Environmental Services Commission

Communication & Engagement Update

April 10, 2025

17th Annual
South Sound Sustainability Expo

- Sat. April 26 from 10am-3pm - UW Tacoma Campus and Tollefson Plaza
- Environmental Services is the headline host, in partnership with the Center for Strategic Priorities Sustainability team (formerly OEPS)
- Free, family-friendly event brings the South Sound community together to celebrate and promote environmental sustainability and resiliency.
- Over 70 sustainability-focused vendors registered
- Art installation by ES Artist in Residence Teruko Nemura
- Free Plant Swap and Pop-Up Forest Experience

CITY OF Tacoma

SOUTH SOUND SUSTAINABILITY EXPO

Saturday, April 26 • 10 AM - 3 PM

UW Tacoma Campus and Tollefson Plaza

Meet us at the South Sound Sustainability Expo

Saturday, April 26 - 10 am - 3 pm

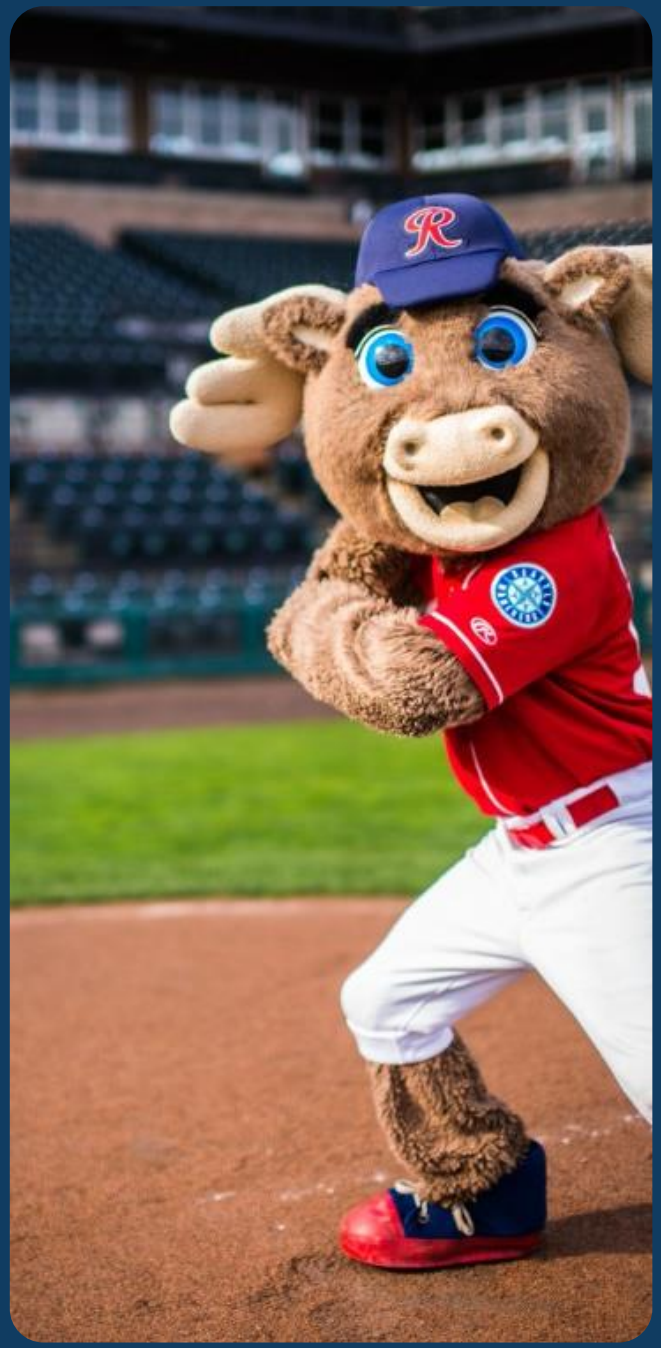
UW Tacoma Campus and Tollefson Plaza

South Sound Sustainability Expo

PLANT SWAP

Saturday, April 26 - 10 am - 3 pm

UW Tacoma Campus and Tollefson Plaza

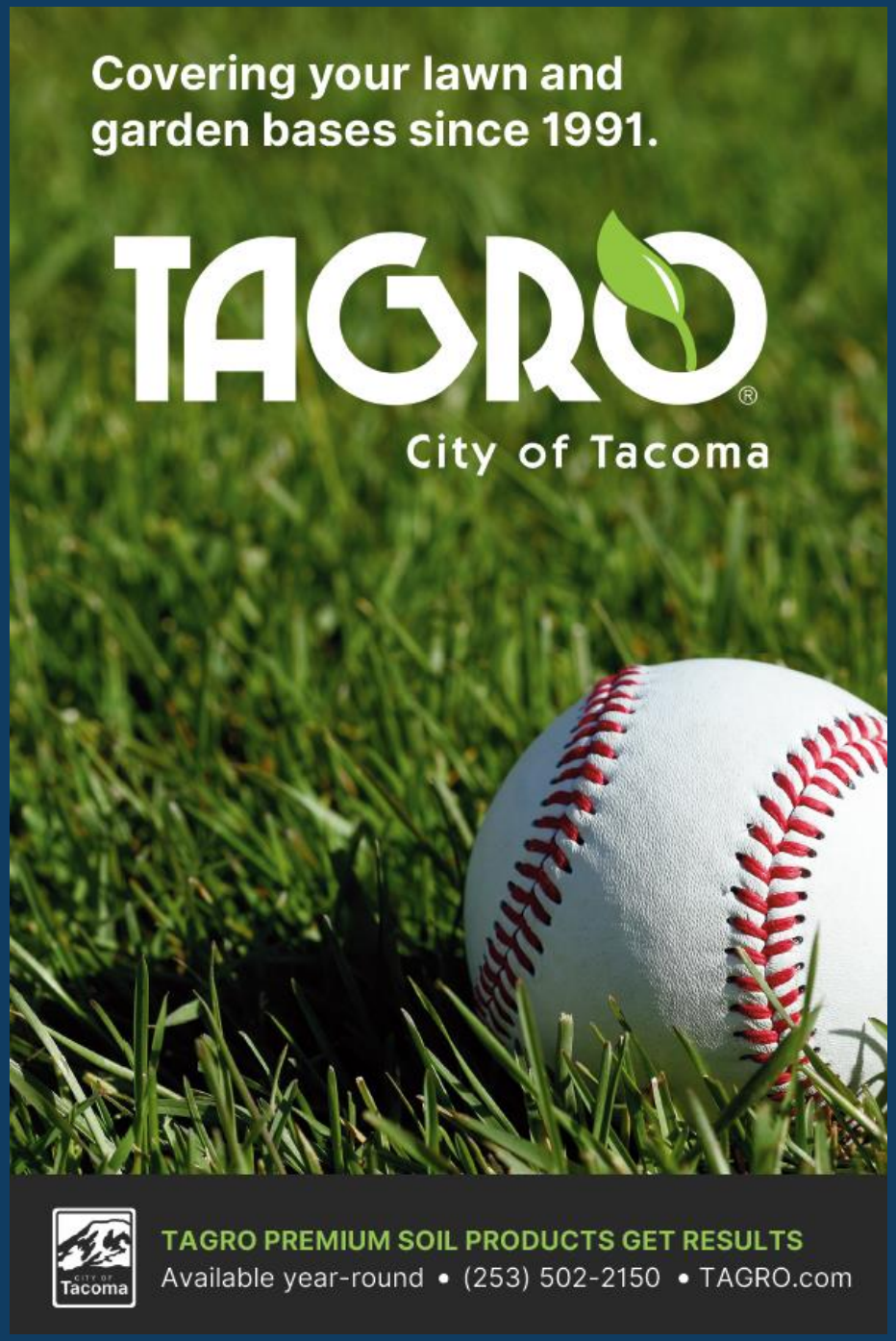


Environmental Services
Tacoma Rainiers Partnership

- ES has a 3-year (2024-2026) contract with the Tacoma Rainiers that helps support the local sports team while promoting ES services

