



Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle Clean City

Community Impact Report

2025

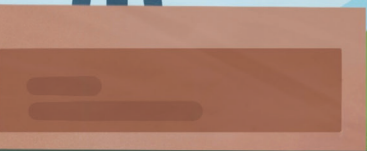


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Our team is dedicated to protecting community health and preserving the environment. We work diligently to keep Seattle's public spaces **clean, healthy, and accessible to everyone.**

Keeping Seattle Clean and Healthy

A Message from our Director

Seattle is a city that takes pride in how it serves its residents, its neighborhoods, and the world. As Seattle prepares to welcome a global audience in 2026 for the World Cup, **Seattle Clean City** is honored to play a central role in ensuring our public spaces reflect the values, care, and stewardship that define our community.

This **2025 Community Impact Report** highlights a year of meaningful progress, collaboration, and preparation. Clean City continues to advance Seattle Public Utilities' **Community-Centered, One Water, and Zero Waste** priorities while responding to the everyday needs of Seattleites. Through data-informed decision-making, we are delivering visible results that improve cleanliness, livability, and environmental outcomes across the city.

In 2025, Clean City assumed a leadership role in coordinating the City of Seattle's interdepartmental efforts to prepare for the 2026 World Cup. This work goes beyond event readiness; it reflects a citywide commitment to civic pride, shared responsibility, and welcoming the world to the Emerald City at its very best. By aligning departments, community partners, and operational resources, Clean City is helping ensure Seattle's streets, public spaces, and neighborhoods are ready to shine on a global stage.

With a **\$20 million budget**, Clean City continues to invest in strong partnerships and scalable solutions that deliver both immediate impact and long-term value. Each program we operate is an opportunity to strengthen trust, enhance access to and cleanliness in the right-of-way, and demonstrate what an effective team can achieve.

I am deeply proud of the Clean City team and their dedication to service, innovation, and collaboration. As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, we remain focused on delivering results that Seattle can be proud of—today, during moments of global attention, and for years to come.

Thank you for your part in this work and for helping make Seattle a cleaner, more welcoming, and more resilient city for all.

Lee Momon
Clean City Director



A Glance At Seattle Clean City's Impact in 2025

5.3 million or **530**

pounds of waste collected and removed from the right-of-way

orca whales



661,105

sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) collected and properly disposed of

34,700

service requests received across five Clean City programs



31,938

hours volunteered with Seattle Adopt a Street program, contributing a substantial value of **\$1,286,463** as per the Value of Volunteer Time Report for 2025



Clean Seattle Starts Here!

This report summarizes how **Seattle Public Utilities' Clean City** is improving neighborhood cleanliness, responding to illegal dumping, and partnering with communities to keep Seattle clean.

Seattle Clean City manages programs that protect the environment, maintain public access to public spaces, and promote community health. We quickly and efficiently remove litter, sharps, illegal dumping, and other hazards to keep Seattle clean and healthy.

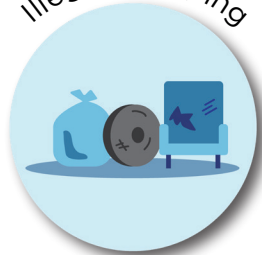
We collaborate with the community to identify areas for improvement, gather feedback, and ensure our work reflects our commitment to being community-centered. Our services are tailored to community needs, encouraging participation and fostering a vibrant, safe, and clean city for all.

Our Programs

Adopt a Street



Illegal Dumping



Litter Abatement



Public Place Litter & Recycling Cans



Sharps Collection



Unsheltered Services





Adopt a Street

Why Adopt a Street?

Because small actions lead to big **change**.

The Adopt a Street (AAS) program began in the late 1980s to inspire civic pride and keep Seattle’s neighborhoods clean and beautiful. Since then, thousands of volunteers have cared for hundreds of miles of city streets. Today, over **2,000 active participants** continue this important work.

