

Waste Reduction Rewards Frequently Asked Questions

When does the competition begin and end?

The Neighborhood Waste Reduction Rewards competition was launched in fall 2009. The winner of the 2009/2010 competition will be announced in spring 2010 on the CleanScapes website and at a community event.

The 2010/2011 competition begins now! Organize your friends and neighbors to win a community improvement project in 2011.

Which neighborhoods can participate in the competition?

Seattle neighborhoods south of the ship canal and north of I-90 (not including downtown) are eligible to compete in the Neighborhood Waste Reduction Rewards competition. The neighborhoods are delineated by collection day. This will allow CleanScapes to accurately measure the tons collected from each area and determine a winner. The 2010/2011 competition will include additional areas. See www.cleanscapes.com for a map of the neighborhood collection areas.

How is the winner chosen?

The winner is the neighborhood with the greatest percentage reduction in total tons (garbage, recycling and yard waste).

What type of improvement project can be funded?

The project will be chosen by the community councils representing the winning area from a list of projects suggested by the community councils and approved by CleanScapes. Sample projects include public benches, information kiosks, public art, signs, lighting, public stairs, and p-patch structures. Communities interested in constructing particular projects should submit ideas to educationoutreach@cleanscapes.com.

How Can I Reduce Waste and Win?

Five simple ways to reduce waste are:

1. Use durable (not disposable) items such as coffee mugs, plates, cloth kitchen towels, napkins, and cloth shopping bags
2. Use less paper by canceling junk mail, catalogs, and printing and copying double-sided
3. Reduce packaging by purchasing in bulk, buying local, and drinking tap water
4. Compost food waste and yard waste at home and mulch your garden
5. Buy, sell or donate used clothing, appliances, electronics and furniture

Visit www.cleanscapes.com for more information on ways to reduce waste.

Seattle Neighborhood Waste Reduction Rewards

What is the difference between recycling and waste reduction?

Recycling means processing used materials or waste products to make new items. Items we recycle into new products include plastic bottles, plastic bags, paper, cardboard, glass containers, etc. Waste reduction means not creating the item in the first place. For example, using washable water bottles rather than single-use plastic bottles, using reusable bags rather than disposable plastic bags, and using less paper and less packaging.

CleanScapes also considers on-site or backyard composting of food waste and yard waste to be a form of waste reduction. For more information on backyard composting, visit <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/compost.asp>.

Why is CleanScapes Sponsoring this Competition?

The Neighborhood Reduction Rewards competition is intended to encourage waste reduction. By producing less garbage, fewer recyclables and having less yard debris and food scraps collected and hauled away for processing, we can save money and natural resources. Reducing waste has environmental and economic benefits. The manufacture, distribution and disposal of the goods we use consumes resources, generates pollutants and accounts for 29% of the anthropogenic (caused by people) greenhouse gas emissions emitted in the US.⁽¹⁾ Although much of what we throw away could have been recycled instead, the collection, sorting and processing of materials for recycling also consumes resources and costs money. In Seattle, our garbage is hauled 300 miles away to Oregon six days per week in a mile-long train stacked two containers high with garbage. Most of that material could have been recycled or composted but collecting, sorting and processing materials to be recycled or composted also consumes resources and costs money.

The Neighborhood Reduction Rewards competition is intended to reinforce the waste reduction hierarchy—reduce when possible, reuse if you can and then recycle.

Source: "Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials and Land Management Practices" USEPA, September 2009).



Web Site: www.cleanscapes.com
Email: educationoutreach@cleanscapes.com

Address: 5939 4th Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98108
Phone: (206) 763-4444

