

APRIL 2020



Earth Day AT 50!

Celebrate 50 years of Earth Day! Our region faces many environmental challenges but also vast opportunities to take action. The City of Renton is committed to preserving and protecting natural resources, while providing a safe and healthy city for current and future generations. As the city finds new ways to reduce its environmental footprint, you can help by taking action to conserve resources and save money.

» **SAVE TREES** by switching to online bill pay, [opting out of junk mail](#), recycling non-shredded paper, and buying recycled-content paper.

» **BEAUTIFY YOUR LANDSCAPE** with [natural gardening](#) to [conserve water](#) and prevent [stormwater pollution](#). Practice social distancing and grow your own food to improve your physical and mental health. Compost delivery and discount are available at [cedar-grove.com](#).

» **BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE BAG** when shopping, and wash or clean them often. Businesses may request free Bring Your Own Bag signs. [rentonwa.gov/byob](#)

» **THE AVERAGE FAMILY OF FOUR** spends \$1,500 a year on food they never consume. At the same time, 1 in 10 residents struggle with hunger. Prevent wasted food through smart planning, shopping, prepping, and storing. Find tips, recipes, and interactive tools at [savethefood.com](#).

Americans waste 25% of the food they purchase. In King County, the average single-family household throws out 390 pounds of food each year.

(King County & Feeding America)

70% of waste that reaches Cedar Hills Regional Landfill in King County could have been recycled or reused.

(King County)

» **APARTMENTS AND CONDOMINIUMS** may request resources and assistance to prevent, recycle, and manage waste. Each year, the city offers a free Holiday Tree Collection program; this past season 38 properties participated, diverting 99 trees to Cedar Grove for composting. [rentonwa.gov/multifamily](#)

For more ideas, see how city staff are preventing waste and conserving resources in short videos at [rentonwa.gov/wasteprevention](#).





Nature Vision

THE CITY IS A MEMBER of the [Saving Water Partnership](#), a regional group of 18 local utilities working together to help customers conserve water and save money. Through this partnership, Renton has access to programs such as natural yard care classes, toilet rebates, and how-to videos on fixing leaks.

One of the most popular programs is youth education, taught by Nature Vision. In 2019, our membership in the Saving Water Partnership gave 792 elementary students in Renton the opportunity to learn about water conservation and the water cycle.



Aquifer protection

MOST OF RENTON'S GROUNDWATER collects in the Cedar Valley Aquifer. An aquifer is a naturally formed underground storage area made up of layers of sand and gravel that are capable of storing large quantities of water. Water collects in holes and cracks between sand, gravel, and rock. Rain and snow that fall on the ground soak in and recharge the groundwater in the aquifer. Chemicals that spill on the ground follow the same path through the soil, sand, and gravel.

[Renton's aquifer](#) is shallow, only 23 feet below ground level in areas, and is therefore very susceptible to pollution. If we spill oil, pesticides, or other poisons, they can soak into the ground, or run off and pollute, our aquifer and drinking water.

By educating ourselves, and others, about the potential impacts our actions have on our aquifer, and making choices that reduce the amount of water we use, we can ensure that Renton will continue to have an adequate supply of quality groundwater.

Think before you flush

THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH YOUR TOILET or pour grease down the drain. [Fats, oils, and grease](#) (FOG) clog pipes and cause sewer backups and overflows. Dispose FOG in the garbage to prevent clogs in your home and the city's infrastructure.

Flushable wipes aren't really flushable. Many items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper, and they wind up [clogging sewer pipes and pumps](#). This creates a mess in the sewer system, causing backups in homes and streets.

Toilet paper and human waste are the only things that are safe to flush.

Flush:

- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Human waste

Do not flush:

- ✗ Wipes of any kind (even if labeled flushable)
- ✗ Facial Tissues
- ✗ Disposable menstrual products
- ✗ Condoms
- ✗ Diapers
- ✗ Dental Floss
- ✗ Paper Towels
- ✗ Medications

[Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink](#)

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