Volunteers receive all the tools and resources they need to keep their street segments free from litter and debris. But it’s more than just cleaning – **AAS brings neighbors together**. By working side by side, participants strengthen their neighborhoods, build friendships, and take pride in making their community a better place.

Adopt a Street’s success shows the power of teamwork and shared responsibility. Together, Seattle residents help protect the environment, promote community pride, and maintain clean, welcoming streets for all.

2025 Impact:

444

New Volunteers

↓ 10% decrease

3,288

Cleanups Reported

↑ 12% increase

293,129

Pounds Collected

↑ 12% increase

32,529

hours volunteered with the Adopt a Street program, an **11% increase**



*percentage shown is compared to 2024 data

Adopt a Street



“What I appreciate most about Adopt a Street is that everyone adopts a street in their own way. Whether it’s going solo with a fresh podcast, as part of their daily commute, while walking their dog, or as a way to catch up with friends and neighbors - Adopt a Street is all about connecting with community.”



Jenny Frankl

Adopt a Street Program Manager



Trash Walkin’ is a neighborhood-wide cleanup effort that’s been picking up steam in the Mt. Baker neighborhood. They even have a mascot, Trashy! A group of 90+ neighbors are part of a google group and use it to communicate about cleanups they are doing in the neighborhood. The organizers are two Adopt a Street volunteers who teamed up last year for an Earth Day Cleanup. It has been really amazing to see how engaged this group of neighbors are in caring for their neighborhood.

A Cleaner Alki: The group’s impact is extensive, but what stands out even more is their camaraderie and sense of connectedness. A Cleaner Alki volunteers can be found across many neighborhoods, well beyond Alki, consistently showing up with a bucket, a grabber, and an undeterred resolve to tackle what others might see as impossible. Even the cake at their 2025 celebration reflects the depth of their dedication. It leaves a lasting impression.



“Pika Pickup has been an absolute joy in my life, and I am so happy Adopt a Street exists! It’s been such a wonderful way to hang out with my friends AND do something good for the city too. I’ve gotten such kind compliments from my neighbors and feel more connected with my community. I have big dreams for Pika Pickup, so watch out!” - **Vivian Wang** (Adopter nickname **Pika Pickup**), Adopt a Street volunteer



2025 Highlights

All Hands Cleanup



We hosted **10** Adopt a Street-led cleanups in 6 distinct Seattle neighborhoods to bring more AAS volunteers together.

Over **353** volunteers participated in the cleanups, contributing **800** volunteer hours and removing **13,305** pounds of trash from Seattle's streets.

Silent Disco Cleanup

This past fall, Adopt a Street teamed up with 2Loons, Secret Sunset, Caring for Capitol Hill, Hunter's Capital, Seattle Parks & Recreation, and Recology to plan Seattle's first Silent Disco Cleanup party. It was every bit as epic as it sounds.

Picture over **200** volunteers, litter grabbers in hand, dancing it out in Cal Anderson Park. The event took 'trashercising' to a whole new level.

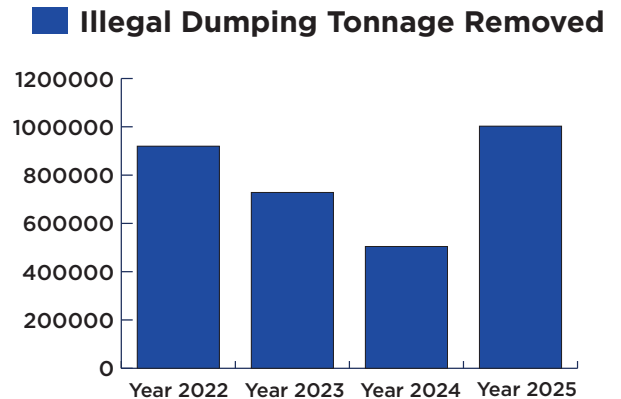




Illegal Dumping

What Is Its Impact?

Illegal dumping is a serious problem. It creates health and safety risks, damages neighborhoods, and costs taxpayers and property owners millions. In 2025, Seattle allocated over **\$1.1 million** to address cleanup efforts. Our Illegal Dumping program responds to complaints via the Find It, Fix It app and proactively cleans hotspots across the city.



