

# City of Tacoma Sustainability Accomplishments



*Taking care of the environment,  
economy and community in a way  
that allows present and future  
generations to thrive.*

**Community**

**Environment**

**Government**

**2011**



In 2011, the City of Tacoma made significant progress toward accomplishing the goals set out in the 2008 Climate Action Plan. This report highlights a few of the most exciting successes and improvements, and provides a condensed annual survey of all sustainable projects.

The City has worked to achieve goals in Tacoma's Climate Action Plan through City operational changes and by facilitating community-based projects that further Tacoma's commitment to sustainability. Accomplishments range from integrating sustainability into the arts to implementing a new purchasing policy. This report provided by the Office of Sustainability provides insight into the exciting progress made in 2011 and sets the bar high for 2012.



Mayor Marilyn Strickland kicked off Tacoma Shift Happens 2011, an event promoting the local green economy.

Tacoma Arts Commission and UW Tacoma revitalized the Prairie Line Trail with a temporary art installation showcasing sustainable design.



Young stewards of the environment learn the basics of recycling at an EnviroHouse workshop.

## Community Projects and Program Highlights

### ***BikeMonth*** ***May 2011*** **TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY**



More than 1,000 people attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bike Swap at the University of Puget Sound Field House.

Bike to Market Day connected 2,940 attendees with valuable bike resources.

At the Bike Commuter Picnic and Fashion Show, bikers modeled trendy treads and helmets in a competition for a gift basket from Marlene’s Market and Deli.

455 riders logged 4,453 bike trips and 55,447 miles, doubling 2010 results in the Bike to Work Commuter Challenge.

The “Drive Nice” campaign created ads for Pierce Transit and the Tacoma Link to promote bike-friendly driving.



The City of Tacoma partnered with Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber, Citizens for a Healthy Bay and Go Local to create the Environmental Business Alliance, educating businesses on how to improve their environmental performance and increase profitability.

*“We allow businesses to come to one single point of contact to find resources to help them become more sustainable, as well as assess their own sustainable efforts and move them forward.”*

*-David Schroedel, Chamber of Commerce*



Help the Environment • Enhance your Community • Increase Profitability • Be Recognized

SOUTH SOUND SUSTAINABILITY



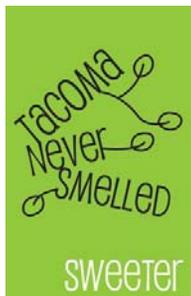
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011, 10 A.M.-3 P.M.  
GREATER TACOMA CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER

Citizens, businesses and nonprofit organizations gathered at the Convention Center for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual South Sound Sustainability Expo. This free event was attended by over 300 individuals to explore options for creating a healthy home and environment.



Located at the Tacoma Landfill, the EnviroHouse welcomed over 2300 guests in 2011 including group tours and attendees in 43 free workshops offering ideas on gardening, natural landscaping, green building materials and techniques, water conservation and energy efficiency. Visit the website to learn more about this unique South Sound facility.

# THE URBAN FOREST PROJECT TACOMA



Tree-themed art banners were displayed along Pacific Avenue and A Street during spring 2011 as part of Urban Forest Project Tacoma. The project raised awareness of the importance of trees in the city while celebrating Tacoma's vibrant creative community. An Arbor Day celebration unveiled nearly 100 tree-themed banners by local artist, designers and students. The banners were then repurposed into messenger bags and small totes. Proceeds from the bags went toward reforestation in Tacoma.



*More than 25,000 visitors to Point Defiance Zoo had conversations with staff about lowering carbon emissions to help to save the endangered polar bear and protect the planet. This is one example of the many successes of the 16 Sustainable Tacoma Grant awardees.*

## General Government Initiatives

### Facilities Management Police Campus Lighting Upgrade

HID lights at Fleet Parking



New LED Lighting



*Facilities Management completed three lighting projects in 2011. In total 187 light fixtures were replaced on the campus with a total energy savings of 150,817 kWh and annual electricity savings of \$8,300 from all three projects. HID (high intensity discharge) fixtures were replaced with LED low-wattage high lumen output fixtures, which contain no mercury, are American made, and have lower maintenance costs.*

### City Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations

Facilities Management purchased seven Nissan electric vehicles and ten hybrid vehicles, including two utility-lift hybrid trucks. Eight EV charging stations for City fleet Leaf vehicles were installed at the Tacoma Municipal Garage, North Park Garage, and Center for Urban Waters. EV charging stations were provided by a grant from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Twelve EV charging stations were installed for public use at the Pacific Plaza Garage, Museum of Glass Garage, 'A' Street Garage, and Convention Center parking lot. Public stations were provided in part by federal stimulus dollars.

