

## City of Tacoma 2024 Annual Report for Reporting Year 2025

### **Q.81 Attach description of public education and outreach general awareness efforts conducted, including your target audiences and subject areas, per S5.C.11.a.i.**

The City of Tacoma has a variety of programs and tools for public education and outreach general awareness. Based on the specific program, the information may be delivered in an ongoing or strategic manner. Our social marketing tools and website are used periodically to deliver many of the required messages and can be accessed by many audiences. The following are descriptions of our public education and outreach general awareness programs.

#### **“If it Hits the Ground, it Hits the Sound” Stormwater Initiative Campaign**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities).

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.

The "If It Hits the Ground, It Hits the Sound!" (IIHTG) campaign was launched in 2021 as part of Tacoma Environmental Services' 2018-2025 Strategic Plan to build general awareness about methods to address and reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff. The initiative emphasizes how stormwater in Tacoma flows directly into local waterways, mostly untreated, and encourages greater environmental stewardship. Recognizing the power of public art as a tool for education and engagement, the City's Environmental Services and Arts Department staff collaborated with Parks Tacoma, schools, businesses, and other community partners to integrate stormwater messaging into Tacoma's public spaces. The campaign engages local artists to design stormwater educational materials, ensuring that messaging is visually compelling and accessible to a wide audience. The goal is to embed stormwater education into Tacoma's urban environment in ways that are engaging, memorable, and actionable for both residents and businesses.

Since its launch, the campaign has addressed key stormwater pollution topics, including the general impacts of stormwater on surface waters, pollution from impervious surfaces, and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper waste disposal. In 2024, the campaign expanded its art-based outreach with the installation of four stormwater awareness murals, including one at the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center exit, reinforcing key pollution prevention practices. A partnership with Parks Tacoma, local artists, and students from the Science and Math Institute (SAMI) resulted in six additional storm drain murals at Point Defiance Marina. As part of their coursework, SAMI students studied stormwater pollution, its impact on aquatic ecosystems, and pollution prevention strategies before designing murals that communicate the importance of protecting Puget Sound. The project was featured on KOMO News, further amplifying public awareness.

The campaign expanded stormwater education outreach through redesigned street sweeper information cards that now incorporate IIHTG art and messaging, emphasizing the role of

sweeping in removing pollutants before they enter storm drains. Additionally, stormwater messaging and IIHTG artwork were applied to highly visible city service vehicles, including a street sweeper, vactor truck, a 55-foot-long haul trailer, and a boat, ensuring that stormwater education reaches a wide range of audiences throughout Tacoma.

### **Awards & Recognition (2024)**

WEF Public Communication & Outreach Program Award – Recognizing outstanding stormwater education efforts.

PNCWA Watermark Award for Education & Outreach – Honoring excellence in public education programs.

NACWA Public Information & Education Award – Acknowledging contributions to environmental protection.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Healthy Communities Award – Recognizing efforts to improve community health through stormwater education.

### **Ground to Sound Film and Arts Festival & Community Events**

The IIHTG campaign launched the 2nd Ground to Sound Film and Arts Festival, using film and multimedia storytelling to further stormwater education. A series of pop-up events leading up to the festival engaged over 120 participants in activities such as poetry workshops, a photo development workshop tied to social media contests, and a live music cypher featuring an original stormwater education song. Each pop-up event incorporated stormwater education, covering topics such as pet waste management, car washing best practices, sustainable gardening practices, LID Practices/BMPs, and hazardous waste disposal best practices. In collaboration with Fosters Creative, the campaign also produced stormwater educational videos featuring community members, City employees, and local artists. These videos were widely shared across Tacoma's social media platforms and hosted on the Ground to Sound website, ensuring ongoing engagement and outreach. The film festival took place in March 2025, drawing over 400 attendees.

### **Adopt-A-Drain**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities), Businesses (including home-based and mobile businesses)

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.