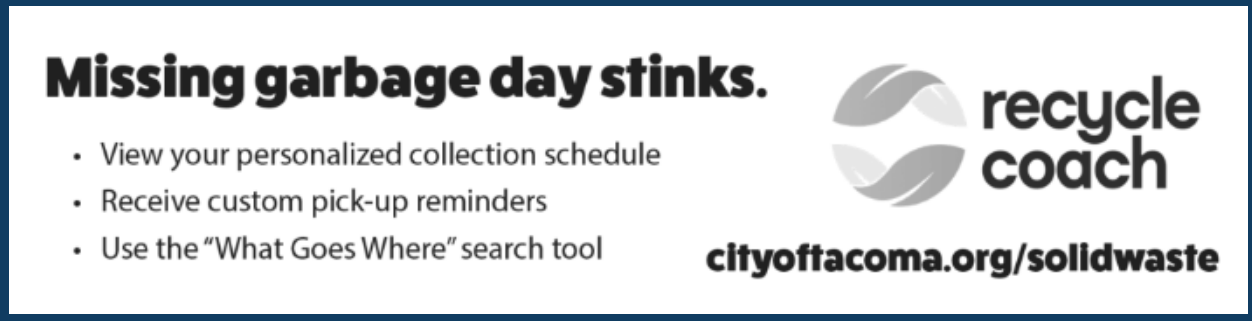
- The agreement provides ES with:
  - City of Tacoma in-stadium scoreboard signage
  - 7 full-page ads in game program “The Dirt”
  - 3 “title sponsorships” for extra exposure
  - 30-second radio spots that play during all home game broadcasts (880 AM)
  - ES logo on Rainiers website
  - 300 single game ticket vouchers (used as giveaways at ES community tabling events)
  - 2 Rhubarb mascot appearances throughout the season
  - 3 concourse tabling opportunities
  - “Day at the Park” reservation of Cheney Stadium (August employee appreciation event)
  - 8th Inning “Recycle Break” promotion in-stadium

CITY OF Tacoma


Covering your lawn and garden bases since 1991.
TAGRO®
City of Tacoma
TAGRO PREMIUM SOIL PRODUCTS GET RESULTS
Available year-round • (253) 502-2150 • TAGRO.com


TAKE CHARGE
of your battery disposal
Household and rechargeable batteries can cause damage, fires, or injury if they end up in the garbage or recycling. This includes batteries in old cell phones and other small electronics.
Find a responsible drop-off location near you at
tacomarecycles.org
City of Tacoma
STORMWATER SOLIDWASTE WASTEWATER
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT


Do your doody.
Scoop the poop, bag it, and put it in the trash.
Is dog poop a problem in your neighborhood? Pet waste left on the ground is picked up by stormwater runoff and and flows directly into lakes, streams, and Puget Sound, harming our environment.
You can help by sponsoring a pet waste station in your neighborhood by visiting cityoftacoma.org/preventstormwaterpollution.
City of Tacoma
STORMWATER SOLIDWASTE WASTEWATER
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT


Missing garbage day stinks.
• View your personalized collection schedule
• Receive custom pick-up reminders
• Use the "What Goes Where" search tool
recycle coach
cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste

30-Second Radio Spot, changes monthly

Plays during all home game broadcasts:

“Give your garden a home run with TAGRO! For over 30 years, Tacoma gardeners have trusted TAGRO premium soil products to grow lush lawns and championship-worthy gardens. Available by the bucket or truckload, TAGRO delivers better results while reusing community resources and protecting the environment. Proud supporter of your Tacoma Rainiers, TAGRO is ready to help your garden win big! Visit TAGRO.com for more - That’s T-A-G-R-O.com.”

Environmental Services and City of Tacoma's Comprehensive Planning

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Environmental Services Commission Meeting

April 10, 2025

Focus Points for Today's Discussion:

- Describe Regional and City-wide Comprehensive Planning efforts through the Environmental Services Lens
- Discuss what is in the One Tacoma Plan in relation to Environmental Services efforts
- Summarize additional planning efforts currently proposed and underway.

Tacoma's Utility Background (ES specific)

- November 12, 1875 – Tacoma is incorporated
- 1880 – 1928 – City begins constructing stormwater and wastewater conveyance
- 1929 – Solid Waste Management utility formed
- 1944 – City Voters approve $3 million bond issue for WWTP
- 1952 – Central Treatment Plant Built
- 1960 – Tacoma Landfill in operation
- 1968 – North End Treatment Plant built
- 1979 – Stormwater Utility is formed

GMA Comprehensive Planning - Background

Washington State Growth Management Act (adopted by the Legislature in 1990):

The legislature finds that uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with a lack of common goals expressing the public's interest in the conservation and the wise use of our lands, pose a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state. It is in the public interest that citizens, communities, local governments, and the private sector cooperate and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning. Further, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest that economic development programs be shared with communities experiencing insufficient economic growth. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 1.] (RCW 36.70A.010)

GMA Comprehensive Planning - Background

GMA Comprehensive Planning - Background

Land Use Regulations
- Platting
- Zoning
- Shorelines
- Critical Areas

Programs
- Community Based Services
- Economic Development
- Arts Programs
- Landscape Management

Functional Plans
- Human Services Strategic Plan
- Artfull Tacoma
- TPU System Plans

Capital Improvement Planning

Design Plans
- Right of Way Design Manual
- Downtown Streetscape
- Tacoma Waterfront Access

GMA Comprehensive Planning - Background

- 9 Mandatory Elements, as defined in RCW 36.70A.070:
  - Land use
  - Housing
  - Capital Facilities Plan
  - Utilities
  - Rural (Counties)
  - Transportation
  - Economic
  - Park and Recreation
  - Climate Change and Resiliency

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  - Climate Change and Resiliency

One Tacoma Chapters

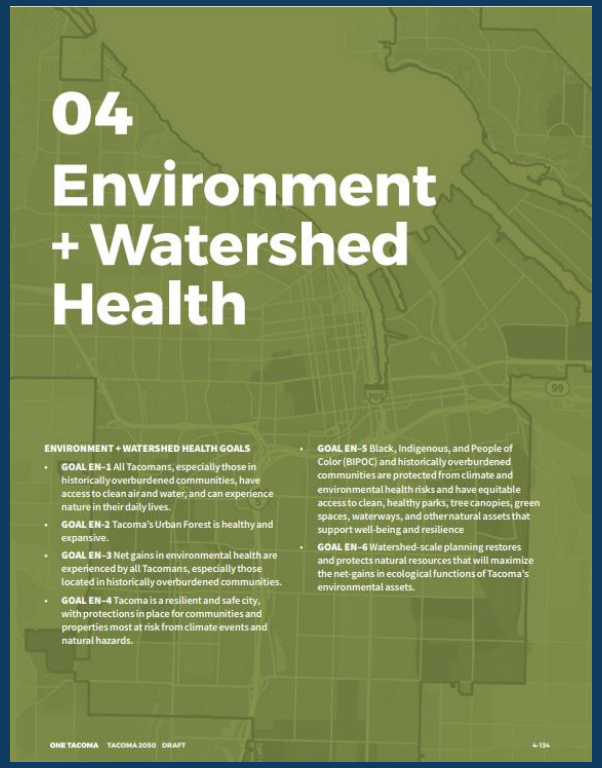
1 – Introduction and Vision
2— Growth Strategy
3 – Complete Neighborhoods
4 – Environment and Watershed Health
5 – Housing
6 – Transportation
7 – Economic Development
8 – Parks and Recreation
9 – Public Facilities and Services
10 – Historic Preservation
11 – Engagement and Administration

One Tacoma Chapters

1 – Introduction and Vision
2— Growth Strategy
3 – Complete Neighborhoods
4 – Environment and Watershed Health
5 – Housing
6 – Transportation
7 – Economic Development
8 – Parks and Recreation
9 – Public Facilities and Services
10 – Historic Preservation
11 – Engagement and Administration