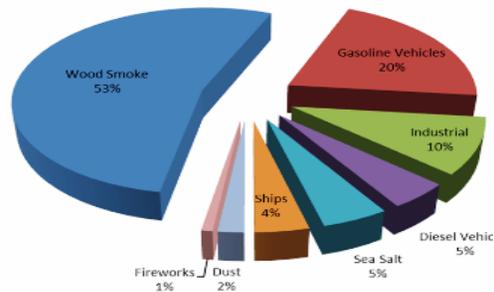


New charging stations for electric vehicles

## Wood Smoke Reduction Program

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the City of Tacoma worked together to get back to a healthy air particulate level by creating a program to change out old woodstoves throughout Tacoma. Qualified customers were offered financial assistance for removing old wood stoves and replacing them with a clean alternative. The City of Tacoma replaced 96 wood-burning devices with cleaner devices. Through targeting the removal and replacement of old wood burning stoves, Tacoma prevents roughly 12,338 pounds of particulate matter and 169 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

Sources of wintertime fine particle pollution in South End Tacoma/Pierce County



(Puget Sound Clean Air Agency)

### Green Seal Certified Soap and Bathroom Paper Products

The City of Tacoma now uses 100% recycled toilet paper and towels that are bleach free and made by a company in Washington. The soap is Green Seal certified, more sanitary, and easier to install.



## Recycling and Reuse at the Landfill



*The new 75,000 square-foot Recovery and Transfer Center at the Tacoma landfill opened in September. It is designed to handle 1,400 tons of garbage daily. The new Solid Waste facility is designed to meet LEED silver certification standards and incorporates state of the art sustainable design elements including extensive daylighting and rainwater catchment. The Recovery and Transfer Center will help prevent salvageable materials from going to waste, and lengthen the life cycle of items such as carpet, mattresses and household appliances.*

## 2008 Climate Action Plan Strategies Update

### City Leading by Example

#### Good Progress

- ✓ Converting traffic signals to LED
- ✓ Purchase of fuel efficient/alternative fuel vehicles
- ✓ Adopt environmental purchasing policy
- ✓ Adopt Municipal Green Building Code
- Use renewable fuels for all City-owned diesel vehicles

#### Some Progress

- Establish preference for contractors who use low-emission and low-carbon fuels
- Support and encourage state and regional product stewardship efforts
- Encourage telecommuting/alternative work schedules
- Create waste reduction/conservation policy
- Reduce energy use— review previous audits, hire RCM, conduct building commissioning

#### Needs work

- EPA Green Power Partner

- ✓ = Completed strategy
- = Two-year actions

### Reuse and Recycle... from Buildings to Food Waste

#### Good Progress

- ✓ Determine if changing solid waste rate structure would encourage more recycling and waste reduction
- ✓ Explore home composting programs
- Implement natural yard care education
- ✓ Increase recyclables sorting capabilities in new landfill transfer station

#### Some Progress

- Identify and implement additional residential and commercial education and other programs to divert organic waste
- Continue mulching mower sales assistance program
- Develop a commercial food waste-recycling program
- Improve operational efficiencies in Solid Waste management
- Increase commercial and residential recycling
- Promote adaptive reuse of historic or older buildings
- Secure and encourage additional organic material processing capability in the Tacoma area

#### Needs work

- Encourage deconstruction and recycling of structures to be demolished

### Enhancing Compact/Livable Neighborhoods

#### Good Progress

- ✓ Adopt the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Plan
- Implement smart growth principles
- Incorporate complete streets principles in Public Works projects

#### Some Progress

- Begin a regional transfer of development rights program
- Develop an urban trees and open space inventory
- Inventory and map existing affordable housing options
- Promote amenities that make high-density living more attractive
- Apply a holistic approach to projects through municipal codes and development processes

#### Needs work

- Fund the Open Space Habitat and Recreation Plan
- Increase tree planting on public and private property
- Create web-based housing match program

### Energy Efficiency in Buildings Homes Industry

#### Good Progress

✓Tacoma Power meeting energy conservation and renewable energy goals of Initiative 937

#### Some Progress

- ☐ Encourage installation of renewable energy
- Achieve maximum possible energy savings in residential, commercial and industrial sectors
- Develop green building program: hire green building advocate, determine barriers and identify incentives including expedited permitting

#### Needs work

- Consider providing tax abatement for buyers performing conservation upgrades
- Require energy audit at time of home sale
- Reduce home heating oil use