Adopt-A-Storm Drain (AAD) provides a free, year-round, stewardship opportunity for residents by encouraging regular and sustained actions to prevent flooding and reduce runoff pollution by adopting storm drains/catch basins in their neighborhood and committing to keep them clear of leaves, trash, and other debris. Participants use a web application to adopt and un-adopt catch basins in their area. The web application allows users to track the amount and type

of debris collected and directs users to contact the TacomaFirst 311 hotline if an illicit discharge is discovered. Increased awareness of catch basin condition and what is going down the drain provides a bridge to educating about several other BMPs aside from litter and debris disposal such as yard care protective or water quality, car washing, pet waste, proper use and disposal of household chemical/cleaners as well as facilitates the City's source control efforts. In 2024, Tacoma coordinated with several Western Washington jurisdictions to run a Spanish Language AAD Campaign. This campaign included poster creation and distribution, a Spanish social media toolkit, TV commercials, and radio ads. All materials were created and distributed using the AAD Spanish Speaking Focus Group input.

As of December 2024, Tacoma had 33 new drain adopters and 46 newly adopted drains. Overall, Tacoma has 196 participants with over 389 drains adopted. From the reported storm drain cleanings for 2024, over 1,227 pounds of debris have been removed from Tacoma's stormwater system.

### **Make a Splash (MAS) Grant Program**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities).

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs

ES sponsors \$4,000 small stormwater-related grants for projects promoting surface water education, protection, and restoration. Grant applications are accepted from the general public during the month of May to coincide with Puget Sound Starts Here month and are awarded in July of each year. Grants are designed for projects that have a strong stormwater pollution prevention message or provide a stormwater benefit. Submitted projects must meet at least one of the program goals of education, surface water protection, or habitat restoration and tree planting. Over 75 projects have been funded since 2013. Several K12 educators who apply have requested one-time project funding and often rely on repeat funding to continue lessons or activities about the impacts of stormwater pollution on water quality and the health of the aquatic ecosystem. In 2024 total of 5 projects were funded. urban habitats, depaving and developing community walkways, development of an ecology park in the Hilltop neighborhood, and a rain garden. These projects were completed by December 31st, 2024.

### **Sustainability Small Grants Program**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities), Businesses (including home-based and mobile businesses).

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs

Through the Sustainability Small Grant Program, reimbursable awards of up to \$5,000 are available to individuals or groups interested in helping educate residents and/or businesses about the environment and sustainable practices. Priority consideration is given to proposals that have surface water benefits by keeping pollutants out of local receiving waters or prevent polluted runoff. Examples of funded projects include planting trees or encouraging transit use and other sustainable transportation options. The Sustainability Small Grant brochure also includes program information in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Khmer.

### **EnviroChallenger Program**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, and overburdened communities).

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs

The City's EnviroChallenger (EC) environmental education program continues to serve public, private, and home school communities within Tacoma. Environmental educators visit Tacoma school classrooms to promote stormwater, wastewater, garbage, and recycling messages to children each year. The ECs also attend many community events throughout the year and help to communicate stormwater messages to adults as well as children.

#### **Community events and tours in 2024**

A few of the events we attended are: South Sound Expo, Salmon SaturdaysX2, Art on the Ave., Mosaic X2 Days, Proctor Street Fair, World Ocean Day, Salmon Homecoming, T-Town ExpoX2, Kids Health and Safety Fair, and Downing Community Picnic

#### **Collaborations in 2024**

The EnviroChallenger educators collaborate with local groups and nonprofit organizations for events and activities around Tacoma. The EnviroChallenger team worked for the 5<sup>th</sup> year with Pierce County, TPU, and Pierce Conservation District to design virtual teacher clock hour

workshops. We also worked with the Tacoma School District to support their needs during this time and are working toward embedding our stormwater lessons into the Tacoma School District curriculum. We presented our storm lessons to the WA State Stormwater conference.

