

## ***Executive Summary - Sustainability and Efficiency Programs in Tacoma and Pierce County.***

For up to date information visit the Climate Action Task Force's Web at <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/Page.aspx?nid=674> .

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Tacoma Public Utilities

Contact Energy Information Center: 253-502-8363, [power@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:power@cityoftacoma.org)

### **RESIDENTIAL**

#### **Home Weatherization Grants**

Financial assistance is available to help weatherize the homes of customers who meet income guidelines.

<http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/conservation.htm#Home%20Weatherization%20Grants>

#### **Rebates for homes in the construction or planning phase**

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/new\\_construction\\_rebate.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/new_construction_rebate.htm)

#### **Manufactured home rebate**

For Energy-Star labeled homes.

[http://www.tacomapower.com/ResidentialServices/home\\_rebate.htm](http://www.tacomapower.com/ResidentialServices/home_rebate.htm)

#### **Heat Pump Rebate**

Tacoma Power offers a \$750 rebate to customers who replace an existing heat pump, electric furnace, or other existing electric heat with a new qualified ultra-high efficiency heat pump system.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/heat\\_pump\\_rebate.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/heat_pump_rebate.htm)

#### **Advanced Lighting Package Rebate**

Tacoma Power offers a rebate of \$150 for the Advanced Lighting Package. To qualify for the rebate, the light fixtures must: be Energy Star-qualified and be installed in: 50% of exterior fixtures, 50% of fixtures in high use areas, and 25% of low use areas.

#### **Instant \$20 rebate on Energy-Star qualified compact fluorescent pin-based fixtures**

Through participating dealers and showrooms.

<http://www.tacomapower.com/ResidentialServices/Fixture.htm>

#### **Rebates for High-efficiency water heater**

Tacoma Power offers a rebate of \$75 for water heaters having an Energy Factor (EF) of 0.93 or better (all size tanks) and a minimum warranty of 20 years.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/new\\_construction\\_rebate.htm#Electric\\_Water\\_Heater](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/new_construction_rebate.htm#Electric_Water_Heater)

#### **Multi-family Services**

Tacoma Power offers weatherization for apartment buildings. In addition, zero-interest loans are available for exterior and common area lighting replacements.

<http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/ResidentialServices/conservation.htm#Multifamily%20Services>

### **Renewable Energy - Net Metering Program**

Tacoma Power offers net metering, allowing customers to connect their renewable energy systems, solar electric systems primarily, to Tacoma Power's electricity grid. For their renewable energy production, customers are credited the utility retail rate.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/greenpower/net-metering/net\\_metering.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/greenpower/net-metering/net_metering.htm)

### **Renewable Energy - Production Incentive Program**

For their renewable energy production from net-metered installations, Tacoma Power customers are paid a state-funded production incentive of at least \$0.15 per kWh. This is in addition to the utility retail rate credit provided through net metering.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/greenpower/net-metering/net\\_metering.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/greenpower/net-metering/net_metering.htm)

### **Green Power – EverGreen Options**

Tacoma Power's EverGreen Options program provides residential and commercial customers the option to convert a certain portion of their electricity use to green power credits generated by wind from the Columbia River region. The price for Tacoma's green power is the retail rate plus an additional 1.2 cents per kWh.

<http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/greenpower/default.htm>

## **COMMERCIAL**

### **Compressed Air Program**

Tacoma Power offers incentives, equipment assessments, and staff training to commercial and industrial customers for compressed air systems efficiency.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/compressed\\_air\\_program.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/compressed_air_program.htm)

### **Bright Rebates**

Tacoma Power's Bright Rebates program offers incentives for the installation of high-intensity fluorescent lighting fixtures in high-bay locations. Rebates are available for both new construction and retrofit applications.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/bright\\_rebates.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/bright_rebates.htm)

### **Design Assistance for New Construction Projects**

Tacoma Power offers design assistance to help building owners and their design teams increase energy efficiency beyond the Tacoma Energy Code requirements in new construction and major remodeling projects.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/new\\_construction\\_efficiency\\_services.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/new_construction_efficiency_services.htm)

### **Cool Rebates - commercial refrigerator and freezer rebates**

Tacoma Power offers rebates up to \$200 for SuperSaver commercial solid-door refrigerators and freezers that meet the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) Tier 2 efficiency criteria.

<http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/refrigerator/default.htm>

### **Zero-Interest Loans**

Zero-interest loans are available for energy-efficiency improvements to existing commercial facilities.

[http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/energy\\_services.htm#Zero-Interest%20Loans](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/Business/energy_services.htm#Zero-Interest%20Loans)

### **Energy Star Benchmarking**

Tacoma Power is working to improve the efficiency of local health care facilities by applying ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager benchmarking tool. This tool provides for the comparison of the energy performance of local facilities to similar buildings nationwide, with the intent of achieving ENERGY STAR efficiency levels (top 25% nationally) in local health care facilities.

### **LED Traffic Signals and LED Signs**

Tacoma Power provides financial incentives for the conversion of incandescent traffic signals and commercial signage to more efficient LEDs (light emitting diodes).

## **WATER EFFICIENCY EFFORTS**

Tacoma Water

### **Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Direct Install**

Replacing all valves in Retail and Wholesale services areas

### **Residential Clothes Washer Rebate**

To launch late 2007

### **Water Use Audits**

- Staff performs customer on-site water use audits
- Over the phone bill analysis

### **Educational Efforts**

- Local summer ad campaigns
- Regional ad campaigns
- Educational landscape signage at Tacoma Police facilities
- Free educational plant poster
- Free literature distribution on indoor and outdoor water conservation
- Public speaking
- Recording public service announcements (TV and Radio)
- Educational booths at community events
- School education program

For more information, contact <http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/water/WaterConservation/index.htm>, call 253-502-8723, or e-mail: [dmuir@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:dmuir@cityoftacoma.org).

