

# Thanks!

Thank you for keeping Seattle a leader in Recycling + Composting!

**More Ways to Recycle — Beyond the Blue Cart**  
NEW options for getting that recyclable stuff out of your home and on its way to being reused or recycled.

- Where Does it Go Tool**  
Use the WDIG tool to find additional options to recycle, reuse, or dispose of 100s of items.  
[seattle.gov/util/wheredoesitgo](http://seattle.gov/util/wheredoesitgo)
- Recycle and Reuse Center at North Transfer Station**  
Household goods? Electronics? Clothes?  
Bring them to this Goodwill donation center. You can also drop off harder to recycle items like batteries (lithium, alkaline, and lead acid/car type), motor oil, metal, and bicycles, in addition to paper, plastic, cardboard, metal and glass. No waiting in line, and it's FREE!  
Located at 1350 N 34th Street in the Wallingford neighborhood. Open 7 days/week 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Free Recycling & Reuse Collection and Compost Giveaway Events in 2019**  
Check out our website, social media, and local news blogs for information about the events scheduled for 2019.

- Neighborhood Recycling and Reuse Collection Events**  
These events are held several times a year throughout the city. Drop off household goods, clothes, electronics, and other accepted items for recycling for free. Read event details for a complete list of accepted items.
- Free Bulk Compost Giveaways — Closing the Loop on Food Waste**  
All the food scraps, compostable plates, leaves and branches you put in your green carts and the compost bins around town are turned into rich compost. Households can come and get ½ cubic yard of bulk compost for free.  
SPU gives back thousands of pounds of compost each year to customers to thank you for composting and make it easy to close the loop and put those nutrients back into the soil.

## How LOW can you FLOW?

**What's Your Toilet's Gallons per Flush (GPF)?**

TOILET TYPE	GPF
Standard Toilet (pre-1994)	3.5
Standard Toilet (1994-present)	1.6
EPA WaterSense	≤1.28
Premium* (Rebate-eligible toilet)	≤1.1

**Reduce water use by starting with the biggest water-user in homes: the toilet!**

**\$100 Rebate to replace an old toilet\***  
For a list of eligible toilets and rebate details visit [savingwater.org](http://savingwater.org) or call 206.615.1282  
\*Rebate-eligible toilets are independently tested and proven to meet performance standards and to flush with no more than 1.1 gallons.

**Income-Qualified Free Toilets!**  
Visit [seattle.gov/util/freetoiletoffoffer](http://seattle.gov/util/freetoiletoffoffer) or call 206.448.5751

Program of Saving Water Partnership

Program of Seattle Public Utilities

**Seattle Public Utilities**  
PO Box 34027, Seattle WA 98124-4027

**Never Forget Your Recycling Day**  
Never forget when to put out your recycling with this new app for your smartphone and tablet. Recycle It helps users look up their collection day, sort items into the correct cart, and report common solid waste service issues.

**Download the Recycle It App**

**Recycle It App Info**  
[seattle.gov/util/recycle](http://seattle.gov/util/recycle)

**Tips and Information for Seattle Residents**  
**CurbWaste & Conserve**

**Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Still Important to Do Every Day**

For one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, it is more important than ever. How we reduce, reuse and recycle has changed over the years, and some communities have found new ways to do it. Proof that when we work together we can all reduce waste and our impact on the planet.

**Reduce and Reuse — to Create Less Waste**  
**"Everybody produces waste. Just by showing up to an event, people can engage with it,"** says Hannah Johnson, who has made it her business to work with organizations to find ways to reduce waste. She advocates doing what we did decades ago, like using reusable dishes instead of disposable ones and encouraging people to take only the food they will eat instead of wasting what they can't finish.

Hannah gathered colorful dishware she got through a partnership with Goodwill to put things that didn't sell in stores to use, and sewed cloth napkins instead of using disposable paper ones. To prevent wasted uneaten food, she worked with the caterers to present the food so it looked beautiful and plentiful, which encouraged people to take just the right amount. She estimates that 250 pounds of food waste was diverted as a result.

These small steps are great ways to start changing our behavior to consume less and generate less waste. Simply using durable serviceware and taking only what you're going to eat, has a big impact on the environment — especially when we do it together as a community.

**Malaysia Marshall and Gabriel Ramos worked with HumanECO to reduce waste at the Africatown event.**

**More inside ... >**

The information in this newsletter can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at **206-684-3000**. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.

## REDUCE & REUSE

# Bring Your Own

Convenient food and drinks are essential to our busy lives. That convenience comes at a price, both monetary and environmental.

The trick is making reusable things just as convenient as disposable ones. Try keeping reusable things with you. Put them in your bag, in your car, anywhere you're likely to need them. When you use reusable stuff, you save money, reduce your trash, and lessen the impacts of that trash on the environment.

### 1. BYO: WATER BOTTLE

When you use a reusable water bottle, you can keep up to 217 plastic water bottles per year out of a landfill, and save an average of \$260 per year on bottled water!