✓ = Completed strategy  
☐ = Two-year actions

### Moving People and Goods More Efficiently

#### Good Progress

- ✓Establish metered parking downtown
- ✓Develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian system
- Reduce or eliminate parking minimums
- Retrofit older diesel trucks
- Work with Sound Transit to complete the Sounder connection to Lakewood
- ✓Evaluate potential locations for new bus stops or routes
- ☐ Implement a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian system

#### Some Progress

- ☐ Expand promotion of Pierce Transit online ridesharing and carpooling system
- Increase the use of all public transportation modes
- Recruit a car-sharing service
- Work with Pierce Transit to increase frequency of bus service on arterials
- Provide free or reduced cost parking only for employees using carpools and vanpool
- Advocate for incentives for residents to use more fuel-efficient or alternative fuel vehicles
- Adopt anti-idling ordinance – public by 2012 and private by 2020
- Adopt parking maximums rather than parking minimums
- Develop a map of renewable fuel locations and electric plug-in stations
- Analyze potential for shared parking

### Get Involved

- Attend a Sustainable Tacoma Commission meeting  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/sustainabletacoma](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/sustainabletacoma)
- Give your car a break and take the bus  
Pierce Transit: [www.piercetransit.org](http://www.piercetransit.org)  
Sound Transit: [www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org)  
Real-time transit info by mobile phone or computer: [www.onebusaway.org](http://www.onebusaway.org)
- Join a community garden  
[www.grownlocaltacoma.org/treestreet](http://www.grownlocaltacoma.org/treestreet)
- Shop at and support local businesses  
Find lists at:  
[www.golocaltacoma.com](http://www.golocaltacoma.com)  
[www.healthybay.org](http://www.healthybay.org) (click on BEST- Business for an Environmentally Sustainable Tacoma)
- Conserve energy at your home and business (your utilities can help pay for it)
- Brush up on what goes in your recycling bin  
[www.tacomarecycles.org](http://www.tacomarecycles.org)
- Opt out of phone book delivery  
[www.yellowpagesoptout.com](http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com)
- Volunteer at a community clean up:  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/cleanup](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/cleanup)



# 2011 Sustainability Accomplishments

	Environment	Economy	Social Equity	Culture
<b>Policy/ Reform</b>				
Office of Sustainability: City Council passed four new sustainability-related resolutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sustainability Vision and Definition Resolution: defines sustainability to include consideration of environmental, economic, social and cultural values In decision making</i></li> <li>• <i>Sustainable Purchasing Resolution: directs City staff to consider sustainability factors when writing specifications for, or procuring products or services.</i></li> <li>• <i>Municipal Green Building Resolution: Requires all new facilities to strive for LEED Gold and directs City staff to develop a green policy for existing buildings</i></li> <li>• <i>Life Cycle Resolution: expresses the City's support of life-cycle assessments and life-cycle thinking in relevant legislation and management decisions and encourages the public and private entities within the City to do the same</i></li> </ul>	X	X	X	
Comprehensive Plan policies modified to provide improved and updated guidance regarding historic preservation and the City's preservation program with associated amendments to the Land Use Regulatory Code.	X			
<b>Education and Outreach</b>				
Clean Bay Car Wash Kits: Assisted fundraising car washes in using kits that pump dirty water into the or into surrounding landscaping or sewer to be treated.	X		X	
Environmental Services: The EnviroHouse hosted 43 workshops educating the public about various environmental subjects.	X		X	
Environmental Services/EnviroChallenger program: Participated in Tacoma Home and Garden Show and 30 other community events.			X	
Environmental Services: Sponsorship Program backed more than 20 community activities to enhance or restore Tacoma's environment through funding and services.	X	X	X	
Surface Water Management: "Puget Sound Starts Here" month activities focused on promoting storm water pollution prevention, including a "Puget Sound Starts Here Night at the Rainiers" and coordination with local businesses.	X		X	
Tacoma Arts Commission: Spaceworks Tacoma facilitated 58 art installations downtown, reinvigorating a number of temporarily vacant retail spaces.		X		X
Green Tacoma Partnership: Worked to restore urban green spaces and held the 4th Annual Green Tacoma Day drawing more than 246 volunteers at 11 sites.	X		X	X
Urban Forests Project: Original banners created by Tacoma artists were displayed downtown to raise awareness of trees in the city; following the display the banners were transformed into fashionable, functional messenger bags.		X		X
Wastewater Management: Educated home owners on the importance of side sewer inspections, maintenance, and repair to reduce inflow and infiltration.	X	X	X	
4th Annual South Sound Sustainability Expo: Businesses, non-profits organizations and citizens attended free event at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.	X	X	X	
<b>Community- Based Projects</b>				
Community Based Services: 14 areas took advantage of the Community Clean-up Program; 2,000 people helped with the clean-ups and 450 tons of garbage was collected.	X		X	
Environmental Business Alliance: Offered free sustainability audits to Tacoma businesses, and the opportunity to show their commitment to sustainability by becoming a "BEST" (Business for an Environmentally Sustainable Tacoma) business.	X	X		
Environmental Services: Eight community gardens are now on city property, with a total of 30 gardens inside Tacoma city limits. A series of gardening workshops were launched by the countywide community garden partnership, a collaboration of the city and other organizations.	X		X	



