



# Solid Waste Utility

July/Aug 2019

## Plastic Free July: Choose to Refuse This Summer



We all know that plastic pollution is a big problem. At the same time, we often choose single-use plastic because of ease, convenience, or habit. We might justify our choice for single-use plastic by saying “it is free”, “it can be recycled”, or “that is how the product comes packaged”. We distance ourselves from plastic pollution by blaming others who mismanage their

waste. Let us face the truth. By consuming single-use plastic, we are contributing to [plastic pollution](#), and recycling is not the answer.

So what can you do? Refuse single-use plastic, [one item at a time](#). Do it in a way that works for your lifestyle and make it a part of your everyday routine. [The Plastic Free July Challenge](#) makes this process easy with ideas, resources, and support to help you along the way. By joining this global challenge, you are choosing to care. By taking action, you are choosing to be part of the solution. By sharing this challenge and your story with others, you are amplifying the collective effort to protect the planet and communities everywhere. This summer, make it your goal to refuse single-use plastic.

## Waste Prevention Leaders Chris and Jan Devey



Chris and Jan Devey are Stop & Swap heroes. At last year’s event—their first ever—Chris and Jan helped a family that had recently moved to Renton, to furnish their empty apartments. Noticing that Chris had a truck, someone asked him if he could help transport the furniture his family had collected at the event. Chris and Jan agreed, and they ended up moving three to four full truckloads. “I was

overwhelmed,” said Chris. “The family didn’t have anything. The apartment was empty. They had zero.” Chris even considered going home to get his Dodge Ram to help carry even more. By the end of the day, Chris and Jan had essentially furnished the family’s two apartments, all with items donated at Stop & Swap.

**“If something can be reused or fixed up, don’t waste it.” — Jan**

We are humbled by Chris and Jan’s selflessness in supporting new members of our community, and we are honored to name Chris and Jan Renton’s newest Waste Prevention Leaders.

*We love recognizing people in the community who lead the way in preventing waste. Know someone who loves to reduce, reuse, repair, or recycle? Send your nomination to [jkim@rentonwa.gov](mailto:jkim@rentonwa.gov).*

## Green Day at Farmers Market



July 30 is Green Day at the [Renton Farmers Market](#). Come get fresh produce, support local farming, and learn how you can reduce your environmental impact on the planet. Remember to bring reusable bags! The market is open Tuesdays, June through September from 3-7pm at Piazza Park, with weekly [themes and events](#).

## Food Code Public Meeting

Proposed changes to Washington’s retail food code, in alignment with FDA’s updated food code, is available for review and comment. It includes an [amendment](#) (p.56) regarding filling of reusable containers at food establishments. [Presentations and a webinar](#) are available in July for questions and comments, with a presentation on July 23 from 1 to 3pm at Renton Technical College, Blencoe Auditorium.



## [Natural Gardening Class – Free](#)

**Th 7/18, 5pm:** Unthirsty Landscapes with Marianne Binetti at King County Water District 90 in Renton. Please [register](#).

## [One Time Volunteer Opportunities](#)

**Fri 7/5, 8am:** “After the 4<sup>th</sup> of July” Clean Up  
**Sat 7/27, 10am:** Downtown Clean Up

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