



Solid Waste Utility

Nov/Dec 2019

Feed Bellies, Not Bins



The holidays bring together family and friends, and food. Lots of food. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that after Thanksgiving, 35 percent of purchased meat--over 245 million pounds of turkey--end up in garbage bins. What can you do to prevent wasted food this holiday season?

- **Prepare smart:** Get a headcount. Try the [Guest-imator](#) menu planner or prepare $\frac{3}{4}$ portion per person, as there will be plenty to eat. Encourage guests to bring containers for taking home leftovers.
- **Shop smart:** Make a shopping list and shop in your own kitchen first. Remember, food is often good to use after “sell by” or “best by” dates, which indicate freshness, not safety. Use your senses.
- **Serve smart:** Provide smaller plates to help control portion size and allow guests to serve themselves to minimize plate waste.
- **Store smart:** Portion and store leftovers in clear containers. Freeze items you will not be able to eat in time.

Learn about the psychology behind [wasted food](#) and [tools you can use](#).

Waste Prevention Leaders: Ms. Gross' Math Class



On November 20, seven students in Grade 7 and 8, representing Ms. Gross's math class at McKnight Middle School, shared with city council their projects on making a positive environmental impact. Through research, data collection, and mathematical calculation, students explored topics such as composting, plastic waste, plant-based eating, reducing garbage, and conserving water using soil moisture meters. Projects culminated in a presentation to an expert panel.

When students asked how the City might support reducing environmental impacts, councilmembers applauded students' interest and invited them to speak at a future council meeting to jumpstart policy conversations. Councilmembers also emphasized the importance of young people taking an active role in the policy-making process and the impact it could have in Renton and in the State Legislature.

We thank Ms. Gross and her math students for their waste prevention efforts and look forward to seeing them at a future council meeting.

Know someone in the community who leads the way in preventing waste? Send a nomination to oscott@rentonwa.gov.

Did You Know?



Winter weather and road conditions may impact your curbside waste collection. For single-residential customers:

- Remove your carts from the curb by 6 p.m.
- Recycling and garbage carts will be collected on Saturday immediately following the missed collection.
- Organics cart will be collected on the next regularly scheduled collection day the following week.

For more details, visit [Solid Waste Utility](#). For updates during inclement weather, follow the [City of Renton](#) on social media or visit [Republic Services](#).

Give with Purpose



This holiday season, channel your love and good intentions to truly make a difference.

- Take action or volunteer in your community to make a positive change.
- Gift experiences, not things.
- Donate in one's name to a cause they care about.
- Reuse or upcycle materials to make cards, gifts, or gift wrap.



Clean Sweep Collection Through 12/28

Schedule one free pick-up of extra garbage in 2019. For City of Renton's single-family residential garbage customers only.

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