Ducks: Getting Started**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 15 Chickens & Ducks: Build a Secure Coop & Run**, FREE, 11:30 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426
- 20 Sustainable Tacoma Commission**, 5 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St., Room 248. For more information, visit [cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma](http://cityoftacoma.org/SustainableTacoma), or call (253) 592-4788
- 22 South Sound Sustainability Expo**, FREE, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., University of Washington Tacoma campus, 1900 Commerce St., for more information, visit [southsoundsustainabilityexpo.org](http://southsoundsustainabilityexpo.org), or call (253) 591-5172
- 22 Earth Day**, Celebrate Trees in the South Sound All Year Round by visiting [earthdaysouthsound.org](http://earthdaysouthsound.org)
- 29 Spring Gardens, Prep, Plant, Grow**, FREE, 10 a.m., EnviroHouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Advance Registration required at [cityoftacoma.org/workshops](http://cityoftacoma.org/workshops), or call (253) 573-2426





# Summer Career Building for Students

Since 2019, the City's Environmental Services department has been working with students on the EnviroChallenger's Environmental Service Certification Program. Which has an emphasis on diversity, green jobs training, field experience, and personal development.

"I find that youth are concerned with the health of the environment and are willing to put in the work to help address environmental issues," said EnviroChallenger Educator Lead Jacqueline Fuller. "Some students joined this program knowing they wanted to get into the green jobs field, while others discovered all the various jobs within the field during this experience."

Participating students come from high schools in the Tacoma School District. Ages range from 16 to 18 years old, with a focus on incoming seniors from underserved populations. These students receive 48 hours of on-the-job experiences over the summer months, with graduation at the end of July.

Even with a pause in 2020, over 30 students have completed this program between 2019 and 2022. Students have received certifications in fields such as flagger, CPR, and Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead. They have received instruction and training in areas such as tree stewardship, collection and sampling, and plant identification. They have also received field experiences at the treatment plant, the transfer center, rain garden maintenance, and more.

"At graduation, all the students give short speeches about their experiences. Over the years, students have







shared they had more fun than they thought they would and learned more about the opportunities available for their future,” Fuller said.

This program is a partnership with Tacoma Public Schools and is part of Jobs 253 – a workforce development initiative that first launched in 2013. Although Jobs 253 has other training programs, this Environmental Services-specific program is a little different. City staff focuses on jobs in the environmental services field, getting the students involved in the community, and offering industry recognized certifications. This program also offers a chance to earn up to \$500 as well as high school and college credit.

Students interested in the Environmental Service Certification Program can find more information at [tacomaschools.org/Departments/CTE/Summer/ES](https://tacomaschools.org/Departments/CTE/Summer/ES) or contact Tacoma School District Worksite Learning Coordinator Chris Sieg at “mailto:csieg@tacoma.k12.wa.us” [csieg@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:csieg@tacoma.k12.wa.us) or call (253) 571-1024.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### No Grease Down the Drain

Did you know that forty percent of all sewage blockages in Tacoma are caused by grease clogs? That’s why it’s important to remember that cooking grease should never go down the kitchen sink. Avoid messy, expensive backups and damage to pipes by placing cooking grease in a jar or bottle and allowing it to solidify before putting it in the trash. Large amounts of grease can be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste facility (3510 S. Mullen St.). Learn about the proper disposal of household grease at [cityoftacoma.org/grease](https://cityoftacoma.org/grease) or call (253) 591-5418.

### Free Sandbag Supplies

The City’s Public Works and Environmental Services departments provide free sandbag supplies to the public for personal use. While supplies last, community members can come to one of two locations to shovel and load their own sandbags. Both locations are open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3:30 PM, through March 30, 2023.

#### Locations:

Tacoma Asphalt Plant at 3010 Center St. in Tacoma. (253) 591-5495

Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, TAGRO facility at 2301 Cleveland Way, Gate 6, in Tacoma. (253) 502-2150

### Solid Waste Management Snow Closures

When inclement weather impacts Tacoma Solid Waste collection service, information can be found at [cityoftacoma.org/inclementweather](https://cityoftacoma.org/inclementweather). If snow or icy conditions make it unsafe for collection crews to complete their routes, customers should leave bins out at the curb, and crews will collect them as soon as possible. Make sure bins remain clear of large piles of snow and other objects that might prevent trucks from safely collecting items. Residential customers can download the Recycle Coach app for real-time alerts impacting collection routes. For more information, visit [cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste](https://cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste) or call (253) 502-2100.

# Join the Community

In the 11th year of making neighborhoods happier and healthier through Tacoma's Tree Coupon Program across Pierce County.

Participation is simple: A tree coupon can be requested by filling out the online form at **cityoftacoma.org/treecoupon** or call (253)-502-2138 for more information.



## Bill Credit Assistance Plan program changes in January 2023

Qualifying customers receive automatic credits upon enrolling and can earn additional credits when making full and on-time payments.

**MyTPU.org/Assistance**

5213 0922







## SUSTAINABILITY SMALL GRANT

Apply for up to \$5,000 in reimbursable grant funding for your environmental project.



Recently funded projects include:

- **Planting** a community garden in a neighborhood public space.
- **Launching** a food preservation workshop series.
- **Funding** an environmental sustainability internship program.

Application deadlines are December 31, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

To learn more visit **[cityoftacoma.org/esgrants](https://cityoftacoma.org/esgrants)** or call (253) 591-5172.

## TIP OF THE DAY

### Stain Remover

#### Ingredients:

Sunlight, Lemon juice

#### Directions:

Apply a small amount of lemon juice to the stain (works well with cotton whites like T-shirts, sheets, blouses, and pants). Let it sit in the sun. Wash as you normally would.





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