### 2. BYO: COFFEE CUP

Bring your own reusable coffee cup to the coffee shop instead of taking a disposable one. Many shops will also give you a discount for bringing your own cup, and this switch can prevent around 23 pounds of waste per year.



### 3. BYO: STRAW or JUST SAY NO TO PLASTIC STRAWS

Switch to metal, glass, paper, or compostable straws—or simply stop using straws. Americans use 500 million plastic straws a year—enough to fill more than 125 school buses with straws each day! This swap can reduce the harmful impacts of plastic straws on marine animals.



### 4. BYO: UTENSILS

Pack your own reusable utensils for meals on the go, and say, "No thank you" to plastic utensils when you order. This switch will help you reduce your contribution to the 6 million tons of disposable plastic utensils that go to landfills every year.



Learn more about how you can reuse and reduce waste:  
[seattle.gov/util/myservices/recycling/reducereuse](http://seattle.gov/util/myservices/recycling/reducereuse)

# Recycle Right

**Recycling can be confusing.** Luckily, there are 3 simple rules that cover most of what you need to know to recycle right.

1. Make sure everything is **Empty, Clean and Dry** before you recycle it
2. **Remember the Top 5:** Most recyclables fit into these 5 categories: **Paper, Cardboard, Plastic bottles and containers, Glass bottles and jars** and **Metal cans**
3. **When in doubt, find out "Where Does it Go?"** by checking our recycling guidelines at: [seattle.gov/util/wheredoesitgo](http://seattle.gov/util/wheredoesitgo)

### Do your part. Recycle Right!

## PRO TIPS FOR RECYCLING AT HOME

### 1. Should be larger than 3 inches

Small stuff falls through gaps in the sorting machines at the processing plant, cannot be captured for recycling, and end up as garbage. For plastic caps, screw them back on plastic bottles to make sure they get recycled.

### 2. No electronics

If it has a battery or has a plug, it needs to be separated into the metal, plastic and electronic components for proper recycling. TakeItBackNetwork lists places that do this on their web site.

### 3. No batteries or lightbulbs

Batteries can cause fires or explosions when tossed in the recycling. Lightbulbs break into shards of glass. Fluorescent bulbs contain toxic mercury that can be inhaled when bulbs break. PLUS, all of these can be RECYCLED when dropped off at a take back location. Call2Recycle and LightRecycle offer information on their websites.



## REDUCE

### Why Straws?

From Strawless September last year, the plastic straws and utensils ban in July 2018, and more and more stories about straws from around the world—why focus on such a small thing?

**Reducing Waste**—The ban on disposable plastic straws (and utensils) this July, was part of the law started in 2008 banning disposable to-go ware to reduce waste. The goal of the law is for all to-go food packaging to be recyclable or compostable, creating less garbage

**Reducing What We Use**—Straws, for most of us, are not necessary. A small, but important step to reducing what we use is to pause and think, "Do I really need a straw?" Choosing not to use a straw, reduces what we use, the waste we make, and is the first step to finding other things we can use less of.



### 30 Years of Curbside Collection 1988 – 2018



# Ask Evelyn

Evelyn the Envelope has been answering recycling and composting questions for over 20 years at [AskEvelyn@seattle.gov](mailto:AskEvelyn@seattle.gov) and here in the Curb Waste and Conserve newsletter.

### Dear Evelyn,

**Q** How clean does my teriyaki to-go container really need to be? A little bit of food isn't that big of a deal, right?



**A** Your to-go container should have no food left in it. Ideally, you'd give it a quick rinse with water, if you're at home, or a quick wipe with a napkin if you're out. Food and grease leads to mold and mildew that can spread to other recyclables. At that point, they are either not recyclable or end up as garbage.

The little bit of food and grease in your to-go container seems small, but it all adds up. Remember your recyclables should be empty, clean and dry.

### Hi Evelyn!

**Q** I get a weekly meal delivery service and their website says that all the packaging is recyclable or compostable. This seems too good to be true.



**A** There are a lot of meal delivery services trying to make their packaging recyclable and/or compostable. However, being recyclable and compostable does not mean that they work in our recycling and composting systems. Putting things that can't be processed in our systems causes more harm than good—the opposite of what you're hoping for.

It's hard to know exactly what each company is using. Remember these simple rules for what goes in your Recycle and Compost and you should be good to go!

### THE RECYCLE BIN



#### Top 5 categories:

- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Plastic bottles/containers
- ✓ Glass bottles/jars
- ✓ Metal cans

- ✓ AND IS ... larger than 3 inches

- ✓ AND IS ... EMPTY, CLEAN and DRY

### THE COMPOST BIN



#### All Food Waste

- ✓ Food soiled paper without a shiny coating. The shiny coating is plastic!

- ✓ Approved compostable bags and packaging. The word "compostable" will be on the item.

- ✗ Items with words like "biodegradable," "sustainable," and "plant-based" are not the same as compostable. Look up "Compostable" in the Where Does it Go Tool for more info.

Food Waste and Recyclables are banned from the garbage.  
Almost 59% of all waste is recycled or composted!