



Solid Waste Utility

Apr/May 2021

Compost Improves the Health of Soil and the Environment

Did you know that the healthier the soil, the healthier our air, water, and landscape? Undisturbed native soil teems with micro-organisms that maintain the soil's food web and structure. This helps the soil serve many functions from filtering pollutants and storing water, to supplying plants with nutrients and antioxidants. Without this healthy ecosystem, soil that has been overused or disturbed through construction or development cannot function properly.

To improve the [health of your soil](#) this spring, amend it with compost:

- Add 1 to 2 inches on garden beds
- Rake ½ to ¾ inch on lawns
- Till 1 to 4 inches in new garden beds or lawns.



High quality compost helps build healthy soil, allowing plants to access water and nutrients when needed. This means you save on fertilizer and water. Also, purchasing compost made with organics materials collected from curbside recycling programs supports the region's recycling system and ensures natural resources like food scraps are reused. Visit Cedar Grove's [Compost Days](#) for compost use tips, videos, and discounts good through April 26. To learn more about building soil, register for the free [Healthy Soils](#) gardening class on April 24.

Mini Recycle Event on May 15



The Solid Waste Utility will host three mini recycle events this year. Collecting scrap metals and Styrofoam, the first event will be on May 15 from 10am to 2pm at Renton Technical College. Acceptable metals include items like water heaters, lawn mowers, and bikes; be sure to remove all non-metal parts and liquids. Styrofoam may be in the form of

blocks or peanuts. Bubble wrap is also acceptable. For a full list of acceptable items and COVID-19 guidelines review the recycle events [brochure](#). Local drop-off locations for recycling other materials like batteries, concrete, clean wood, auto fluids, plastic bags, and household items are listed on the [Renton Recycling Resources](#) flyer or on [What Do I Do With](#) when searching by material.

Recycle Paint for Free with the New PaintCare Program

Recycling paint just got easier! As of April 1, Washington's new PaintCare Program allows for free recycling of latex paint, oil-based paint, stain, varnish, and more. Visit [PaintCare](#) to find a drop-off location along with acceptable products and guidelines. To conserve resources and save money, visit [Paint Smarter](#) for tips on buying the right amount of paint, storing it properly, and ideas for using or giving away leftover paint.



Earth Day Bingo Challenge

Challenge yourself, family, and friends to conserve resources and prevent waste in new ways. By taking one action at a time and making it a habit, we can collectively make big strides toward protecting the Earth's resources. [Download](#) the Earth Day bingo card and make every day Earth Day!



April 24: Shred-A-Thon, and Prescription Drug Take Back

Need to shred documents with personal information or dispose of unwanted medications? Then do not miss this no-contact, drive-through event on Saturday, April 24, from 9am to 12pm at Renton Memorial Stadium! Food donations will also be accepted for the food bank. View important guidelines [here](#).



Gardening Classes (Online)

[Saving Water Partnership](#) (Free)
Tue, 4/27, 6pm Small-space Food Gardening

Thu, 5/6, 6:30pm Easy Peasy Edibles

Wed, 5/19, 5pm Automatic Sprinkler Systems

[Growing Groceries Class Series](#)
(\$5 Donation suggested)

Wed, 4/14, 7pm Tomato Family

Wed, 4/28, 7pm Weeds and Water

Wed, 5/12, 7pm Integrated Pest Management

Wed, 5/26, 7pm Cucumber Family

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