

Does your Business Need Help Protecting Stormwater? ECOSS Can Help!

Contaminated stormwater is the leading source of pollution in Puget Sound. Toxic chemicals and sediment that accumulate over time on impervious surfaces - roadways, rooftops, parking lots, etc. - become mobilized as they mix with or dissolve in stormwater.

The impact of polluted stormwater is both profound and shockingly transparent in our veritable land o' lakes. Increasing pre-spawn mortality rate of salmon returning to local streams to lay their eggs; lake-side signs warning potential dippers not to swim after rainfall events; multi-million dollar federal tax-funded cleanup efforts in almost every major city in the state - These are just a few of the many issues resulting from stormwater pollution.

Effectively managing a facility's runoff requires both a significant time investment and a firm understanding of stormwater best management practices—two things most businesses don't have.

Fortunately, there is a resource available to local businesses seeking help with stormwater management.

The Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) is a non-profit organization that helps small and medium-sized businesses identify practical solutions to reduce their ecological footprint. If you're a business owner or manager, you can get a customized spill response plan for your facility, set up a free site evaluation of your best management practices, or just call to get answers to your tough questions. Whether you're a small business owner trying to do your part to protect the environment, or the manager of an industrial facility struggling to navigate complex reporting and monitoring requirements, ECOSS can help.

To contact ECOSS call 206-767-0432 or email info@ecoss.org.

Article Contributed by Alex Anderson of ECOSS.

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Waste Management Expands Food + Compostables Collection

Did you know that garbage typically contains up to 30 percent food and compostable material? From your co-worker's leftover lunch to coffee grounds at the neighborhood espresso stand, food scraps are everywhere.

Your business can protect the environment by participating in Waste Management's Food + Compostables Collection service. With this service your food scraps and other compostable materials are turned into compost instead of being sent to the landfill.

Waste Management provides everything you need to kick off a Food + Compostables Collection program: on-site employee training, indoor collection containers, posters, container labels and approved compostable bags.

To schedule a site visit from a Waste Management Recycling Specialist email us at: recyclenw@wm.com.

What can I put in my Food + Compostables Cart?

Food Scraps



Food-Soiled Paper



Approved Compostable Packaging



Plants and Flowers



New Additions to Your Waste Management Recycling Program

Our list of accepted recyclables is expanding. We're now recycling plastic and paper cups along with cardboard, mixed paper, glass, scrap metals, and a variety of plastics.

Here are the surprisingly easy steps for recycling these materials:

- *To recycle paper and plastic cups, just remove the lid, empty all leftover liquid and toss the cup in your recycling container.*



Adding plastic cups to our commercial recycling program couldn't have come at a better time. Many Seattle businesses are preparing to comply with Municipal Code 21.36.086, requiring all food service businesses in Seattle to provide compostable or recyclable food service products and take-out packaging.

If you do not have Waste Management recycling service, we would be happy to provide a price quote and arrange an on-site visit by one of our WM Recycling Specialists. Please call 1-800-592-9995 or email us at recyclenw@wm.com.

Safe Disposal of Energy Efficient Compact Fluorescent Lamps

Waste Management provides a mail-back recycling service that enables our commercial customers to conveniently and safely recycle fluorescent tubes and bulbs.

To use our LampTracker program, simply order a kit online or by telephone, set up the box provided, line it with the Mercury VaporLok bag, fill it with bulbs or tubes, seal it and ship to us using the pre-paid shipping label. The zipseal Mercury VaporLok bag reduces the risk of contamination from lamps broken during storage and shipping.



To learn more about our LampTracker program, please visit www.wmlamptracker.com.



Customer Highlight Evergreen Hospital Medical Center Goes "Forevergreen"

Kirkland's Evergreen Hospital Medical Center has a green history that dates back to the 1980s. In 2009, green initiatives were integrated into the hospital's Strategic Plan. The Evergreen Green Team, including employees from each department, made significant changes that have increased the hospital's recycling rate.

In 2009, each department received new recycling containers and Green Team representatives attended two training seminars. The representatives received information and tools to help them educate co-workers about recycling. Janitorial staff also received training on how to properly remove recycling to a consolidated area.

One of the biggest challenges was determining which specific materials could be accepted in the recycling program. Waste Management's recycling expert, Rita Smith, attended one of the training sessions to help identify specific items in the hospital's waste stream that are recyclable.

The effort has paid off. In 2009, King County's solid waste division named Evergreen Hospital one of the Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction. Congratulations to Evergreen Hospital and their many employees who made this program an environmental success!

Recycling and Composting at Your Business: Good for the Environment and Your Bottom Line

Simple steps your business can take to reduce trash:

- Use e-mail whenever possible instead of printing documents.
- Establish a policy of double-sided photocopying and printing.
- Provide reusable flatware, plates, glasses, and mugs in breakrooms and kitchen areas.
- Make sure every trash can has a recycling bin placed next to it. In a perfect world, the recycling bin should be larger than the trash can.
- Consider setting up a composting program.

To learn more, contact a Waste Management Recycling Specialist for a free site visit. They will review your recycling and composting practices and identify strategies to help reduce your company's environmental impact. To schedule a visit, please email recyclenw@wm.com.