## **WASTE and RECYCLING**

City of Tacoma Solid Waste Management

### **RECYCLING COLLECTION**

The commercial sector produces about 50% of the total solid waste generated in the City of

Tacoma. Much of this garbage is recyclable. The City of Tacoma's recycling program offers businesses the opportunity to do their part to help save energy, reduce air and water pollution, conserve natural resources and extend the life of our landfills.

**Comprehensive and flexible recycling service to businesses and multi-family units of all types and sizes:**

Restaurants	Medical facilities
Retail	Construction/demolition sites
Hotels	Schools and institutions
Office buildings	Apartments (tri-plexes and larger)
Industrial	Condominiums

**Customized assistance to get businesses started:**

- Type of service
- Containers sizes and storage
- Collection schedules
- Waste prevention / reduction tips and special waste disposal options

**RECYCLING CENTER**

City of Tacoma and Pierce County businesses may use the City of Tacoma Recycling Center for moderate amounts (small truckload) of recyclables at no charge.

**PRODUCE RECYCLING**

Solid Waste Management's produce recycling service enables florists, grocery stores and certain restaurants to separate fruit and vegetable trimmings. That produce waste is picked up three times a week, mixed with residential yard waste and processed at a private composting facility.

**Food waste composting pilot program pending**

**HAZARDOUS WASTE ASSISTANCE**

Solid Waste Management's hazardous waste regulatory experts are ready to provide on-site visits to assist businesses with a variety of hazardous waste needs, including:

- Disposal options
- Accumulating and labeling waste
- Notifying the Department of Ecology
- Working with private contractors to arrange for disposal
- Avoiding generating excess waste in the first place

**CONSTRUCTION SITE RECYCLING**

Solid Waste Management provides on-call drop box service within the city limits for commercial construction debris recycling.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and the 2006 CTR Efficiency Act**

Since 1991 the State of Washington has required large employers with 100+ employees who arrive at work between 6 – 9 a.m. implement programs to reduce single occupant vehicles (SOV) for commuters. Affected employers are obligated to put into operation programs that demonstrate a “good faith effort” towards SOV reduction. The City of Tacoma has 43 CTR “affected” worksites at this time.

And the rest of Pierce County has an additional 29.

The 2006 legislature passed the CTR Efficiency Act which is intended to make CTR more streamlined and effective. Jurisdictions now carry more of the responsibility for decreasing SOV and are expected to cumulatively reduce employer SOV by 10% by 2011.

### **CTR Plan and Growth Transportation Efficiency Center (GTEC)**

The City of Tacoma and Pierce County jurisdictions have drafted CTR Plans that are currently being reviewed by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). These plans outline our strategies for decreasing SOV trips in our respective locales. Tacoma’s CTR Plan can be viewed at: <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/Page.aspx?hid=5359> by clicking the link.

The City of Tacoma is expected to pass a new CTR ordinance and integrate the CTR Plan into the Comprehensive Plan in 2008.

The City of Tacoma has drafted an optional GTEC plan for our downtown area to further reduce SOV trips overall in the City. We have focused our planning on the following markets: University of Washington, Tacoma, students and faculty, new residential development in the north end of downtown, and smaller clustered employers.

The GTEC Plan is being reviewed by PSRC and if approved will move to the CTR Board at the State for approval. There is a competitive process for funding for GTEC plans, and we will know by January, 2008 whether Tacoma will receive funding. The GTEC plan can be viewed at: <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/Page.aspx?hid=5359> by clicking on the link.

### **CTR Performance Grants**

For the 2005-2007 Biennium

The trip reduction performance program has been funded at \$1.5 M for the 2005-2007 biennium through Washington State Department of Transportation. A CTR Trip Reduction Performance Program (TRPP) has already taken applications for new proposal by employers, jurisdictions and institutions that are interested in reducing SOV trips. The TRPP funding is a potential future source of revenue for various trip reduction projects and strategies in the City of Tacoma and Pierce County. The next funding cycle is proposed in two years.

### **State and Federal Tax Benefits for Transportation**

A Washington State B&O Tax Credit (ESHB 2228) and Public Utilities Tax Credit are available to employers and property managers who provide financial incentives to employees using CTR methods. This program expires June 30, 2013. Employers may exempt \$60 per employee/year with a cap of \$100,000 per business. For additional information call: 1-800-647-7706

IRS tax law states employers can provide a tax-free subsidy for employees who purchase transit or vanpool services. They are entitled to up to \$110/month tax free earnings per employee.

### **Pierce Trips – Joint Effort with Pierce Transit and Pierce County**

All Pierce County jurisdictions have collaborated to form Pierce Trips. The objective of this organization is to work cohesively on commute trip reduction programs and provide consistency and equality throughout Pierce County on our objectives.

Pierce Trips has acquired grant funding for projects from Congestion and Air Quality Mitigation and WSDOT's TRPP that it has used for innovative programming for employers.

**Small Employer Outreach – Pierce Transit**

Pierce Transit has a small employer outreach coordinator who works with businesses to create commute option programs for their employees. These businesses participate voluntarily and they range considerably in size throughout the county. The small employers create a wide variety of programs and incentives and are held to a lower level of regulatory oversight than the large "affected" employers.

**Flexpass – Metro, Sound and Pierce Transit**

Flexpass is a program run by Metro, Sound and Pierce Transit to encourage new transit ridership. The employer initially purchases bulk passes for its entire population, and they can ride unlimited trips on the various carriers. The employer is charged a discounted rate for the passes that is calculated by use.