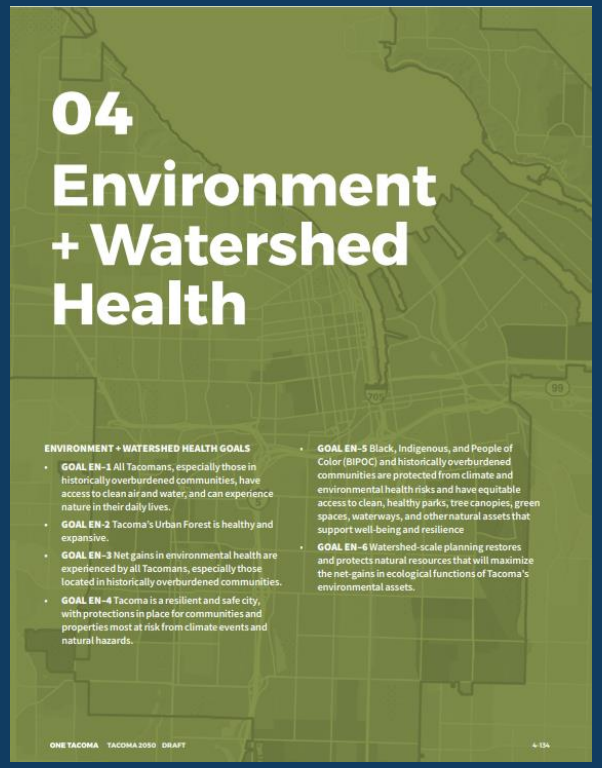
One Tacoma: Chapter 4 – Environment and Watershed Health

- **GOAL EN–1** All Tacomans, especially those in historically overburdened communities, have access to clean air and water, and can experience nature in their daily lives.
- **GOAL EN–2** Tacoma's Urban Forest is healthy and expansive.
- **GOAL EN–3** Net gains in environmental health are experienced by all Tacomans, especially those located in historically overburdened communities.



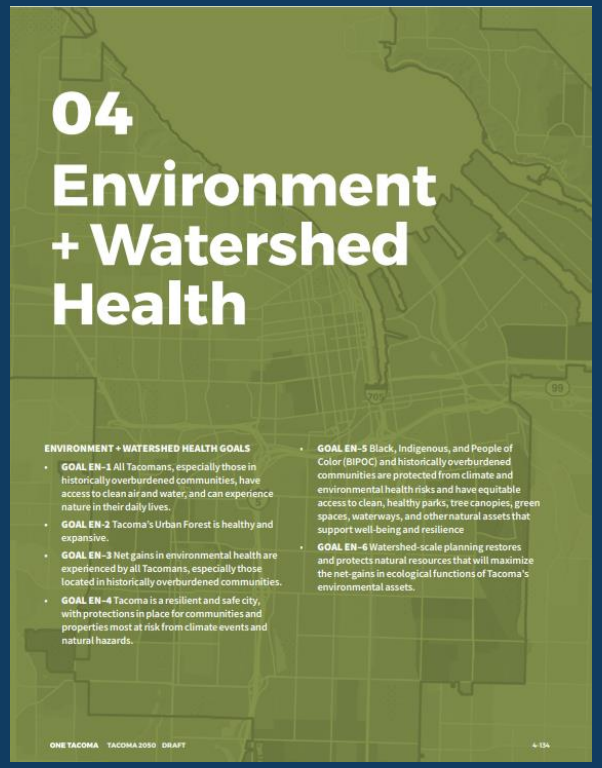
One Tacoma: Chapter 4 – Environment and Watershed Health

- **GOAL EN–4** Tacoma is a resilient and safe city, with protections in place for communities and properties most at risk from climate events and natural hazards.
- **GOAL EN–5** Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and historically overburdened communities are protected from climate and environmental health risks and have equitable access to clean, healthy parks, tree canopies, green spaces, waterways, and other natural assets that support well-being and resilience



One Tacoma: Chapter 4 – Environment and Watershed Health

- **GOAL EN–6** Watershed-scale planning restores and protects natural resources that will maximize the net-gains in ecological functions of Tacoma's environmental assets.



One Tacoma Chapter 4 – Environment and Watershed Health

4.3 Priority Actions

- Complete and implement the City's Urban Waters Protection Plan, including prioritized stormwater management activities and treatment retrofits in areas with the highest pollutant loading potential. Coordinate stormwater investments with other planning and environmental programs.
- Incorporate recommendations from the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and Water Resource Inventory Area Salmon Recovery/Habitat Protection plans into City plans, programs, and regulations
- Create a proactive habitat restoration plan for Commencement Bay to achieve a net gain of ecological functions during the Plan horizon.

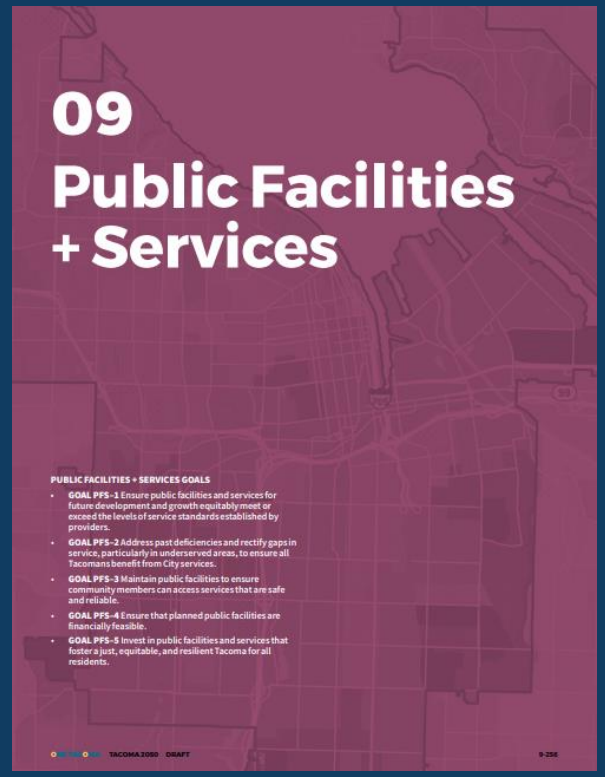
One Tacoma: Chapter 4 – Environment and Watershed Health

4.3 Priority Actions (Con't)

- Update the City's tree canopy and landscaping standards to ensure that that all future development contributes towards the City's 30% citywide canopy coverage and update standards to implement best practices for tree preservation and post-development tree care. Consider adoption of an Open Space Corridor overlay district to support the preservation of large, contiguous urban forest.
- Consider expansion of existing programs, such as Grit City Trees, which provides financial and logistical support for people who want to plant trees in public rights-of-way, as well as programs to increase tree planting on private property, or to support voluntary restoration efforts.

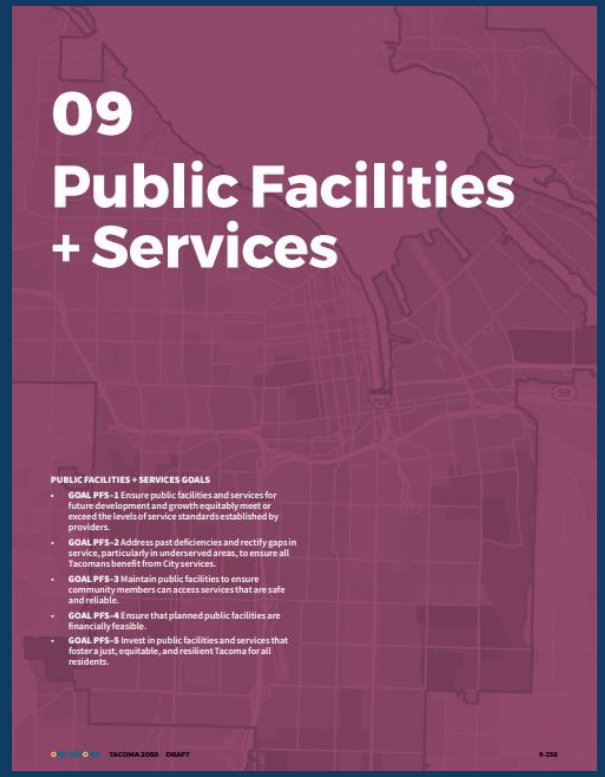
One Tacoma: Chapter 9 – Public Facilities + Services

- **GOAL PFS-1** Ensure public facilities and services for future development and growth equitably meet or exceed the levels of service standards established by providers.
- **GOAL PFS-2** Address past deficiencies and rectify gaps in service, particularly in underserved areas, to ensure all Tacomans benefit from City Services
- **GOAL PFS-3** Maintain public facilities to ensure community members can access services that are safe and reliable.



