

Seattle Communities Online – Recommended Web Tools

Activities and Functions

- have conversations; debate hot issues and problem-solve  
- maintain, update and use your contact list  
- send info; e.g. meeting notices and minutes  
- create a sense of community  
- build and manage project teams 
- gather community opinions   
- make basic organizational info available  
- have a document library  

Types of tools

- blog** 
- integrated tool** 
- email newsletter tool** 
- social networking tool** 
- wiki and collaborative workspace** 
- survey tool** 
- web site building tool** 

What can you do with these tools?

- upload content frequently and always have new posts at the top of your website; allow comments from readers
- integrate your contact database with your web presence; sign-in functionality; manage/send emails; event registration
- send emails/newsletters to a large distribution list; brand your emails, distribute meeting notices and minutes
- post information targeted to people who have chosen to follow you/your organization.
- create a shared space for all community members to participate in; some tools have social networking functionality, post meeting notices and minutes
- survey your community members; compile results easily.
- edit text and images, update calendars, post contact information

Recommended Tools (free unless otherwise indicated)

-  Blogger <http://blogger.com>
WordPress <http://wordpress.com>
-  Wild Apricot <http://wildapricot.com>
-  Emma* <http://myemma.com>
Network for Good** <http://networkforgood.org>
-  Facebook <http://facebook.com>
Twitter <http://twitter.com>
-  Wetpaint <http://wetpaint.com>
Wikidot <http://wikidot.com>
Ning <http://ning.com>
-  Surveymonkey <http://surveymonkey.com>
Zoomerang <http://zoomerang.com>
-  Googlesites <http://sites.google.com>
Webli <http://weebly.com>
*** Other tools (see note)

Key

-  blog
-  integrated tool
-  email newsletter
-  social networking tool
-  wiki/collaborative workspace
-  survey tool
-  web site building tool

*Starts at \$30/month for 1000 emails per month (with 20% nonprofit discount), with varying initial fees

**\$29.95/month for up to 20,000 emails per month, with varying initial fees

***Wordpress, Wild Apricot, Wetpaint and the other Wiki tools offer web templates as well.