

Seattle Takes Big Steps Toward Zero Waste



Seattle has long been a leader in materials management and waste prevention, and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) works with community and industry partners to help us achieve our vision of a zero-waste future.

Through implmentation of our 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update, we are building towards a circular economy, where all materials with value are reused or recycled, and nothing is wasted.

The EPA estimates about 42% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are caused by making, transporting, and disposing of materials.

In alignment with industry best practices, we are looking at the whole life cycle of how materials are produced so we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, eliminate waste and toxics, and conserve natural resources.

By focusing on waste prevention, we are addressing the root causes of waste and reducing harmful impacts to public health and our environment.

Visit **seattle.gov/utilities/2022swplan** to learn more about the plan and watch videos on Food Waste Prevention, Climate and Waste, Moving Upstream to Zero Waste, and more.

What to do with old batteries & outdated electronics?



As of January 1, 2024, batteries and electronics are no longer allowed in the garbage to protect SPU employees, community health, and our environment.

Batteries and electronic products contain heavy metals and other hazardous substances that can pose risks to human health and the environment if disposed in landfills. Batteries are also the leading cause of fires in SPU's Transfer Stations.

These items require separate collection to ensure safe handling, disposal, and recycling. Customers can dispose of batteries and electronics through SPU's Special Item Pickup service for residential customers. There are also multiple options for dropping off the items for proper disposal.

Visit atyourservice.seattle.gov and search "batteries" to learn more and get disposal options on the Where Does it Go tool (seattle.gov/utilities/batteries).



@SeattleSPU



The Seattle Public Utilities Vault

Preserving our city's infrastructure history

On the 47th floor of the Seattle Municipal Tower lies a treasure trove of history, but it's not what one might expect. The Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Engineering Records Center, known as the "Vault," serves as a living chronicle and an invaluable resource for the vital infrastructure that supports Seattle's communities.



"Our purpose is to archive engineering records that represent the utilities and roadways in use by the public," says Geoffrey Brown, Engineering Records Center Supervisor. These records include original documents showing the placement of neighborhoods, pipes, pump stations, and other details. "Researchers can metaphorically pull the slider back through time to see the evolution of our city's infrastructure," he adds.

"We have original drawings for projects like the Cedar River Pipeline's wood stave pipes, the Volunteer Park water tower, the Denny Regrades, the West Seattle Bridge, and the Madison Bus Rapid Transit project," Brown says, highlighting the significance of the thousands of artefacts in the Vault.



"In July 2022, we launched Seattle Digital Infrastructure Records (SeaDIR), a digital platform that allows public access to our digitized records from home," Brown explains. The database boasts over 410,000 scanned artifacts, which are available to the public through an online platform called Seattle Digital Infrastructure Records.

Visit **atyourservice.seattle.gov** and search for "vault" to learn more.



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Need a little extra help with your utility bills?

We offer bill assistance programs for our residential customers to help them get caught up and stay caught up on their utility bills.

Utility Discount Program

Income-eligible customers can enroll in the City of Seattle's Utility Discount Program, which offers a 60% discount on future Seattle City Light bills and a 50% discount on future Seattle Public Utilities bills.

Emergency Assistance

It's easier than ever to qualify for the Emergency Assistance Program to receive immediate help. Income-eligible customers can receive up to a maximum of \$507 or \$1014 for households with children under 18 in 2024.

Find Out if You Qualify

Learn more at seattle.gov/ UtilityBillHelp and visit seattle. gov/utilities/your-services/ discounts-and-incentives to learn about programs that SPU offers to help customers save money and the environment.

Contact Us

24/7 Emergency Services

(e.g. flooding, water leaks, sewer backups)

• (206) 386-1800

Report Problems

(e.g. graffiti, illegal dumping, needles)

- www.seattle.gov/utilities
- www.seattle.gov/finditfixitapp
- (206) 684-7587

Customer Service

- www.seattle.gov/utilities
- www.seattle.gov/utilities/emailus
- (206) 684-3000 M-F, 7:30am-6pm