One Tacoma: Chapter 9 – Public Facilities + Services

- **GOAL PFS-4** Ensure that planned public facilities are financially feasible.
- **GOAL PFS-5** Invest in public facilities and service that foster a just, equitable, and resilient Tacoma for all residents.



Chapter 9 – Public Facilities and Services

Level of Service Standard *

Public Facility	Level of Service Standard
Solid Waste	1.24 tons per capita per year
Stormwater	Conveyance System Capacity Flow Control/Detention Facility Capacity Treatment Facility Capacity Calculations found in City of Tacoma's Stormwater Management Manual
Wastewater	Maximum Month Flow: 200 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) or Peak Hydraulic or Peak Instantaneous Flow: 400 GPCD

*Source: Chapter 09: Public Facilities and Services, Exhibit 66. Levels of Service Standards for Concurrency.

One Tacoma Planning Timeline

March – June 2024

Community Launch

July – December 2024

Policy Development and Plan Writing

January – June 2025

Draft Plan Adoption

Other On-going City Planning Efforts

- Transportation Mobility Plan Update
- Community Safety Plan
- 2035 Strategic Plan Update
- Neighborhood Planning
- Tideflats Subarea Plan
- Picture Pac Ave Subarea Plan
- Urban Design Review Program
- Home in Tacoma

Environmental Services Planning Efforts

- Environmental Services – Director's Office
  - Budget (2023/2024/2025)
  - Capital Projects (May 9, 2024)
  - Urban Forestry (February 13, 2025)
- Solid Waste
  - Tacoma-Pierce County Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan – (n/a - last updated in 2021)
- Stormwater
  - Stormwater Comprehensive Plan (in process – last update to ESC - August 10, 2023)
  - Watershed Plan (August 10, 2023)
- Wastewater
  - Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update (in process – last update to ESC - November 9, 2023)

Solid Waste Management Operational Efficiencies

City of Tacoma Environmental Services
Solid Waste Management Division
Lewis Griffith, P.E, Division Manager

April 9, 2025

Every Other Week Garbage Collection Overview

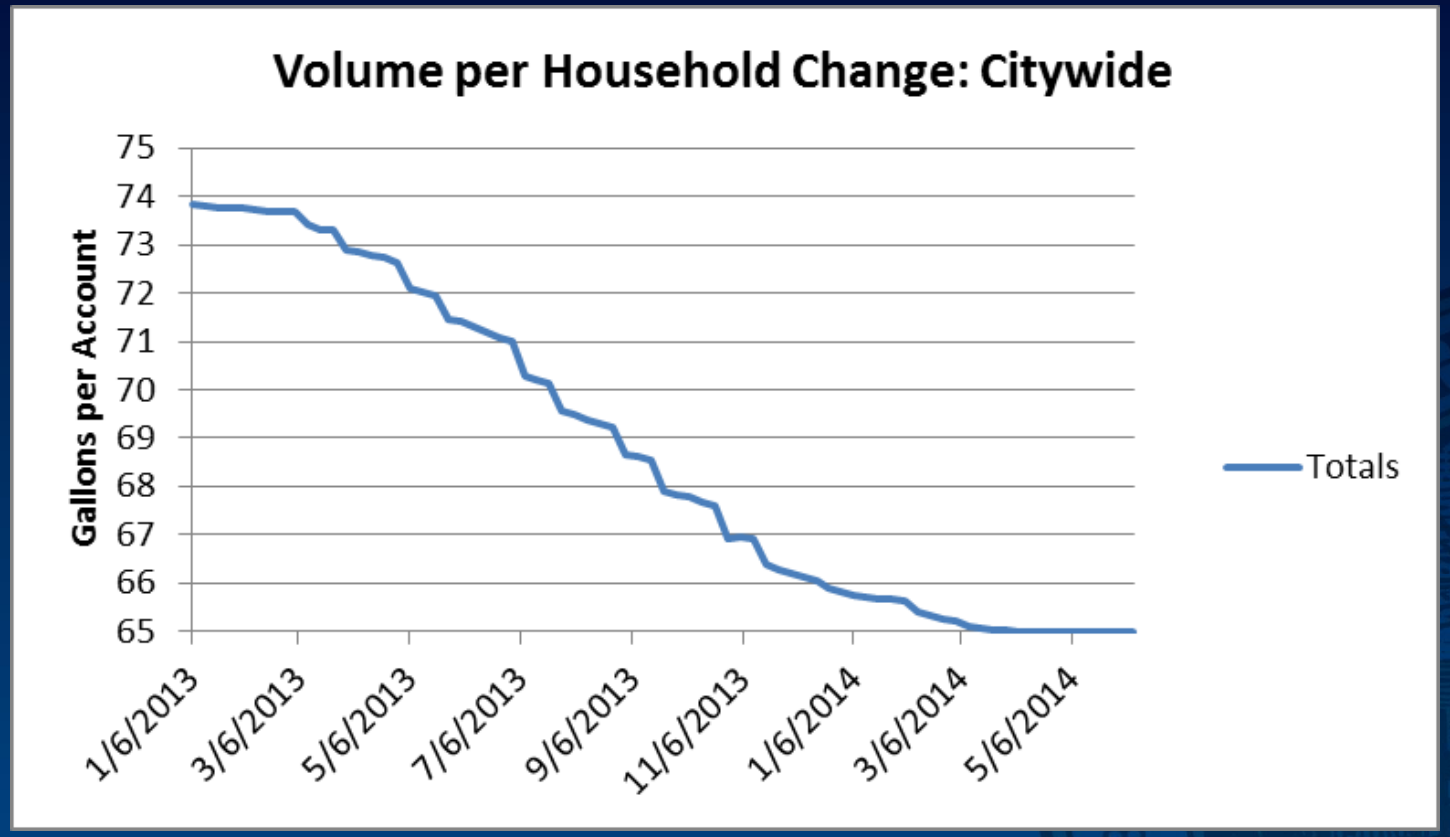
- Pilot Program
  - 6 months Summer 2011 – Winter 2012
  - Two areas of Tacoma
  - Identified and evaluated potential concerns and issues
- Program Implementation
  - 2013 - 2014
  - Knock and Talks with all customers
  - Right-sizing for service levels
  - Service level volume maintained

Every Other Week Garbage Collection Program Objectives

- Develop a sustainable collection system:
  - Reduced Costs
  - Reduced Environmental Impacts
- Program benefits:
  - Reduced miles driven + fuel use
  - Reduced City's carbon footprint
  - Increased diversion of waste
  - Lowered cost of service to residents