#### **EnviroChallenger lessons and new additions 2024**

- Taught 534 lessons in the classroom. (401 were storm focus \* we do promote 'Hits the Ground in every lesson)
- Engaged 14,952 students in classroom lessons
- Taught at 5 special school events, after-school, library, and winter programs
- Taught a teacher STEAM PD series with TPU and Pierce County, serving over 371 teachers.
- Attended 13 community events
- Conducted 10 Environmental Service tours
- Hosted 21 high school interns
- Trained 3 high school interns during the summer ES certificate job training

#### **High School Job Training 2024**

The Tacoma School District Next Move Internships Program places high school students with a city staff supervisor to gain experience working with staff in Environmental Services as well as other City departments. In 2024, for the 9th cohort of Next Move internships, we hosted 21 high school students. Our cohort model allowed for shared experiences while learning 21st-century job skills.

The high school summer ES certificate job training program is designed to engage and train students from overburdened communities to gain skills needed to apply for jobs at the city or other union-supported jobs. The 13 participants earned CESCL, Flagger, OSHA, CPR, and Six Sigma White Belt certificates. They also learned tree stewardship practices, as well as other vital job skills related to stormwater management. The group participated in stormwater sampling, chain-of-custody documentation, and water quality testing while touring the Center for Urban Waters environmental labs. Three of the students from the certificate program went on to a paid experience in the CUW lab and TAGRO biosolids division throughout August.

#### **Awards**

Gator Lanphear (EnviroChallenger) was nominated and awarded the E3 Washington – Nonformal Educator of the Year 2024 award. The award recognizes those who demonstrate a passion for environmental education and development.

#### **Stormwater Education College/ University, Trade Student Connections**

Priority Audiences – General Public (college/university, trade students)

## Subject Areas

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs

The City of Tacoma’s Environmental Programs Group (EPG) partners with the University of Puget Sound and Clover Park Technical College to engage students through educational events and tours focused on stormwater education.

In 2024, approximately 24 students from a University of Puget Sound Environmental Law and Policy course participated in a paddleboarding field trip on the Thea Foss Waterway. City staff discussed the impacts of stormwater runoff on surface waters, the role of impervious surfaces, and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper waste disposal. The activity bridged classroom lessons on hazardous waste policy with an upcoming visit to the Washington Stormwater Center.

EPG also led a tour for the University of Puget Sound “What’s in the Water?” class, visiting green stormwater infrastructure sites, including the Point Defiance stormwater treatment facility and bioretention installations along Pacific Avenue. The tour focused on Low Impact Development (LID) principles, BMPs, and general stormwater impacts, offering students real-world examples of sustainable urban stormwater solutions.

Additionally, EPG partners with Clover Park Technical College to support stormwater and environmental education through tours of the Flett Creek holding ponds and pump station. These tours are designed to support student projects and provide exposure to the practical application of stormwater infrastructure and management practices.

## **Business Source Control Outreach**

Priority Audiences – Businesses (including home-based and mobile businesses), and property owners/managers.

## Subject Areas

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs
- Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities.
- Source control BMPs for building materials to reduce pollution to stormwater, including but not limited to stormwater pollution from PCB-containing materials.

Information is provided to business owners and property managers during source control inspections required by Permit Section S5.C.8. The focus is to inform business owners and property managers of the importance of regularly maintaining their onsite stormwater facilities and using operational BMPs to help protect local waterways and reduce stormwater pollution.

Informational handouts are provided to businesses, including mobile painters, pressure washers, and carpet cleaners, on how to properly dispose of their wastewater when needed. Businesses can also request to participate in the onsite Catch Basin Marking Program. Through this program, the City of Tacoma will supply free glue and markers or come to the site and do the catch basin marking for the business. Frequently used handouts have been translated into five languages to increase accessibility by business owners and operators. Through the Thea Foss Waterway Monitoring and Assessment program and source identification studies, the city staff traces and identifies sources of PCBs to building materials on specific sites and follows up with property owners. In 2024, EPG staff initiated outreach about PCB-containing materials in city-owned buildings through the Departmental Stormwater Coordination Plans.