99% increase

Outreach, Education, and Community Involvement

Many people are unaware of how illegal dumping and litter affect our community’s health and environment. That’s why we focus on education, prevention, and community outreach.

Examples of preventable issues include:

- Leaving items like furniture on planting strips with “Free” signs, which often leads to more illegal dumping.
- Failing to cover trash and recycling containers, allowing litter to spread in the wind.

We encourage residents to join cleanup efforts like Adopt a Street and report illegal dumping to help maintain clean and healthy neighborhoods.

Enforcement Efforts

Enforcement plays a key role in stopping illegal dumping. When violators face penalties, it sends a strong message that illegal dumping won’t be tolerated. We inspect and investigate complaints, issue fines to offenders, and safely remove dumped waste. Our daily litter abatement routes, along with community partnerships, strengthen efforts to reduce illegal dumping and keep Seattle clean.

Together, education, enforcement, and community participation help promote safe, sustainable neighborhoods for everyone.

*percentage shown is compared to 2024 data



| 2025 Highlights

We removed and disposed of **1,002,680 pounds** of illegally dumped material. This represents a 99% increase from 2024. Part of this large increase can be attributed to improved data quality, which likely contributed to undercounting tonnage in previous years.

On average, 97% of verified illegal dumping complaints were responded to, and debris was removed within 10 days or less.

Illegal dumping saw a 19% increase in service requests filed in 2024. We've been thrilled with the community's response to filing these reports, which has enabled us to model hotspots across the city and mitigate them through our proactive Litter Abatement Program routes and expanded illegal dumping camera program.

1,002,680

pounds of illegally dumped material removed and disposed.

 99% increase

97%

of verified illegal dumping complaints were responded to, and debris was removed within 10 days or less.

5 days

average response times for illegal dumping resolution.



*percentage shown is compared to 2024 data



2025 Highlights

Our team launched the Illegal Dumping Camera Pilot in 2023 to help deter illegal dumping and strengthen our enforcement efforts. The pilot deploys motion-activated cameras in dumping hotspots, issuing verbal warnings when movement is detected, and capturing images. Building on the strong results from the initial phase, the program expanded to four sites in 2025, operating from August through November. The cameras have shown encouraging impacts in discouraging illegal dumping and supporting investigations, and a fifth camera site will be added in early 2026 to continue this progress.

2025 Illegal Dumping Camera Outcomes:

S Barton st & 45th Ave s

Illegal Dumping Incidents in the Year Prior to Camera Install:
51 (80,510 lbs removed)
Reminder of 2025 Incidents: **0**

S Rose st & Wabash Ave s

Illegal Dumping Incidents in the Year Prior to Camera Install:
139 (63,074 lbs removed)
Reminder of 2025 Incidents: **1 (160 lbs removed)**

36th Ave s & S Adams st

Illegal Dumping Incidents in the Year Prior to Camera Install:
63 (47,690 lbs removed)
Reminder of 2025 Incidents: **0**

Stanley st & S Hardy st

Illegal Dumping Incidents in the Year Prior to Camera Install:
17 (13,610 lbs removed)
Reminder of 2025 Incidents: **0**

To learn more about our illegal dumping camera program, visit <https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/IllegalDumpingCameras>



Litter Abatement

Litter-Free Seattle

How do we keep our neighborhoods clean and healthy?

Our Litter Abatement Program (LAP) takes a proactive approach to address litter and illegal dumping throughout Seattle. Using planned routes, we target areas where litter, sharps, and other debris build up in public spaces. These efforts help ensure clean, welcoming neighborhoods for all residents.

Our LAP services encompass a range of essential tasks:

- Cleaning litter from streets and sidewalks.
- Emptying overflowing litter cans and collecting sharps.
- Removing bulky items and abandoned appliances from neighborhood cores and sidewalks.
- Educating retail businesses, food service establishments, and multifamily buildings on proper waste disposal, recycling, and composting practices.