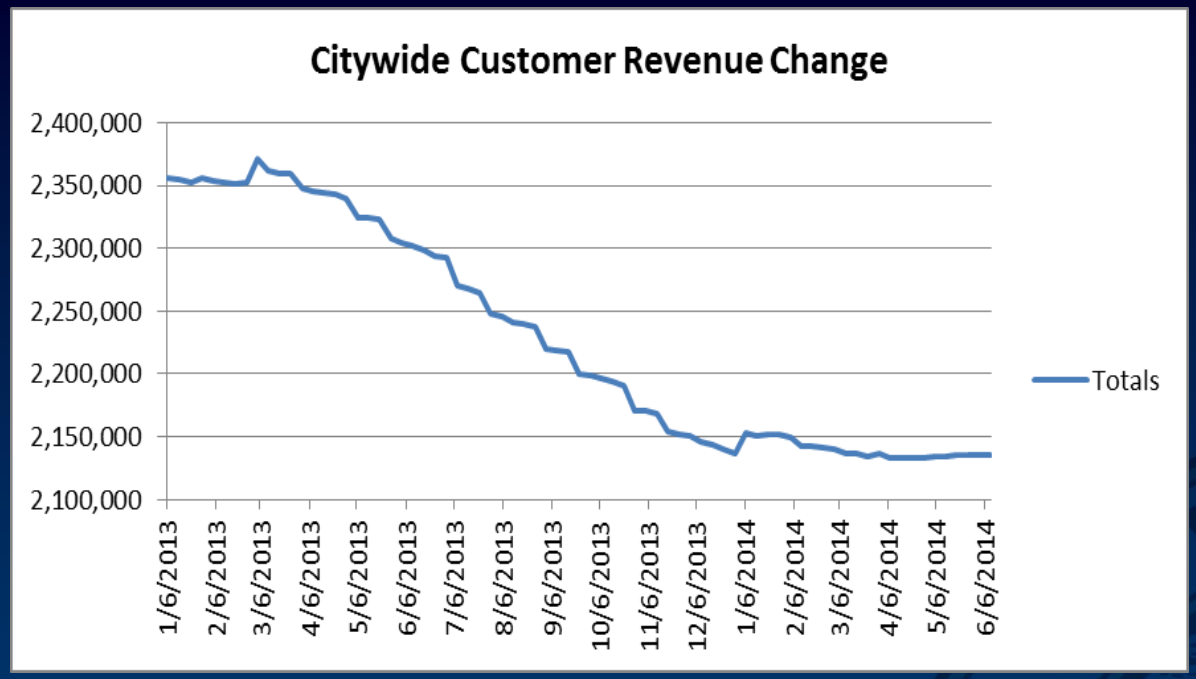
Customer Rightsizing Outcomes

- **53,730 customers***



*The number is a monthly average for the year

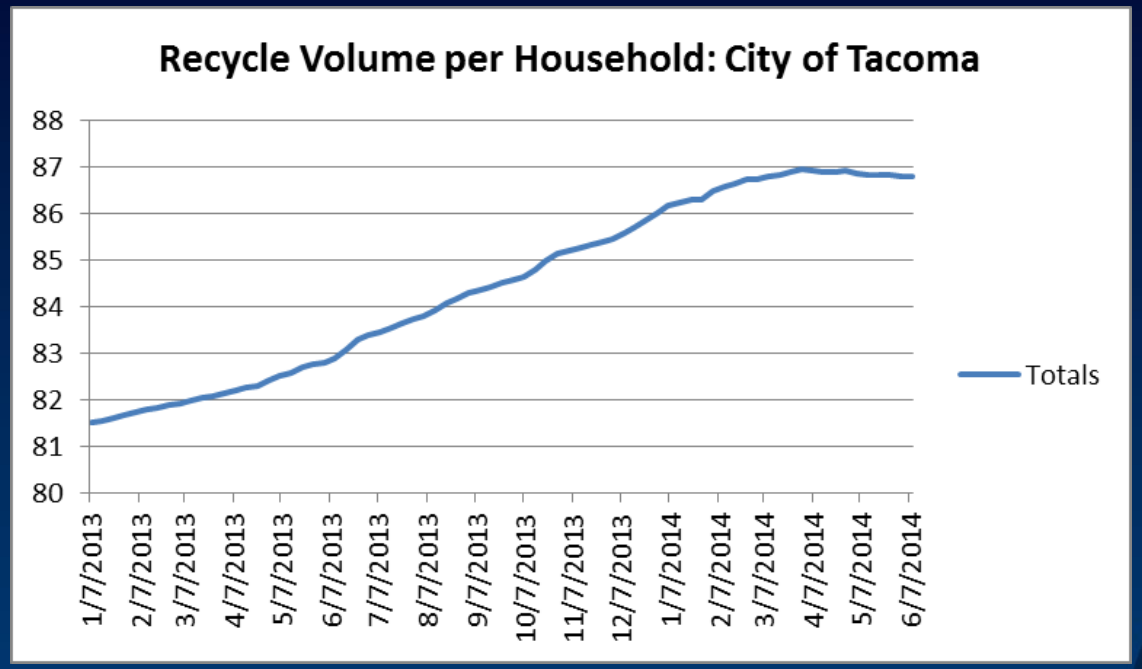
Revenue Changes



January 6, 2013	June 9, 2014	% change
$2,356,027	$2,135,293	-9.37%

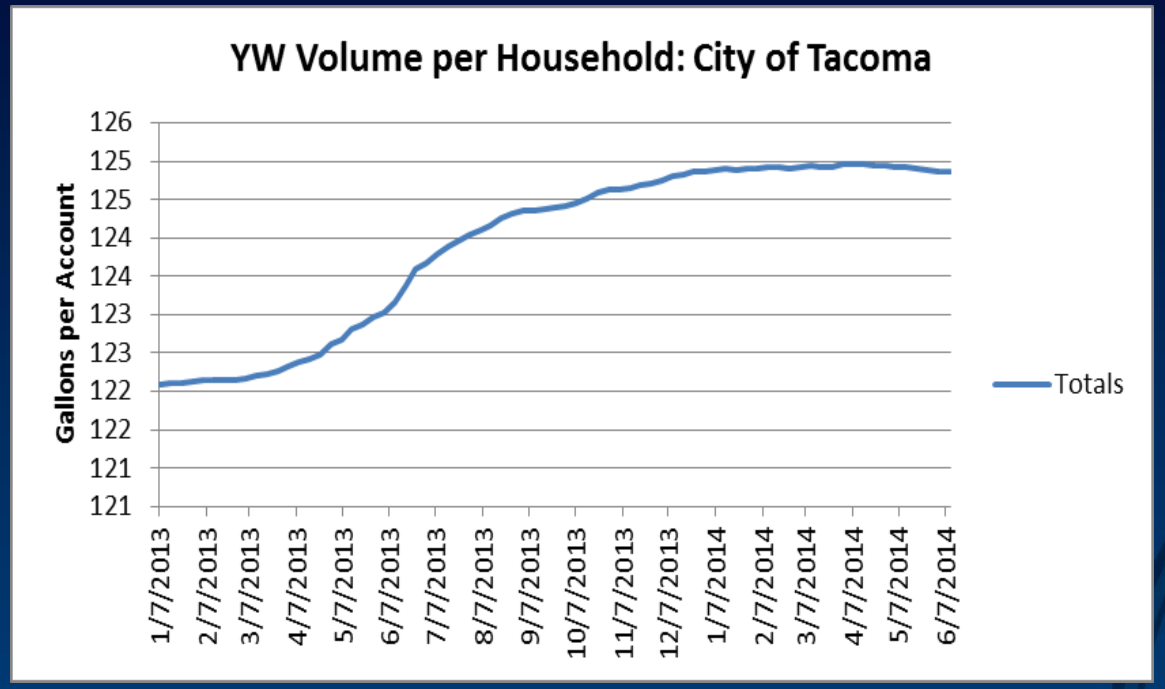
***Rate changes:**
March 1, 2013
January 1, 2014

Recycling Volume Changes



Date	% Change
MON_N	5.01%
MON_S	5.11%
TUE_N	6.07%
TUE_S	4.84%
WED_N	7.95%
WED_S	7.07%
THU_N	8.35%
THU_S	7.91%
FRI_N	5.84%
FRI_S	6.04%
Totals	**6.50%**

Yard Waste Volume Changes



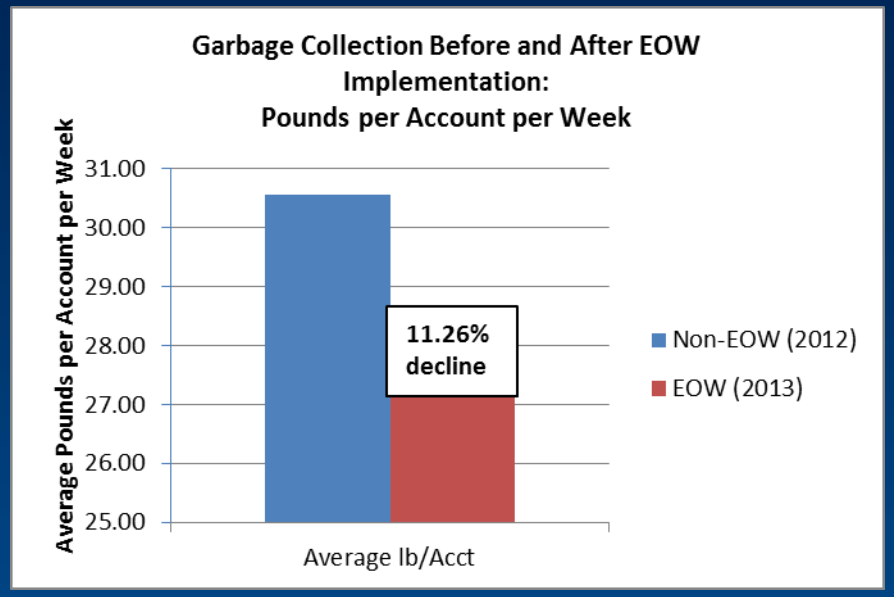
Date	% change
MON_N	2.98%
MON_S	2.35%
TUE_N	2.45%
TUE_S	1.50%
WED_N	2.71%
WED_S	2.10%
THU_N	1.81%
THU_S	2.18%
FRI_N	2.87%
FRI_S	2.81%
Totals	**2.36%**

