



Check out these
2019-2020
success stories
of businesses
reducing waste,
recycling, and
composting in
your community.

Recycling Spotlight: Bellevue Businesses Shine Bright

Key Center/SAP Concur

In downtown Bellevue sits Key Center, managed by Kilroy Realty, a property management company with the goal of becoming carbon neutral. This 17-floor highrise holds several companies including tech company SAP Concur which has its own goal of using zero single-use plastics. The Bellevue Utilities outreach team toured the building and provided follow up assistance including staffing a building-wide Earth Day Event, conducting a "lunch-and-learn" to SAP staff and meeting with their staff Green Team, designing personalized posters for recycling/compost/garbage in SAP kitchens, providing signage for building-wide paper towel collection in the bathrooms, and coordinating with Cedar Grove Composting for increased organics collection. While assistance with waste prevention is ongoing, it is estimated that within a year Key Center increased recycling by at least 170 cubic yards, diverting over 3.5 tons from the landfill.

Main Street Shell

In response to a City of Bellevue survey asking what the City could do to help businesses with solid waste practices, Main Street Shell gas station responded indicating that they might be interested in composting organics. The Bellevue Utilities outreach team visited the site to help and learned the site also had a Korean restaurant counter. Following the site visit, the outreach team delivered signage to assist with proper recycling and composting, and further coordinated with Republic Services to both increase the size of their recycling dumpster and add a 30-gallon organics bin for food waste. This resulted in a diversion of over 60 cubic yards per year and saved almost 10 tons of material from ending up in the landfill.

Pacific Regent Bellevue – Senior Living Community

With many moving parts, senior living communities can be like small cities. Regent Bellevue is a retirement community of approximately 150 full-time residents, one full-scale restaurant/kitchen, and a café/bistro. Pacific Regent staff contacted Bellevue Utilities for assistance with reducing their carbon footprint and reaching Tier 1 status in the regional EnviroStars program. The Bellevue outreach team helped to identify best locations for indoor recycling and composting containers, provided signage, identified outdoor service level changes that would better match the volumes of waste produced at the site, and assisted with the EnviroStars registration process. The Bellevue outreach team also provided training on waste-sorting best practices for their bistro and commercial kitchen staff and helped arrange for two 96-gallon outdoor carts to be delivered and regularly serviced through the local hauler. Through these efforts, Pacific Regent now diverts an estimated 1,000 pounds of recycling and organics – half a ton -- from their garbage each month, which saved money and conserved natural resources.

Safeway Ice Cream Plant

Have you ever wondered where Safeway gets their ice cream? Much of it is made right here in Bellevue! The Safeway Ice Cream plant in Bellevue produces ice cream for stores around the United States. For many years the ice cream plant was able to recycle tons of mixed paper, plastic wrap, and scrap wood materials easily through a regional recycler. When that recycler stopped taking their material, Safeway was worried they would have to throw it all away, so they called Bellevue Utilities for assistance. Bellevue's recycling team was able to connect Safeway with a regional recycler named DTG who could accept the wide range of recyclables sorted into 1 cubic yard boxes. A 53-yard semi-truck trailer of recyclable material now continues to be diverted away from this Safeway plant's garbage on a regular basis. This keeps over 4,000 cubic yards, or almost 300 tons of materials out of the landfill each year.





Stone Gardens

Have you ever been rock climbing at Stone Gardens in Bellevue? Then you may have touched one of the ropes that has found a second life in partnership with Metamorphic Gear, a regional business that repurposes scrap fabric into higher-value products. Rock climbing ropes can only be used so many times before they cannot be relied upon to hold a human safely above the ground. However, this life-or-death strength is not needed for a dog leash or a tote bag handle. By partnering with Metamorphic Gear, for the last 10 years, Bellevue business Stone Gardens knotted a mutually beneficial relationship. Stone Gardens' ropes get a "second (dog) leash on life" and in 2019 over half of a mile in length of climbing ropes closed-the-loop, displacing the need for hundreds of pounds of new material to make leashes.

Terrazzo Stone/GDI

The Bellevue office of GDI Integrated Facility Services manages the cleaning services of several properties, and yet did not have recycling service for their own office, so they reached out to Bellevue Utilities for assistance. In response, the City outreach team assisted both GDI, and their landlord company Terrazzo Stone who share the same building. The City outreach team was able to provide recycling signage and indoor collection bins to Terrazzo Stone and GDI's offices and assist with arranging recycling service. During the initial visit, the outreach team learned that one of Terrazzo's challenges is illegal dumping in their block yard for concrete, brick and stone sales, and that they would need a recycling container that could roll, fit in the block yard, and be stored behind a locked gate after hours. Consequently, the City outreach team set up a site visit with Republic Services, the City's contracted garbage and recycling service provider, and confirmed that Republic could deliver a 2-yard recycling container that met those parameters and assisted with reducing illegal dumping. Due to the combined efforts of these two businesses, they increased recycling by an estimated 78 cubic yards/year. That is the equivalent of nearly 5-and-a-half tons of recyclables per year that had been previously been disposed of in the garbage (or nearly the weight of a Tyrannosaurus Rex!)

Zimmer Biomet Northwest

While assisting Zimmer Biomet Northwest - a national medical supply company - with recycling and organics, the Bellevue Utilities outreach team discovered that items are shipped daily to the company's Bellevue office in soft, sterile material that cannot be reused for medical purposes. While the company strongly supported recycling and wanted to somehow repurpose this material, they had no outlet and were stockpiling it for an unknown future use and began running out of storage room. The City reached out to Metamorphic Gear, a regional business that repurposes scrap fabric into higher-value products, to see if an upcycle use for this material could be identified. Metamorphic created several prototypes and was able to reuse the material as a liner for a wine bottle tote bag used by Washington winery Browne Family Vineyards. Thanks to this diversion, Zimmer Biomet Northwest was able to create 100 tote bags and divert almost 40 pounds and 1.5 cubic yards of waste out of the landfill.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6932 (voice) or email recycle@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/ Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.