# 2011 Sustainability Accomplishments

	Environment	Economy	Social Equity	Culture
Prairie Line Trail Art Installations: Eight temporary public artworks were displayed along the trail in downtown.				X
Solid Waste Management: 2good2toss website had 33,000 visitors and 423 successful exchanges, diverting \$2,040 in disposal costs.	X	X		
Solid Waste Management: Two Tacoma neighborhoods (1,400 customers) participated in a pilot program with every-other-week garbage collection and food waste collection. In the first 6 weeks, 28 percent in south end pilot area and 29 percent in north end pilot area recycled food scraps.	X	X	X	
Mobility Master Plan: Developed a comprehensive network of bikeways and pedestrian walkways. Facilitated activities, projects, and programs including: two new bike cages in downtown; "Live Downtown" Pilot Program to encourage employers and employees to move downtown to decrease their commute; Bike Month to encourage citizens to commute by bike, featuring the 3rd Annual Bike Swap, Bike to the Market Day, Bike Commuter Picnic and Fashion Show and the Bike to Work Commuter Challenge; installed a large number of new bike racks, started Walk Tacoma activities drawing more than 250 participants; the Stadium Bike Club increased SHS bike commuting by 10 percent, developed plan to install new bike ways and bike boulevards, and had successes with the Complete Streets Design Project. Transit ridership was up by 4 percent.	X	X	X	X
Chinese Reconciliation Park landmarks: A grand opening/dedication ceremony was held for the Fuzhou Ting along Ruston Way.				X
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: 8 EV stations were installed for the City fleet, and 12 EV stations for public use.	X	X		
<b>City Operational Projects</b>				
Commute Trip Reduction: The Washington State Commute Trip Reduction program, a partnership between state and local governments and major employers, eliminates approximately 20,000 vehicles from the state's roadways every morning, reduces air pollution by 3,200 tons every year, and saves 6.5 million gallons of petroleum annually. Partnered in "Bike Month".	X	X		
Engineering Division: Budling/facilities upgraded to meet American Disability Act (ADA) regulations at : South-Tacoma Library, Swasey Library, Beacon Senior Center, Les Davis Pier, TAGRO Building, TV Tacoma, and Tacoma Municipal Building and TMB North.			X	
Environmental Services: Entered into the High Energy Performance Program, in partnership with Bonneville Power Administration and TPU, to help implement operational modifications at the City's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant to reduce power consumption by at least 5%.				
Fire Department: Installed LED lighting on all new fire engines and use of new environmentally friendly cleaning products.				
Facilities Management: Green Seal Certified soap and bathroom products: The City now uses 100 percent recycled toilet paper and paper towels that are bleach free and manufactured in Washington. Soap is also Green Seal certified, more sanitary and easier to install.	X			
Information Technology Department: Computer server consolidation reduced number of physical servers, by using technology that allows one server to act as multiple servers. Eliminated 63 out of a 80 server goal.	X	X		
Information Technology Department: The City now uses 100 percent recycled paper in copy machines. 313 desktop printers have been eliminated throughout General Government, saving paper, energy and money. Reduced paper use by 75% from 2009, saving the City over \$135,000.	X	X		
LINK Light Rail: Completed new stop and re-optimized downtown signal timing to accommodate this new stop.				
Facilities Management Police Campus Upgrades: Floor drain seals, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) controls (nighttime setback), and lighting upgrades installed. The floor drains are LEED certified and save the department 1466 gallons of water per year. HVAC setback saves 160,162 kWh, or about \$8,800 annually. Total saving from LED light upgrades in fleet campus parking lot are 23,532kWh, or \$1,300.	X	X		
Solid Waste Management: More than 700 tons of commercial food waste was collected from a variety of Tacoma businesses and recycled into compost.	X			
Solid Waste Management: Curbside residential yard waste program allowed Tacoma residents to compost 27,000 tons of yard waste.	X			