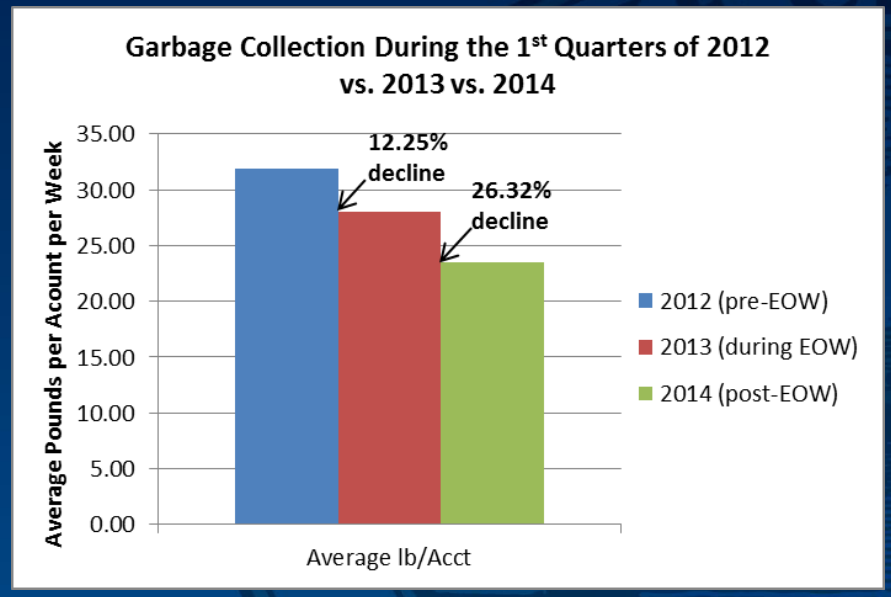
Waste Diversion Rates

- Pounds per Account per Week Change

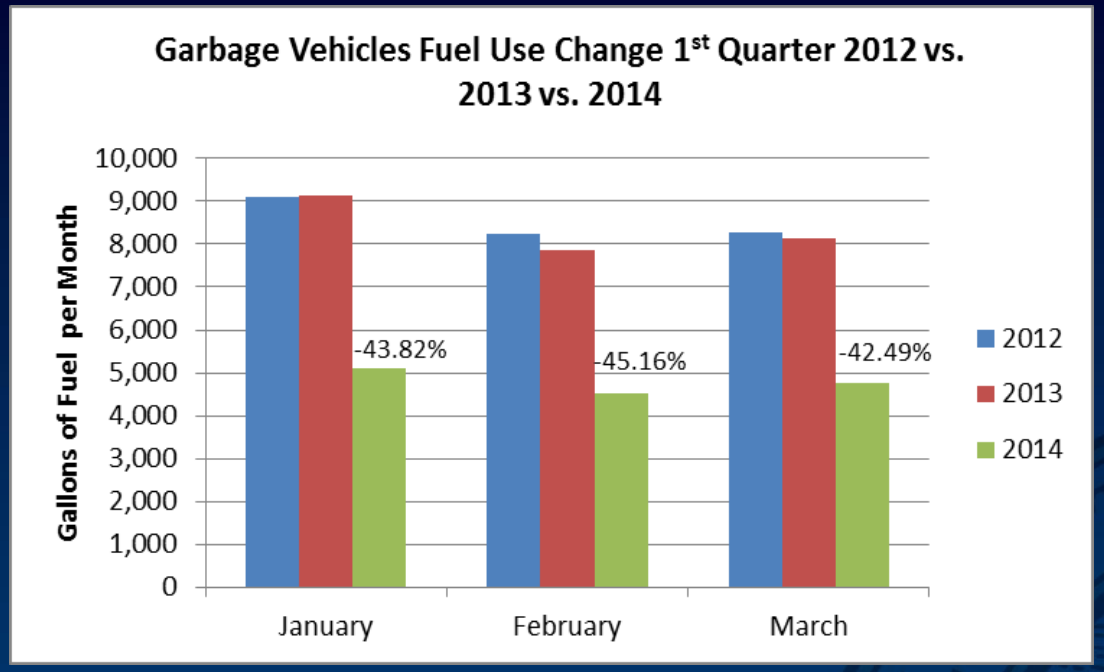
	NON-EOW (2012)	EOW (2014)	% Change
Garbage	31.89	23.49	**-26.32%**
Recycling	11.26	11.51	**2.24%**

Diversion: 39% - 46%
(1st quarter: 2012 vs. 2014)





Fuel Use Changes

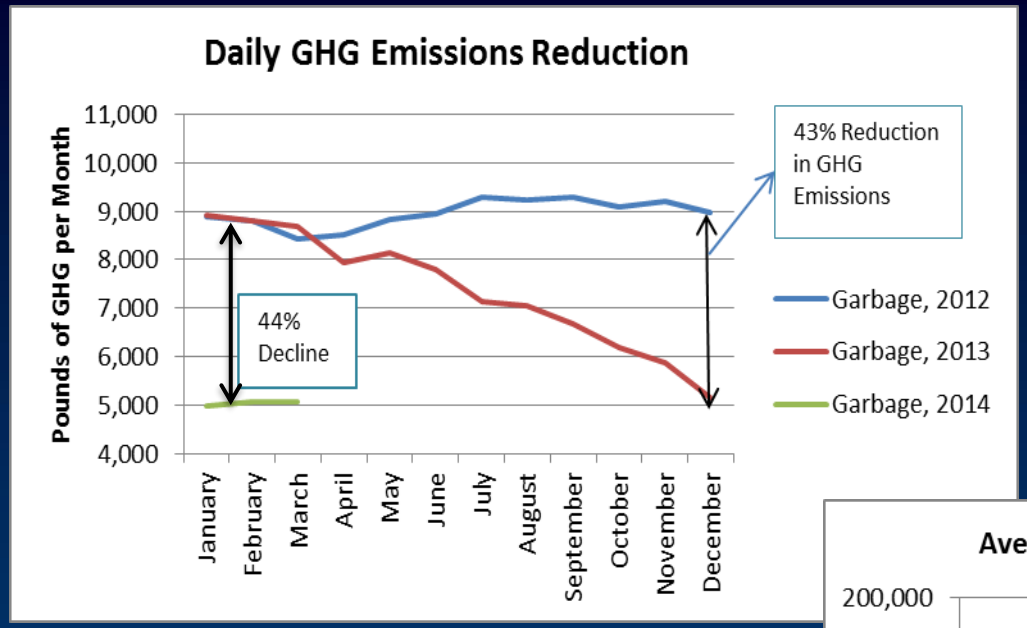


Fuel Costs per Month:

