



# Solid Waste Utility

Oct/Nov/Dec 2018

## Waste Prevention Leaders: Claudia and Edwin



Claudia and Edwin Gillispie really know how to prevent waste. From saving leftover communion crackers for backyard birds to building tables from salvaged wood, this Renton Highlands couple makes waste prevention a daily, creative experience. As children of the Depression, they

learned not to waste when they were young. In their retirement, they have continued to advocate for waste prevention by volunteering at Renton's Recycle Events. For over ten years, they helped staff the plastics station, where they once encountered a resident with two plastic chairs that could not be accepted at the event. Instead of telling the owner to dispose of them elsewhere, Claudia and Edwin asked to have the chairs. The two chairs are now a fixture of their backyard, where they face a homemade fountain made out of repurposed and salvaged materials.

**"Be careful what you buy! You're gonna have to get rid of it someday." - Claudia**

Here are more ways Claudia and Edwin prevent waste:

- Use a wood chipper to turn downed branches into mulch
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn
- Compost produce scraps in a backyard composter

We are honored to name Claudia and Edwin Renton's first Waste Prevention Leaders, in recognition of their wholehearted efforts at preventing waste in our community.

*Know someone who loves to reduce, reuse, repair, or recycle? Help recognize community members who lead the way in preventing waste. Send your nomination to [mheubach@rentonwa.gov](mailto:mheubach@rentonwa.gov).*

## Combat Wasted Food This Fall



Fall brings many opportunities for sharing good food with friends and family. The key to success, without wasting food? Planning. From a simple dinner to an elaborate Thanksgiving meal, [SaveTheFood](#) has tons of easy meal planning, cooking and storing tips to ensure everyone is full and happy without food going to waste. Its [Guest-imator](#) calculator and [Alexa Skill](#) will make great additions to anyone's cooking arsenal to combat wasted food. Considering that on average, a family of four throws away \$1,500 each year on uneaten food, every little bit helps.



## Casting Call

Looking for volunteers of all ages to participate in a recycling photo shoot for Solid Waste Utility's outreach and education materials. To participate contact Meara at [mheubach@rentonwa.gov](mailto:mheubach@rentonwa.gov).



## Plastic Bag Recycling

To address any confusion over where to recycle plastic bags: please recycle acceptable plastic bags, films and wraps in plastic bag recycle bins at [local grocery stores](#). They hinder the recycling process when placed in curbside recycling carts. Thanks to the reader who contacted us for clarification after reading "What Types of Plastic Bags Can Be Recycled" in the [Aug/Sept edition](#).



## [Wastemobile](#) (Free)

Drop off acceptable household hazardous materials.

Fri 10/12- Sun 10/14, 10am to 5pm  
McLendon Hardware parking lot

## [Run Wild in Renton!](#)

Fri 10/12, 5 to 8pm - Salmon Bake  
Sat 10/14 (Free)  
9 to 11am - Run Wild 5k  
Salmon themed events all day  
4pm - Night Market

## [Auto Leak Workshop](#) (Free)

Learn maintenance basics with option to have vehicle inspected.

Sat 10/20, 9am to 1pm  
Sat 11/17, 9am to 1pm  
Sat 12/8, 9am to 1pm  
South Seattle College

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