# 2011 Sustainability Accomplishments

	Environment	Economy	Social Equity	Culture
Fleet: Reduced fuel use by 8% over 2009 baseline avoided spending over \$300,000 through purchase of high efficiency vehicles, more efficient trips, and behavior changes.	X	X		
Solid Waste Management: 2011 total for recycled materials was 11,594,398.00 pounds including paper, plastic bottles, cardboard, metal, construction debris, etc.	X	X		
State Electronics Challenge: First West Coast municipality to join the nationwide effort to purchase and maintain electronics in an environmentally responsible manner. City implemented a power management system to enable desktop and laptop equipment to sleep if unused for a period of time. The program will save over \$10,000 annually in energy costs.	X	X	X	
Information Technology Department: Helped City save more than \$35,000 by videoconferencing.	X	X		
<b>Awards and Recognitions</b>				
Complete Streets design guidelines: The National Complete Streets Coalition rated more than 200 state and local policies, and ranked Tacoma's guidelines among the top 15 in the nation.			X	
LEED Neighborhood Development: Tacoma was awarded a grant for free assistance from Smart Growth America. Tacoma is one of 15 communities selected from a pool of close to 90 applications for the free assistance in implementing smart growth principles	X	X		
Mixed- Use Center Zoning Regulations recognition: Received recognition for achievements in the mixed-use center zoning regulations: Rezoning Urban Retail Strips to Create Neighborhood Centers, Zoning Practice, American Planning Association.			X	
Pierce County Trail Leadership: The City received the Forever Green Council's 2011 Pierce County Trail Leadership Award for the Mobility Master Plan.			X	
Surface Water Management: The City's storm water management program was nationally recognized as the first to demonstrate we can measurably improve storm water quality by taking specific actions such as cleaning pipes and building large filtering installations. The City received a 2011 Operations and Environmental Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for their work to improve the quality of storm water discharged into the Thea Foss Waterway.	X			
Wastewater Management: Northwest Biosolids Management Association recognized TAGRO for its decade-long history of quality, innovation and giving back to the community with the 2011 Excellence in Biosolids Award.	X		X	
Wastewater Management: The North End Treatment Plant received the 2010 Platinum Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The City also received 2010 Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Awards from the Washington State Department of Ecology for both the North End and Central treatment plants. Of approximately 300 wastewater treatment plants statewide, Tacoma is one of 104 that achieved full compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit in 2010.	X			
<b>Grant Programs</b>				
Surface Water Management: Tacoma's Make a Splash grant program funded dozens of education, restoration and pollution prevention projects throughout the City with small grants to schools, nonprofits and individuals.	X	X	X	
Office of Sustainability: The Sustainable Tacoma Grant offers up to \$5,000 through the City's Office of Sustainability to any non-profit or educational institution planning a project related to sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Grant were given for a bike club, trail rehabilitation and greenhouse construction.	X	X	X	



## 2012 Sustainability Goals

	Environment	Economy	Social Equity	Culture
Construct more than 14 miles of bike facilities.	X		X	X
Increase tree canopy through updates to urban landscaping code to help reach 30% goal.	X			
Complete First Creek Action Plan for community developed habitat plan in East Tacoma.	X		X	X
Integrate arts education into Envirochallenger program's science-based curriculum and expand program to include kindergarten and first grade.	X			X
Update critical areas preservation ordinance to facilitate voluntary habitat restoration work on private and public property.	X			X
Amend downtown parking code to eliminate the existing parking minimum requirements for new development.	X			X
Finalize South Downtown and MLK sub-area plans to provide innovative long range plans and complete the pre-development review.	X	X	X	X
Implement Transfer of Development Rights, a market-based tool for helping a jurisdiction's growth policies. Through individual transactions, development rights are transferred from privately-owned farmland, forestland and other natural areas to areas that can accommodate additional growth. Landowners in sending areas receive compensation for giving up their right to develop, while developers in receiving areas pay for the right to develop at greater densities than would otherwise be allowed.	X	X	X	
Develop Schuster Parkway Public Access Plan.	X	X		
Public planning, design and access for downtown portion of Prairie Line Trail.	X	X		X
Community solar installation at city facilities.	X	X		
Amend the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate new Affordable Housing Policy Principles.	X	X	X	X
Increase use of permeable asphalt as four road projects will seek the innovative Greenroads certification; a national rating system for sustainability best practices.				
Complete energy conservation projects at City facilities				