



**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**

# AT YOUR SERVICE

Information about your water, drainage, wastewater, and solid waste utility services.

## Have a "Where Does it Go?" Question? Ask Evelyn!

Do you have questions about recycling, garbage, or compost? *Ask Evelyn* has answers! Each week, Seattle Public Utilities' solid waste experts Becca Fong and Pat Kaufman host an Instagram Live conversation to talk trash and answer your most pressing "where does it go?" questions. Here are a few of their top Q & A's:

**Q: I have extra recycling that won't fit in my bin. What should I do with it?**

A: Putting out extra recycling is free and easy! Simply put your extras in a cardboard box or paper bag next to your recycling cart. Just be sure to limit it to 1 extra "unit" (no bigger than your recycling cart) of recycling per collection day.

**Q: My takeout container says "made from trees" on it. Can I put it in the compost?**

A: Does it say "compostable" on it? If yes, it can go in the compost. If not, make sure it's clean, dry, and empty and put it in the recycling. Can't clean it? Toss it in the trash.

**Q: Can I compost my dog's poop?**

A: Nope! Here's why: pet waste may contain bacteria and micro-organisms like Roundworm, E. coli, and Giardia. Our compost facilities are not set up to deal with disease-causing organisms, so put the poo in the garbage!

**Q: What should I do with expired medications and empty prescription bottles?**

A: Find a place to safely dispose of medications at [medicinereturn.org](https://www.medicinereturn.org). Empty prescription bottles should always go in the garbage, but other empty pill bottles like the ones that hold aspirin or vitamins can go in the recycling.

**Q: Are flushable wipes really flushable?**

A: Yikes, no! Even if they say "flushable" on the package, wipes can clog pipes. All wipes should go in the garbage.



Don't see the answer you're looking for? Check out recordings of all past shows on social media. Still can't find your answer? DM us on social media or send an email to [AskEvelyn@seattle.gov](mailto:AskEvelyn@seattle.gov).

## Fall is Coming: Remember to Rake Your Leaves!

During the stormy fall season, fallen leaves can clog street drains, causing stormwater to flood our streets and sidewalks. We need your help to prevent clogged storm drains in your neighborhood!

- Rake leaves that fall in your yard or on your sidewalk or parking strip.
- Use the leaves for mulch or put them in your food and yard waste cart. No room in your cart? Place extra yard waste in paper yard waste bags and set them out next to your cart on collection day.

### FREE Extra Yard Waste Pickup November 1-30

As a thanks for raking your leaves, you can put out up to 10 bags of extra yard waste per collection day for free in November!



**Don't let your utility bills stress you out.**

**Sign up for a flexible payment plan.**



Call us today at (206) 684-3000 or log in at [myutilities.seattle.gov](https://myutilities.seattle.gov).



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## Seattle Public Utilities Awards \$50,000 to Support Food Rescue Innovation

The COVID-19 pandemic has inspired communities across our city to develop and implement solutions to urgent problems confronting Seattle's neighbors. One of the most urgent problems is food insecurity. In 2019, Feeding America estimated that over 250,000 people in King County didn't have enough food to lead healthy lives. Since then, the pandemic has made the problem even worse.

One promising approach to addressing hunger in our community is through food rescue—taking good, nutritious, surplus food and getting it to those experiencing food insecurity. Plus, food rescue has the added benefit of protecting the environment by keeping uneaten food out of landfills, where it creates greenhouse gasses like methane that contribute to climate change.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is proud to announce the award of \$50,000 to two organizations dedicated to addressing food insecurity through food rescue innovation. The funds, part of SPU's Seattle Water and Waste Innovation funding program, will support the awardees' efforts to innovatively reduce food waste in a meaningful way.



267 pounds of plums await delivery to the White Center Food Bank. Photo courtesy of City Fruit.

**City Fruit**, a nonprofit that harvests fruit from public and private urban fruit trees for food banks and meal programs, was awarded \$25,000. They will use the funds to support their annual harvest and scale up their operations to increase the amount of fruit they collect and distribute to the community. ([cityfruit.org](http://cityfruit.org))

**For All**, a nonprofit that recovers surplus food from grocery stores and distributes it through programs like Meals for Kids and the Free Burrito Project, was also awarded \$25,000. For All will use the funds to scale up and stabilize their operations through added volunteer and staff support, as well as review its grocery rescue process to identify barriers to waste reduction. ([freefoodforall.org](http://freefoodforall.org))

Both awardees fill unique gaps in the food rescue system, and SPU looks forward to working closely with them to help guide the future of food rescue in Seattle.

Learn more about Seattle Public Utilities' work to address food insecurity and mitigate the environmental impacts of food waste through food rescue innovation at [bit.ly/SPUfoodrescue](http://bit.ly/SPUfoodrescue).

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

如需口譯服務請電 206-684-3000。

통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

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Para servicios de traducción, por favor, llame al 206-684-3000.

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.

Muốn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch xin gọi số 206-684-3000.

## Volunteer to Protect Our Environment

Looking for a way to get outside and show the environment and community some love? We've got you covered!

### Adopt-a-Street

You commit to cleaning up litter along a street of your choice, we provide cleanup supplies, safety equipment, and free litter bag pickup following your cleanup.

### Storm Drain Stenciling

Stenciling storm drains helps remind the community that if they pour a pollutants into a storm drain, they will end up in our local streams, lakes, or Puget Sound.

### Graffiti Cleanup

Want to clean up graffiti in your neighborhood? We'll provide the paint and supplies!

Learn more about all of these great volunteer opportunities at [seattle.gov/protecting-our-environment/volunteer](http://seattle.gov/protecting-our-environment/volunteer).



## Contact Us

### 24/7 Emergency Services

(e.g. urgent flooding, hydrant leaks)

- (206) 386-1800

### Report Problems

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

- [seattle.gov/utilities](http://seattle.gov/utilities)
- [seattle.gov/finditfixitapp](http://seattle.gov/finditfixitapp)
- (206) 684-7587

### Customer Service

- [myutilities.seattle.gov](http://myutilities.seattle.gov)
- [seattle.gov/utilities/EmailUs](mailto:seattle.gov/utilities/EmailUs)
- (206) 684-3000 Mon-Fri, 7:30am-6pm