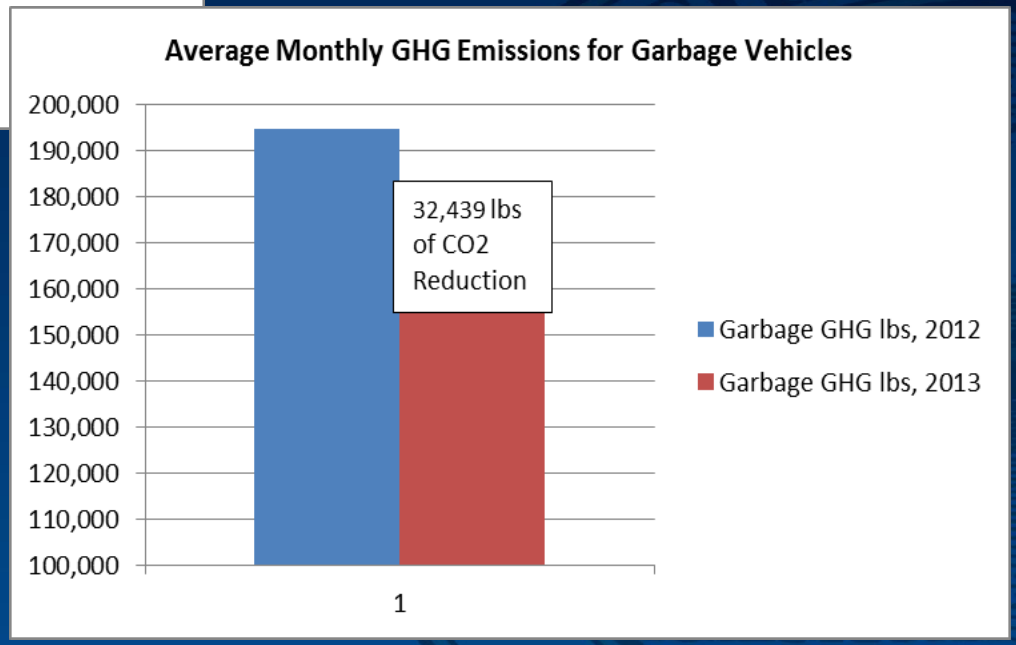
$31,320 (Non-EOW) vs. **$17,235** (EOW)

-45%

Carbon Footprint



- 920,000 lbs. less of CO2 per year



Customer Feedback

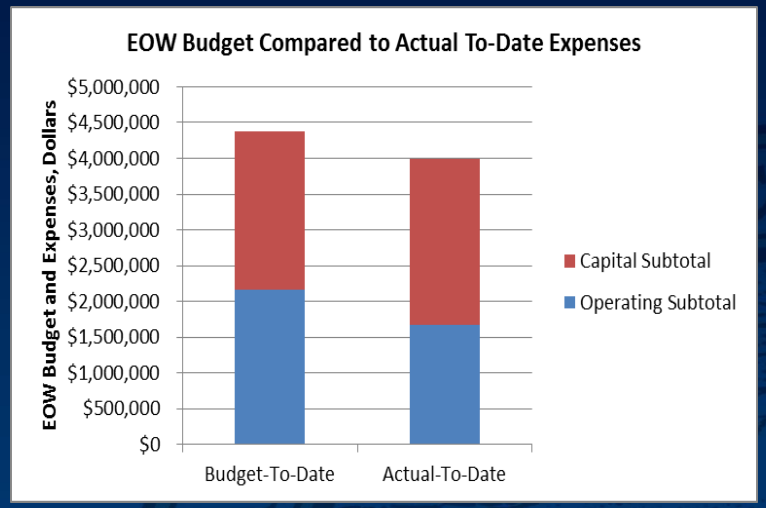
- Knock and Talk Results:

  EOW Collection
  - Positive: 74.81%
  - Neutral: 20.06%
  - Negative: 5.14%
- Knock and Talk Results:

  Food Waste Participation
  - Yes: 52.61%
  - No: 47.39%

EOW Financial Overview

- Operating Expenses: $1.7M Actual
- Capital Expenses: $2.3M
  - Includes $118K from 200 tons of recycled containers
- Projected annual fuel savings: $163K
- Projected annual operational savings: $1.02M
- Projected annual average customer savings: $53
- 0% Residential rate increases in 2013 & 2014



EOW Outcomes

- Reduced Costs ☑
- Fewer Environmental Impacts ☑
  - Reduced miles driven + fuel use ☑
  - Reduced City's carbon footprint ☑
  - Increased diversion of waste ☑
  - Lowered the cost of service to residents ☑

Glass Drop-off Boxes Overview & Objectives

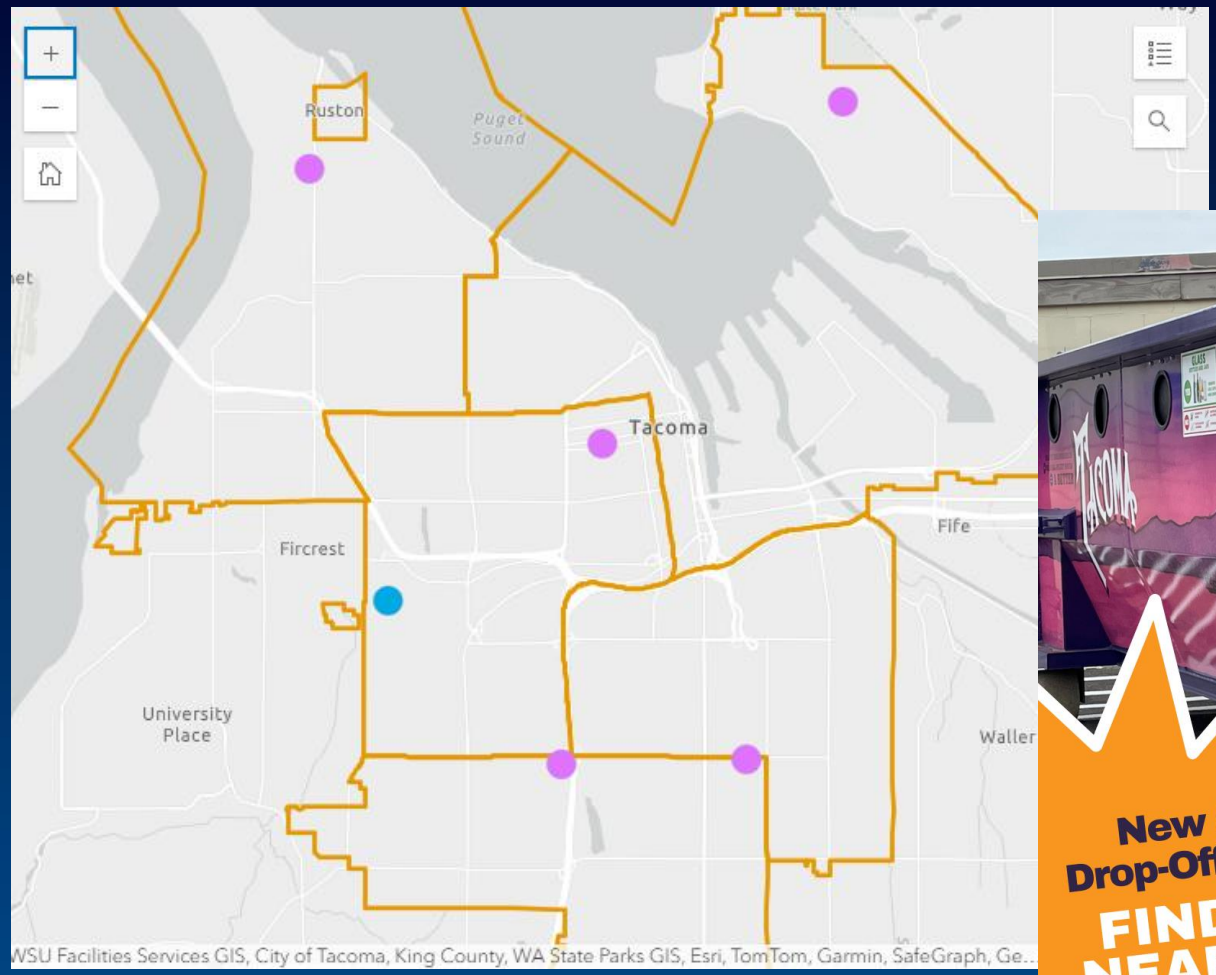
Overview

- Curbside glass collection for residential customers stopped Jan 2021
- 6 drop-off box stations throughout City

Objectives:

- Reduced labor, fuel, and equipment costs
- Reduced safety risk for drivers
- Offset some of recycle reset surcharge