### **Pet Waste Program**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities).

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.

Information on proper management and disposal of pet waste is available on the City's website and is included in the City's publications and programming, including social media, utility bill inserts, the EnviroTalk newsletter, and environmental lessons by the EnviroChallengers. The Dog mascot, "Scoopy Doo" and a "Poo Toss" game are also commonly used at Environmental Services sponsored community and family fun events.

For the 2024 reporting year, 7 new bag stations were installed.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Business Technical Assistance Program**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities).

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.

The Environmental Services/Solid Waste Management collects and properly disposes of large amounts of household hazardous waste from Tacoma residents at the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center. Solid Waste Management works to educate the public about the need for proper disposal and where hazardous wastes can be disposed of through Environmental Service publications and other communication tools, including the Recycle Coach application. Special assistance is also offered to businesses through Solid Waste's business technical assistance program and certain communications about proper disposal are translated in Korean, Khmer, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

### **Private Stormwater Facility Maintenance Best Management Practices**

Priority Audiences - General Public, – and businesses (including home-based and mobile business), Engineers, contractors, developers, and land use planners

#### Subject Areas

- LID principles and LID BMPs
- Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities

This program provides property owners with the drawings and operation and maintenance instructions for privately owned stormwater facilities and provides technical assistance to homeowners and business owners, as requested.

#### **Dumpster Lid Campaign**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities), businesses (including home-based and mobile business)

#### Subject Areas

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.

For the 2019-2024 permit cycle, the city participated in the regional dumpster lid behavior change campaign, which focuses on Dumpster and Trash Compactor Maintenance as a Best Management Practice (BMP) and targets commercial businesses. During the current 2024-2029 permit cycle, Tacoma Environmental Services will continue to use dumpster stickers that remind users to keep lids closed and avoid overfilling. These efforts help prevent stormwater pollution by reducing contact between runoff and refuse.

#### **Open Space Management and Urban Forestry Program Outreach**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities), and businesses (including home-based and mobile business)

#### Subject Areas

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs

The Open Space Management Program promotes activities to protect existing green spaces and increase Tacoma's tree cover. The City's canopy cover increase will be achieved by planting trees with help from partner organizations and community members and by preserving existing healthy trees. The City sponsors a Tree Coupon Program in partnership with local nurseries, helps sponsor an annual Green Tacoma Day/Arbor Day celebration, and supports various other related educational opportunities to successfully plant and care for trees.



### **Tacoma Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities), engineers, contractors, Property owners/managers, developers, and land use planners

#### Subject Areas

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs
- Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities
- Technical standards for stormwater site and erosion control plans.

Tacoma continues to increase the visibility of green stormwater infrastructure by installing LID facilities, including permeable roads and bioretention facilities, where feasible. City-sponsored GSI and LID projects are used to demonstrate to school age children, college/university, trade students, engineers, contractors, property owners/managers, developers, and land use planners how LID can be incorporated into projects and how various design challenges can be overcome. The City has provided information on GSI, LID, and other stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities on its website, in the City's Stormwater Management Manual and Public Works Right-of-Way Design Manual, as well as in project-specific outreach materials and publicity events.

### **NEBC Managing Stormwater in the Northwest Conference**

Priority audiences: Engineers, contractors, developers, property owners/managers, and land use planners.

#### Subject Areas

- Technical standards for stormwater site and erosion control plans.
- LID principles and LID BMPs.
- Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities.

In 2024, the City was a sponsor at NEBC: Managing Stormwater in the Northwest conference.

The audiences at this conference were private industry and consultants, regulatory community, and implementers of stormwater regulations. The key messages promoted at the conference were technical standards for stormwater site and erosion control plans, LID principles and LID BMPs, and stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities.

### **Education and Outreach Associated with Development Permitting**

Priority audiences: Engineers, contractors, developers, property owners/managers, and land use planners.