By providing these services, LAP helps maintain a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment across Seattle.

“At the end of 2025, I was genuinely proud to see that the Litter Abatement Program removed more than 2 million pounds of litter from streets and sidewalks across 49 neighborhoods and during three major sports events.

The best part of the year was having the opportunity to work directly with neighborhoods that continue to be affected by ongoing litter challenges, listening to their concerns, and partnering on solutions that make a real difference.

As we look ahead to 2026, I’m excited to continue engaging with communities across Seattle to discuss our Litter Abatement Routes and collaborate on solutions to ongoing litter challenges.”

Tracy
Program Manger





2025 Impact

We removed

2,055,492

pounds of debris from 3,454 block across the city's right-of-way.

We operated

49

proactive routes

Since 2017, we collected

11,494,918

pounds of debris from Seattle's public areas.

16% increase

*percentage shown is compared to 2024 data



Before



After





World Cup Cleaning Efforts

This past summer, Clean City was proud to pitch in to support city cleaning efforts during the **Club World Cup 2025**. As part of this, we expanded our existing Litter Abatement Program routes to include supplemental routes around Lumen Field and high-traffic fan areas. Additionally, we conducted 16 RV remediations and Geo Cleans in the immediate stadium area.

Ahead of the **FIFA World Cup 2026**, Clean City is leading an interdepartmental effort on cleaning, and we look forward to using our expertise gained previously from numerous large-scale events to partner with other city departments and agencies to ensure Seattle is truly the Emerald City for visitors and residents alike throughout the summer.

With the city expecting over **750,000 visitors for the event**, this coordinated effort will help keep our streets and public spaces welcoming and vibrant. We are also preparing for an estimated **180,000 pounds** of additional poundage around the Stadium Areas, ensuring teams are ready to manage the increased demands

Trash Collected & Program Impact in CWC Zone:

# Of RV Remediations and Geo Cleans:	16
Unsheltered Services (lbs):	42,000
Litter Abatement Program routes (lbs):	79,150





Public Place Litter Recycling Cans

Why Public Litter Cans?

Our Public Place Litter & Recycling (PPLR) Cans program strategically places litter and recycling cans in or near neighborhood business districts. This reduces street litter and encourages proper disposal and recycling practices. Nearly all litter cans are paired with a recycling can to promote waste reduction.

How the Program Works

We service over **1,145 public litter and recycling cans** across Seattle, in partnership with WM and Recology. Service levels vary between 4 to 14 times per week, depending on location needs. Key program activities include:

- Managing inventory and ensuring cans are well-maintained.
- Cleaning and performing regular upkeep.
- Providing timely pick-up services.
- Contract management to maintain service standards.
- Responding promptly to customer requests, complaints, and inquiries.

By combining effective placement, regular servicing, and strong customer support, the PPLR Cans program helps keep Seattle's streets clean and promotes sustainable waste management across our communities.



2025 Impact

New Can Placements:	29
Cans Removed:	5
Total Collections:	201,968





2025 Improvements

In 2025, we replaced **100 older style cans** with key-locked cart-garage cans in the Downtown Business Core.

These can upgrades allowed us to find **efficiencies in collection frequency** for these neighborhoods, due to issues such as overflows, illegal dumping, and scatter that the newer style cans help to reduce. The new cans have **decreased the instances of illegal dumping, vandalism, and scatter** from overflowing cans significantly in 2025.



We teamed up with a local artist to add artwork to cans in Capitol Hill as part of a pilot aimed at reducing vandalism.

Newer Designs





Sharps Collection

How and Where?

Our Sharps Collection Program is essential for maintaining the safety and health of the city by offering a secure disposal method for “sharps” such as needles, syringes, and lancets. The program ensures prompt removal of sharps from public property within 24 hours and provides accessible sharps disposal boxes throughout the city. Residents can safely and efficiently dispose of sharps, minimizing the risk of injury or illness for the public and sanitation workers.

