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Seattle's Residential Food Waste Weighing Study

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Seattle Public Utilities

November 15, 2012

Available Data

- U.S. data
- U.K. data?
- Seattle's residential waste sorts
- Other solid waste sorts?
- Backyard food waste composting weighing study

What would we like to know?

- What categorization of food would be most useful?
 - Edible & preventable?
 - Animal products, grains, vegetables, fruits, oils?
 - Protein, carbohydrates & fats?
 - By disposal method?

Waste Sort



Recruiting participants

September - October 2012

Seattle Public Utilities

@Your SERVICE

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



Prevent Flooding Adopt a Drain

Don't let fall rainstorms flood your street. Help clear your local storm drain of leaves and other debris by participating in Fall Clean – part of our year-round Adopt-A-Drain Program.

Every autumn Seattle Public Utilities faces a big job keeping storm drains clear. As a way to involve residents and keep the water flowing, the utility sponsors Fall Clean – a one-month event in November that supports volunteers with free gloves, bags, brooms, rakes, and safety vests, as well as help with leaf disposal.

Go to www.seattle.gov/util/adoptadrain or call 206-233-7187 to get signed up today!



Get Help with Your Bill

Did you know that you could get 50 percent off your Seattle Public Utilities bills for the next 18 months? Only income-qualified customers are eligible. For example, if you're a family of four, making less than \$4,819 a month, you may qualify. Go to www.seattle.gov/mybill to get started, or call 206-684-0268.

Residents living in federally subsidized housing, including SHHA (Seattle Housing Authority), Section 8, and KCHA (King County Housing Authority) are not eligible.



Get a Free Water-saving Toilet

Save even more on your utility bill. Only income-qualified customers are eligible. For example, if you're a family of four, making less than \$4,819 a month, you may qualify. Properties must also be located within Seattle Public Utilities' service area and must have existing toilets installed before 1994. Installation and recycling of your old toilet are also provided free of charge. For more information, visit www.seattle.gov/util and search "low income toilet" or call 206-448-5751.



100 Free Electronic Kitchen Scales!

If you are willing to weigh and categorize your food waste for 3 months (January – March, 2013), Seattle Public Utilities will give you a free electronic kitchen scale. 100 kitchen scales are available for participants in this study! We want to find out what kinds of food people are disposing, and in what quantities. Interested? Call 206-233-7198 and leave your name, phone number and e-mail address. We'll notify selected participants by November 15.



TAKE WINTER BY STORM

TakeWinterByStorm.org

Did you know that during intense rain, flooding may occur without warning? Here are a few steps you can take to keep your family and property safe.

Clear leaves and debris away from street drains in your neighborhood with a rake or broom (only if it's safe). Don't put grass clippings, leaves, or other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters or ravines. If a storm drain appears blocked below the street surface, call 206-386-1800.

- Collect fallen leaves and deposit them in your food and yard waste container or compost them.
- Clean gutters and downspouts twice a year.
- Build a family emergency kit. Keep enough water, food and other supplies (flashlights, crank or battery-operated radio, blankets) in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.
- Have a family disaster plan.
- Stay out of flooding basements.
- Protect water pipes from freezing in exposed or unheated areas (attics, basements and garages) by wrapping with tape and insulating materials.

For more tips on how to prepare for winter storms, visit www.takewinterbystorm.org.



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Handling the Response

- Over 500 households volunteered, based on advertisement
- Sending e-mail with details of pilot; need to reduce participants to about 250
- Screen for Seattle residency and willingness to follow through
- Setting up online system for tracking results on a weekly or monthly basis
- Distribute scales/reinforce reporting commitment

What's expected of participants?

- Separate into non-edible and everything else
- Weigh both
- Record daily January - March
- Send in results weekly electronically
- Tell us fate of food waste (curbside collection, home compost, disposal or garbage)

Post Study Work

- Hopefully, gather media attention as springboard
- Use Seattle stats and *Food: Too Good to Waste* materials for education
- Integrate with Seattle's other food efforts: commercial FW reduction, food recovery, FW packaging reduction, FW collection, EOW collection & backyard FW composting
- Integrate with City-wide food systems work