#### **Subject Areas**

- Technical standards for stormwater site and erosion control plans.
- LID principles and LID BMPs
- Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities

Through Permit Center assistance, Tacoma staff provides information regarding both the design and maintenance of LID principles and BMPs and stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. Permit review staff proactively provide information and education about City resources, clarify design standards in the Stormwater Management Manual, and answer specific design and feasibility questions.

The City maintains a website that contains over 80 GSI and LID standard details. These details provide information regarding design and construction of LID and GSI BMPs and facilities.

### **Pierce County Green Stormwater Infrastructure Workforce Training Pilot**

Priority Audiences – General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities).

#### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- Technical standards for stormwater site and erosion control plans.
- LID principles and LID BMPs.
- Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities.

Between October and December 2024, ten Palmer Scholars successfully completed the first pilot cohort of the Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Workforce Training Program. Sponsored by the City of Tacoma, this paid workforce training experience was designed for young adults ages 18-26 with a focus on watershed and habitat protection and sustainable stormwater strategies. Participants engaged in hands-on classroom and field training sessions, led by environmental professionals from regional partner organizations who provided both technical instruction and personal insights into career pathways in green stormwater infrastructure.

Due to the success of this pilot, the program is now an ongoing initiative, with two graduating cohorts per year. The City of Tacoma Environmental Services leads a minimum of three in-class and field training days, featuring expert guest speakers from various stormwater-related fields. These sessions include professionals such as source control representatives, GSI maintenance crews, regulatory compliance analysts, stormwater management specialists, stormwater

construction management specialists, trained IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) inspectors, stormwater field sampling experts, and urban forestry specialists.

These training sessions provide participants with real-world experience, offering a comprehensive understanding of stormwater regulations, pollution prevention, and green stormwater infrastructure maintenance and implementation. The program not only enhances technical knowledge but also supports workforce development by connecting participants with environmental professionals and career opportunities in the field.

### **Outreach Engagement at Local Community Events**

Priority Audiences - General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students, and overburdened communities)

Subject Areas

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs

Stormwater messages are promoted at a variety of community events. Both the EnviroChallengers and Environmental Programs Group staff may be present at these events. Environmental Programs Group staff typically participate in four to six local community outreach events each year.

### **Green Tacoma Day**

Green Tacoma Day - Green Tacoma Day is an annual celebration of the Green Tacoma Partnership's work to restore 1,881 acres of urban green space, while Arbor Day celebrates the planting, growing, and caring of Tacoma's trees. This day of service offers great opportunities for the Tacoma community to get to know each other and their local green spaces. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. Each year, ES EPG provides funds to sponsor Green Tacoma Day.

### **South Sound Sustainability Expo**

The Expo connects residents and businesses with services, products, companies, and agencies that address sustainability needs in our community. The Expo is a free community event that brings together environmentally minded community members in the South Sound. In 2024, ES EPG staff partnered with the EnviroChallengers to host a booth and provide messaging on stormwater pollution prevention education.

### **Welcome Back Salmon Days - Swan Creek**

The Swan Creek Salmon Challenge is a 2-week-long celebration of the return of salmon to Swan Creek and surrounding rivers. ES EPG staff teamed up with the EnviroChallengers to host a booth at Salmon Saturdays at Swan Creek. Messaging and interactive lessons were provided on the importance of preventing stormwater pollution and the role stormwater pollution plays in salmon health and vitality.

## **One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan Workshops**

The One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan Update Workshops provided a platform for engaging Tacoma residents in discussions about stormwater education and programs, including the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP). In 2024, these workshops were hosted in all eight neighborhood districts across Tacoma, aiming to reduce travel barriers and ensure equitable participation. To improve accessibility, community ambassadors attended select events to assist residents requiring translation services, surveys and educational materials were available in Tacoma's most commonly spoken languages.