There are currently **23 sharps disposal boxes** located across the city.



2025 Impact

We collected

661,105

sharps from sharps disposal boxes.

We recieved

1,529

requests for sharps pickups resulting in

5,591

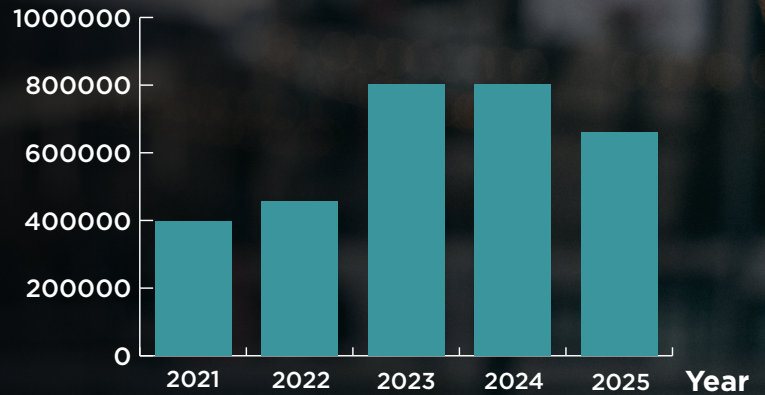
sharps collected, a 57% increase.

99%

of those service requests received a response within a 24-hour timeframe.

Additionally, we upgraded 2 needle box sites at Cal Anderson Park and Rainier Ave S & I-90 Trail located at 1199 Hiawatha Pl S. These new box models help discourage vandalism and enhance operability for those using them to safely dispose of sharps. Finally, we conducted 12 outreach events in the community, which trained 198 people in safe sharps disposal.

Needles Collected



*percentage shown is compared to 2024 data



Unsheltered Services

How Do We Help?

Our Unsheltered Services focuses on serving the unsheltered community with programs that prioritize public health and minimize the environmental impacts of RV and tent encampment living. Our **RV Remediation, Geo Cleans, and Encampment Trash Programs** provide essential services that support the removal of garbage, debris, and spills generated by RV and tent encampments citywide. The program educates encampment residents on proper waste disposal, fosters sanitary living conditions, and promotes environmental sustainability.

We implement our programs and initiatives in partnership with the Seattle Unified Care Team (UCT), an interdepartmental team working to ensure Seattle's public spaces, sidewalks, and streets remain clean and accessible to all.

*The UCT comprises representatives from Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Seattle Human Services Department (HSD), Seattle Police and Fire Departments, and Seattle Finance and Administrative Services (FAS).





Encampment Trash Program

Our Encampment Trash Removal Program (ETP), also known as the Purple Bag program, offers proactive weekly garbage service to 41 selected unauthorized encampments. The primary objective is to manage garbage collection and enhance encampment conditions while mitigating public health and safety risks associated with community trash accumulation.

In partnership with contracted outreach partners, we distribute purple garbage bags to encampment residents. Our program activities include distributing designated purple garbage bags and collecting and disposing of garbage, bulky items, and hazardous materials. We collaborate closely with the Unified Care Team (UCT), community stakeholders, and advocates to tackle encampment trash issues.

Waste is collected weekly and situated at least 20 feet away from unauthorized encampments to avoid inadvertently collecting personal property. Additionally, the program involves site assessments, data collection, and outcome reporting to ensure effectiveness and accountability.

2025 Impact

We serviced an average of **41** unauthorized encampments and collected **716,014** pounds of trash and debris. Our team engaged with **2,481** encampment residents, distributing **19,419** Purple Bags.



ETP Greenbelt Deep Cleans

As part of the growth of the ETP program, we expanded in May to include strategic deep cleaning in greenbelts in need. Working in the West Duwamish Greenbelt, Longfellow Creek Greenspace, and Westcrest Park, we removed **81,760 lbs** of debris during this project.