Glass drop-off locations



Glass tonnage collected

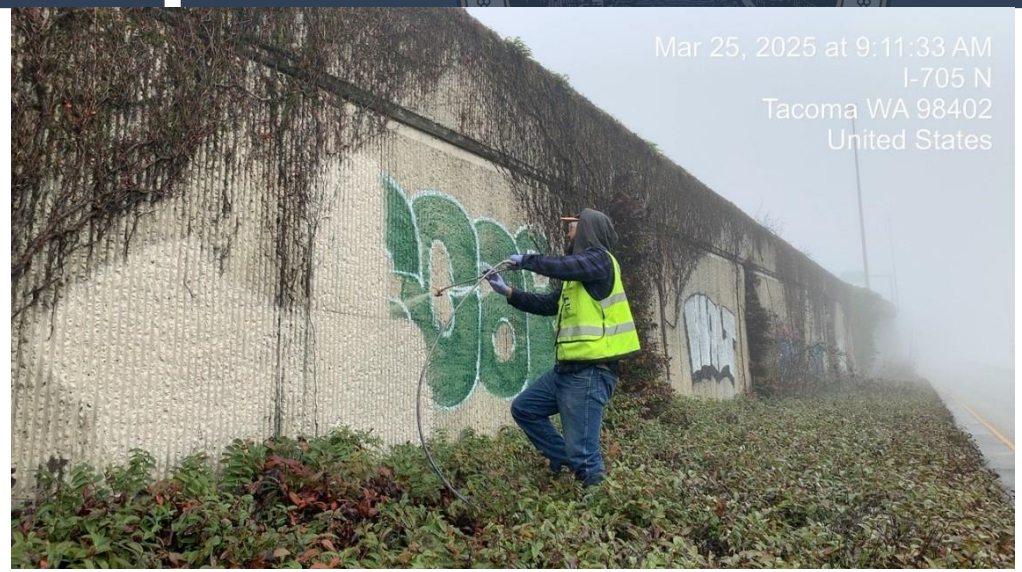
Average monthly tonnage residential glass collected:

- 2019: 171 tons/month
- 2022: 135 tons/month
- 2023: 155 tons/month

90% of pre-glass drop box tonnages collected in 2023 on a monthly basis

SR 509 & 705 Clean up

- Ground crews covered 22.8 miles and removed 33 yards of brush, trash and debris
- Sweepers removed 38.15 tons of debris



SR 509 & 705 Clean up

- Cost $17,450.31 includes labor and vehicle costs

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

March 25, 2025 at 930AM Environmental Compliance Staff responded to a SSO in the Hosmer Stormwater Holding Basin.

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

The SSO was first observed by the reporting party on March 22, 2025 but not reported until 3 days later. The total volume was estimated conservatively to be 250,000 gallons impacting the north & south Hosmer holding basins.

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

Map of Hosmer Holding Basin showing impact of SSO

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

Sewer Transmission was dispatched to the site immediately after the SSO was confirmed. By 10:30AM a blockage of heavy grease chunks and some rags was cleared from the sewer line stopping the overflow.

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

Once the sewer main blockage was cleared and restored to normal operation, Sewer Transmission cleaned the impacted surface areas.

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

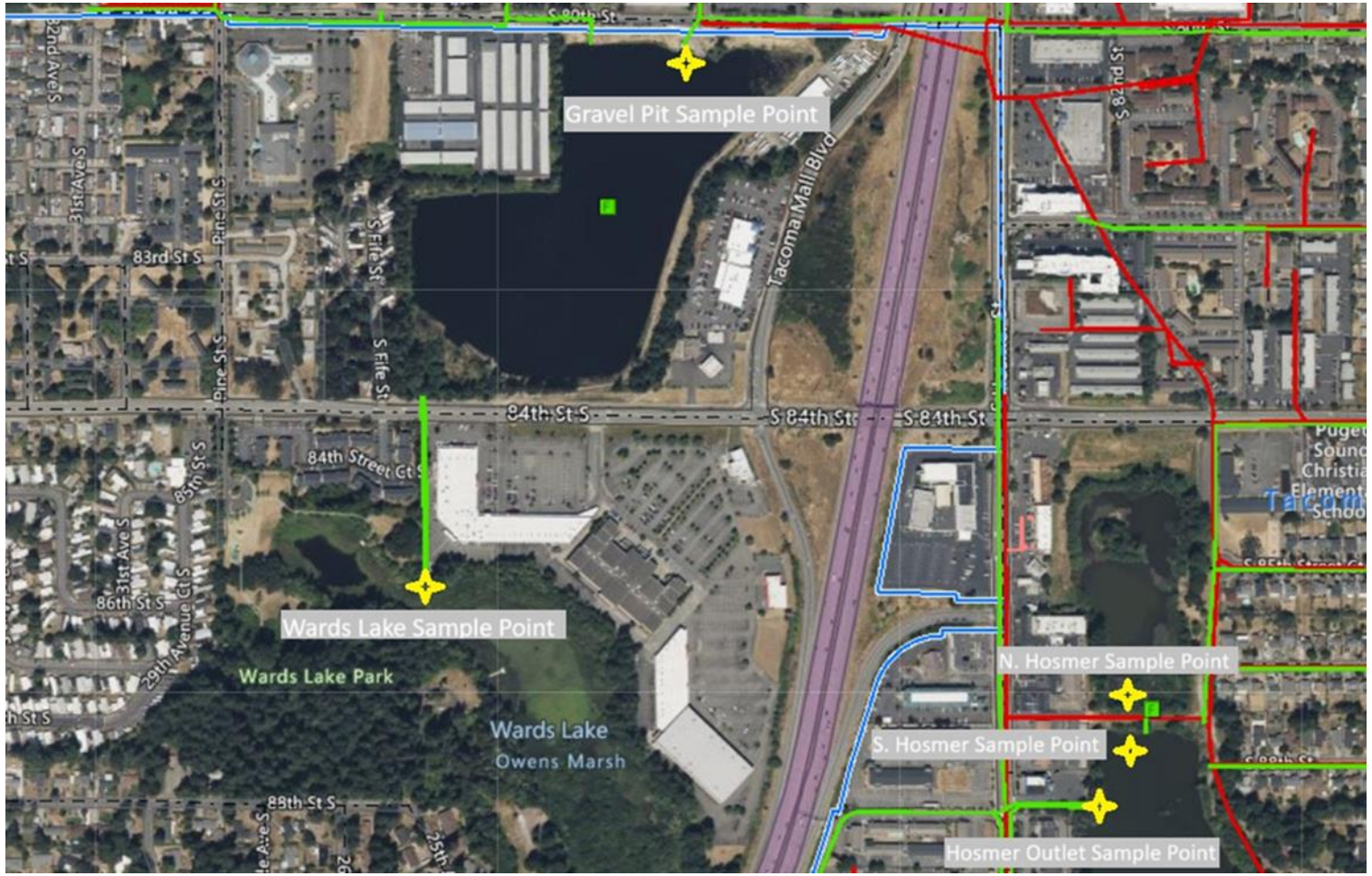
- Environmental Compliance staff reported the event to Washington Dept of Ecology, Washington Dept of Health -Shellfish and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) Environmental Health.

- TPCHD requested the City sample the impacted holding basin and downstream water bodies for E. coli.

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

Results from 3/25-3/26 samples

Sample Location	E. coli results MPN/100mL
North Hosmer Basin	1100
South Hosmer Basin	800
Hosmer Outlet	1700
Wards Lake	25
Gravel Pit	46



Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

- EC Staff followed up with TPCHD Environmental Health after results were available. TPCHD opted not to post any downstream water bodies due to holding basins being fenced/locked and not accessible to public.
- TPCHD requested Tacoma sample again the following week on April 2nd.

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

- Results from April 2nd sampling showed decreased levels of E. coli within all of the holding basins.

- EC follow-up with TPCHD Environmental Health on April 4th determined that further sampling was not warranted.

Sample Location	E. coli results MPN/100mL
North Hosmer Basin	120
South Hosmer Basin	140
Hosmer Outlet	150
Wards Lake	50
Gravel Pit	36

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

Sewer Transmission Grounds Maintenance staff applied TAGRO and seed to the impacted surface areas in the establish new growth and prevent erosion.

Hosmer Sanitary Sewer Overflow

Next Steps….

- Evaluate upstream sources of Fats, Oils, and Grease for compliance (10 Restaurants and 3 Hotels).

- Continue to evaluate preventative maintenance schedule on sewer main to prevent future backups and overflows.