Environmental Services staff used these workshops to share SWMP updates, educate attendees on green stormwater infrastructure, pollution prevention, etc., and gather community feedback on stormwater-related programs. The Environmental Programs Group (EPG) also introduced a watershed map activity, where participants identified their watershed and marked related stormwater concerns that could be addressed through education, outreach, or existing programs. Over 200 participants contributed to the map.

## **Media and Communication Tools**

Priority Audiences - General Public (including school age children, college/university, trade students and overburdened communities), Property owners/Managers, Engineers, contractors, developers, and land use planners

### **Subject Areas**

- General impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces and the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- LID principles and LID BMPs
- Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities
- Technical standards for stormwater site and erosion control plans.

## **Stormwater Website**

This website ([cityoftacoma.org/stormwater](https://cityoftacoma.org/stormwater)) includes information about Stormwater services and rates, the Stormwater Management Program Plan, the City's NPDES Stormwater Permit Annual Report, Stormwater Management Manual, permitting requirements, general BMPs to prevent stormwater pollution, Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects, and more.

## **Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube)**

The City's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube accounts include social media posts related to stormwater and surface water. The City actively promotes surface water messages and "re-tweets" or "likes" of PSSH posts.

## **Stormwater Awareness Week**

In 2024, the City of Tacoma issued a Stormwater Awareness Week Proclamation and launched a weeklong social media campaign highlighting source control best management practices (BMPs) and general stormwater pollution prevention strategies.

### **EnviroNews Listserv**

“Tacoma EnviroNews” is an automated electronic listserv that anyone can subscribe to, and post messages related to environmental issues, events, and job or volunteer opportunities. The City posts Stormwater Management Program related events and announcements to the listserv throughout the year.

### **EnviroTalk Publication**

ES sends out the EnviroTalk magazine three times per year to approximately 54,000 single-family and duplex home residents throughout the City to educate them about stormwater, wastewater, and solid waste messages, activities, and upcoming events in the community.

### **Utility Bill Inserts**

Stormwater messages are included throughout the year in the utility bill inserts sent to approximately 125,000 customers in the city.

### **TV Tacoma**

TV Tacoma is an avenue to provide local viewing audiences with information, including stormwater-related public service announcements, If it Hits The Ground, It Hits the Sound campaign messaging, and more.

Urban Green is a TV Tacoma program to showcase environmental and sustainable efforts around the City of Tacoma. The program is available on TV Tacoma and online at [www.cityoftacoma.org/UrbanGreen](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/UrbanGreen) and features topics such as:

- Interviews with regional and national experts on environmental issues pertinent to our region.
- EnviroChallenger tips for sustainable living.
- Local efforts and regional opportunities for environmental stewardship.
- Upcoming chances to learn more and/or get involved; and
- Make a Splash grant recipients and their stormwater-focused projects.

Tacoma Report is a TV Tacoma news program that airs every two weeks and features information about various city programs and initiatives.

**Stormwater Manual listserv**

This technical listserv informs interested parties about the City's Stormwater Management Manual, updates to stormwater related policies, technical trainings, and SWMP Plan updates. Subscription is open to anyone and includes engineers, developers, City development staff and the general public. Anyone can sign up for the listserv on the City's stormwater manual webpage.

**EnviroHouse**

ES partners with other City departments to run the EnviroHouse, a hands-on showcase of sustainable building and natural landscape ideas, materials, and techniques for a healthy home and planet. The EnviroHouse hosts tours for school-age children, college and trade school students, and other community members walking through the on-site displays of low impact development practices including rain barrels, native plants, rain gardens, pervious pavement, natural yard care techniques, and "pin" foundations. Interpretive signage and a library of additional educational materials are available regarding LID and natural yard care strategies are available on-site. Free online and in-person workshops are offered weekly throughout the year on a variety of sustainable practices, including stormwater-related topics such as: building healthy soils, alternatives to pesticides, native plants, composting, rain gardens, and tree care. In addition to the weekly workshops, the EnviroHouse has a library of "How To" videos available on YouTube covering the topics mentioned above.