“Addressing the public health challenges facing the unhoused community is a daunting project, but community partnerships like this one allow us to find efficient ways to address multiple issues at once—from waste management, to preventing the spread of infectious disease, to overdose prevention. As a nonprofit facing the funding challenges all nonprofits face, it is meaningful to have programs like this one, which demonstrate the city’s investment in the work we are doing to reach people living outside.”

—Hepatitis Education Project Outreach Team

2025 Impact

Greenbelt Deep Clean at Westcrest Park resulting in **40,960** pounds removed



Before



After



Geo Cleans

We conduct Geo Cleans to address growing community concerns associated with public health and safety risks involving clusters of RVs. This initiative provides a swift and consistent response to mitigate ongoing trash and debris from recreational vehicles (RVs) located throughout City neighborhoods.

The identified sites for Geo Clean routes are addressed weekly. The main objectives include improved access to the right-of-way and minimizing public health and safety hazards associated with RV camping.

2025 Impact

We conducted **1,190** Geo Cleans, collecting **728,315** total pounds of trash and debris from RV sites along the right of way.





| RV Remediation

Our RV Remediation Program addresses the environmental and community health impacts of waste and debris produced by recreational vehicles (RVs) and other vehicles occupying the public right-of-way. Launched in 2017, these efforts are implemented by SPU and performed in collaboration with Seattle's Unified Care Team (UCT).

Our objectives include improving public access to the right-of-way, protecting environmental health by preventing trash, debris, and pollutants from entering our waterways, minimizing public health and safety hazards associated with RV camping, and providing a clean space to our neighbors.

RV sites are prioritized for remediation based on public safety risks, environmental impacts, and right-of-way accessibility concerns, such as blocked sidewalks, hazardous waste, and infrastructure impacts. SPU coordinates with outreach and housing service providers to ensure RV residents are offered services and opportunities for voluntary compliance prior to enforcement actions. **SPU's vehicle support pilot**, launched in 2022, continued to grow in 2025, providing basic but essential assistance such as gas, jump starts, and tire repair to help residents relocate voluntarily and reduce the need for impounds.

2025 Impact

We conducted **102** RV Remediations, collecting **469,573** total pounds of trash and debris from RV sites along the right-of-way.

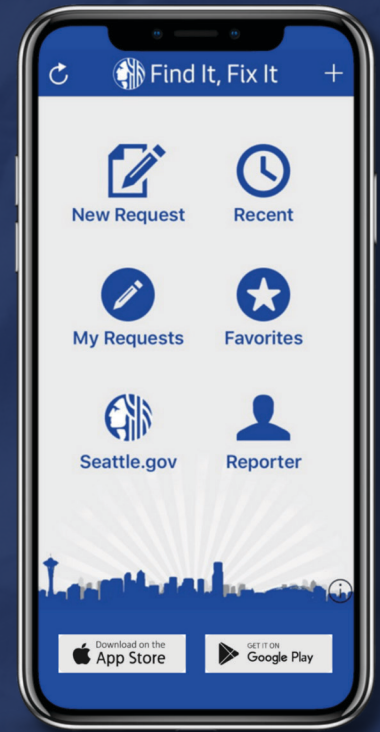


Seattle Clean City is built on a simple idea: when government, communities, and local partners work together, we can create cleaner and more welcoming neighborhoods across Seattle. Through targeted litter abatement, illegal dumping response, community partnerships, and new infrastructure investments, the program continues to deliver measurable improvements in the city's public spaces.

Help us keep Seattle clean and healthy!

Through Seattle's **Find It, Fix It (FIFI) app**, you can report needles, illegal dumping, and much more. With Find It, Fix It, reporting an issue is as easy as snapping a photo with your smartphone, adding detailed information, and hitting submit. The map's "drag and drop" feature or the phone's own technology can be used to pinpoint the location. You can also report online at seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau and by phone at (206) 684-7587.

Download Find It, Fix It (FIFI) on App Store or Google Play



Contact Us!

Call Seattle Clean City at (206) 684-7587
For language interpretation, call (206) 684-3000



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