



Zero Waste Vashon (ZWV) is a non-profit organization and is 100% volunteer driven. Our goal is to inspire the Vashon and Maury Island communities to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink." by turning waste into resources.

*** Seasons Greetings! ***

? The merry elves at ZWV have had a busy year! There has been great progress with work on getting a compost facility on the island and the Styrofoam and Plastics program continues to set collection records. For Earth Day, another 5 tons of electronics were collected in April and kept out of the landfill. We look forward to 2023 including some exciting new ideas and projects.

It is with community support and volunteers that we keep this work going. We want to keep even more hard-to-recycle items out of the landfill in 2023. Our programs are made possible by your donations. Please consider a year-end, tax-deductible donation to ZWV. We are a 501(c)3 corporation.



Vashon Community Compost Facility

A promising step toward a Community Compost facility on Vashon happened in November. Members of the King County Solid Waste Division, including two members of the engineering department, and Project Managers from HDR, made a visit to Vashon. Members of the Zero Waste Vashon Compost Committee joined the group after they arrived on the

Island. The trip included a site visit to the Transfer Station property to evaluate a potential compost facility location proposed by HDR. After that, the group met at the library for additional Q&A and discussions.

The tone of the meeting was quite positive and the next steps for the County and HDR were discussed. We are awaiting a report from HDR analyzing the information gathered at the site visit.

For a summary of the project so far, please visit the county webpage at:

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/facilities/vashon-compost.aspx>

First Sunday Styrofoam and Plastics Recycling A retrospective and future vision

This all-volunteer Plastics collection program has witnessed a remarkable evolution since its launch in Jan. 2019 by Nadine Edelstein with a drop-off at the former Kimmco Building parking lot in partnership with the Vashon Food Bank. Due to its popularity, the program moved to a larger location in Feb. 2020, at



the Sheffield Building, provided pro bono by Tom Bangasser. Nadine contracted in May 2021 with DTG to provide a 45 cubic yard container for "option 2" plastics (alternative fuel for cement manufacture). With the needs of continued growth, ZWV entered into a partnership agreement with Nadine in Aug 2021. Nadine remains the Program Director, and since then at least two DTG containers/month have been needed to handle the growing volumes.

The program is staffed completely by volunteers, now averaging 106 volunteer hours/month, in addition to >40 hrs/month by Nadine and volunteer coordinator Jacquie Perry (both volunteers). The program serves over 500-600 households/month, with over 4000 vehicles dropping off materials in 2022. Since 2019, over 3000 cu yds. of styrofoam and 66 tons of hard to recycle plastics have been collected, recycled and diverted from the landfill (23 tons in '22 alone). A major change in Oct. 2022 occurred due to the loss of the semi trailer at Sheffield, greatly reducing sorting and volunteer time. We began experimenting with new hours (10AM-2PM) and an additional drop off event every month for Oct'22-Jan'23 as fewer volunteers were needed.

Styro Recycle is funded by the donations of Island residents when they drop off their plastics. The program needs to find a new home as we will lose access to the Sheffield space some time in 2023. We envision a future possibility to drop off styrofoam, plastic film and mixed plastics at the Vashon Island Transfer Station for a small fee. Given the huge popularity of the current program, we believe this is a service that would be very well received by the community. We are working with King County Solid Waste Dept. Staff to evaluate this possibility. A big thanks to our fantastic volunteers and the generous support of our community for this hugely successful program, a hallmark of our model green community!

During the month of January, we will also be collecting old Christmas light strings for recycling. Please bag or box them separately.

Thank you to our business sponsors of the month for Nov. & Dec. 2022: **Stewart Custom Homes, Meade Construction, and Dammann Designs.** We welcome future business sponsors for 2023. For more details on the program and a list of accepted materials, go to the ZWV website and look for: [first-sunday-styrofoam-recycling](#)



The 45 cubic yard dumpsters fill up quickly on a busy day



Sorting, the old way. This became very labor intensive as the volume grew.



Choose Plastic Free

Choose Plastic Free is an exciting new ZWV program that will start this January. The program is the brainchild of Celia Congdon, who envisioned creating an Island culture that minimizes our carbon footprint by reducing our plastic use.

The campaign aims to engage all Islanders, including youth, in making smart choices about their consumption. Can I avoid plastic packaging? Is it a non-petroleum product? Are there alternatives? Can I reuse or repurpose what I already have? Do I need it?

Choose Plastic Free wants to make Islanders think before they purchase. Why? Because plastic is made of oil, small changes matter in our efforts to reach zero carbon emissions. We are optimists who think we can all make a contribution.

Choose Plastic Free will have four items of focus over a 12-month period beginning January 1, 2023.

The first area of focus will be Beverage Containers - Reducing single-use coffee cups & plastic bottles.

Did you know that paper coffee cups are lined in plastic? Avoid this by bringing your reusable mug whenever you get a warm beverage to go. The same goes for filling up a metal or glass water bottle to stay hydrated when you're out and about.

Be on the lookout for lots of helpful reminders encouraging you to make some new plastic-free habits in 2023.

Re-Use Store on Vashon?

ZWV is in the preliminary stages of exploring the possibility of opening a Re-Use store on Vashon. We are meeting with interested contractors, recyclers, and people that want to help divert useful items from the landfill and make them available to residents at a low cost. These items could include windows, doors, lighting and plumbing fixtures, and maybe even some furniture or small appliances for example.



There are a lot of challenges to getting this project rolling including a location, storage facility, developing inventory, staffing, and funding. If this idea intrigues you and you have some thoughts or time or property that you want to share, contact us at info@zerowastevashon.org. We look forward to hearing your ideas!



Got a great recycling or circular economy idea? Consider PreCycle

PreCycle is a regional pitch competition for the best for-profit or non-profit business product, service, or idea that addresses waste prevention.

In addition, PreCycle is seeking projects that address waste reduction, recycling, food waste prevention, composting, contamination reduction, and litter control.

PreCycle is hosted by Seattle Good Business Network and Zero Waste Washington, and is funded in part by the WA State Department of Ecology. <https://www.precyclewa.org/home>

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thank you to all of our volunteers, donors, and board members who contribute to the ongoing success of Zero Waste Vashon!



If you are interested in volunteering, getting involved, donating to ZWV, or simply have a question, let us know - we are here to help!

Web Page: zerowastevashon.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/zerowastevashon](https://www.facebook.com/zerowastevashon)

Email: info@zerowastevashon.org

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE & RETHINK

Zero Waste Vashon is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

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