

GREEN TIPS FOR BUSINESSES

Consumers support green businesses

Research shows that over 70% of Puget Sound area residents like to support environmentally-minded businesses. Shoreline residents consistently value our natural environment, including our trees, clean water and clean air. Your business can be a Sustainable Shoreline leader by taking actions to protect the environment. Here are a few options for ways you can save resources and money, create a healthier workplace, and appeal to customers looking for sustainable businesses.



1. Pledge to Skip the Straw

We've partnered with the Ocean Conservancy to recognize businesses that reduce waste and protect our oceans by not offering plastic straws. Businesses that take our online pledge to be plastic straw-free will be featured on the City website and social media. You'll also receive a free toolkit that includes a window decal to promote your efforts to customers.



Take the pledge online: shorelinewa.gov/skipthestrav

- **Make straws available only by request.** Only give out a straw if a customer specifically requests one and frequently train staff on this policy. Note that disposable flexible plastic straws are still permitted and available for customers who need them due to medical or physical conditions.
- **Switch to paper straws.** Paper straws are compostable and a good option for customers who need a to-go straw. Be sure to only purchase approved, compostable paper straws accepted at local composting facilities. For a current list of approved options, visit: cedar-grove.com/compostable/accepted-items.
- **Add reusable straws to the menu.** Does your restaurant have a signature drink? Add a stainless steel, bamboo or glass straw and make it a #SustainableShoreline statement.

2. Choose Reusable over Disposable

Offer reusable plates, bowls, cups and utensils for customers eating at your establishment. Consider compostable options for to-go orders and avoid polystyrene (i.e. Styrofoam™) containers. For a current list of compostable to-go food service ware accepted at local composting facilities, visit: cedar-grove.com/compostable/accepted-items.



HELP CREATE A SUSTAINABLE SHORELINE



3. Get a FREE Waste Consultation

Recology's Waste Zero Team helps businesses maximize their recycling and composting to minimize waste of money and resources on garbage disposal. The Waste Zero Team has extensive experience assisting businesses from every sector and size, including office buildings, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, shopping centers and large commercial residential properties. Depending on your type of business or property, the team will:

- **Visit your site** to provide tailored recommendations to help your business reduce waste and save money
- **Check your waste stream** to find opportunities to recycle more and waste less
- **Customize service options** and equipment to meet your needs
- **Provide signage and training** in multiple languages

Schedule a waste consultation: [206-763-4444](tel:206-763-4444) | shoreline@recology.com

4. Collect Food Scraps for Composting

Almost 35% of what ends up in the landfill is food scraps and food-soiled paper. Composting food scraps instead of throwing them away saves resources and protects our climate. Composting decreases the amount of waste going to the landfill and creates a rich, earth-friendly compost at regional composting facilities. It can be good for business too! Depending on the amount of food scraps you dispose of, you may be able to reduce garbage costs by diverting material from your trash bin to a food scrap collection bin.



Sign up for compost service: [206-763-4444](tel:206-763-4444) | shoreline@recology.com



5. Get Recognized as an EnviroStarsSM Business

EnviroStars is a free, one-stop hub for Washington businesses to get information, assistance and rebates to help you go green. Through EnviroStars, your business can save money, connect with new customers, and earn statewide recognition for your actions that protect the environment.

Learn how to get recognized: [877-220-7827](tel:877-220-7827) | envirostars.org

#SUSTAINABLESHORELINE

