

## Statewide Plastic Bag Ban



Washington's legislature recently passed a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags that begins Oct. 1, 2021. Plastic bags are a major contaminant in recycling facilities, waterways, roadways, and our environment. Washington's Plastic Bag Ban will reduce pollution by prohibiting single-use plastic carryout bags and charging a fee for acceptable bags.

Under this ban, after using up their existing supply of plastic bags, retail establishments will only be allowed to provide reusable and recycled-content carry out bags for a fee. Examples of acceptable bags include machine-washable bags, paper bags, compostable bags that meet requirements, and recycled content thicker plastic bags designed for reuse. Any brown or green tinted film bag must be compostable. Exceptions to the ban include bags used by consumers in stores to bag items such as produce, bakery items, frozen food, meat, small hardware items, prescription drugs, etc. Customers using a voucher or electronic benefits card issued by approved assistance programs will not be charged the bag fee.

**What can you do to avoid the bag fee? BYOB—bring your own bag!** We can eliminate the need for all paper and plastic bags, avoid fees, and protect our natural resources by remembering to bring our own reusable bags while shopping.

More information and FAQs on the ban are available at [Ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban](https://ecology.wa.gov/Bag-Ban).

## Help to Pay Utility Bills



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Bellevue Utilities is committed to helping our customers facing financial impacts and difficulty paying utility bills. We encourage all customers who have a past-due balance to contact us as early as possible about available support options.

**Payment Plans:** Utilities staff can help customers to set up flexible payment plans that work with their needs. Please contact 425-452-6973 or email [utilities@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:utilities@bellevuewa.gov)

[bellevuewa.gov](https://bellevuewa.gov) to discuss possible payment plan options.

**Emergency Assistance Program:** This program is designed to help residents facing a one-time financial shock, such as a job or income loss. It can cover up to four months of basic water, sewer and drainage service charges. To be eligible, customers must meet the program's low-income guidelines for the past 30 days and not receive other Utilities financial assistance. More information and applications are available at [BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief](https://BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief), or contact 425-452-5285 or [utilityrelief@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:utilityrelief@bellevuewa.gov) to discuss this option.

## Help Us Keep Your Street Flood-Free



Every fall, Bellevue Utilities faces a big job keeping storm drains clear—there are over 20,000 around the city!

You can help prevent flooding on your street by keeping your local storm drain clear of leaves and other debris.

Only clear your drain if it is safe to do so—work from a sidewalk if possible, and stay out of the street. Put all leaves and compostable debris in your organics cart. And please do not dispose of your grass clippings, leaves, or any other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters, or ravines.

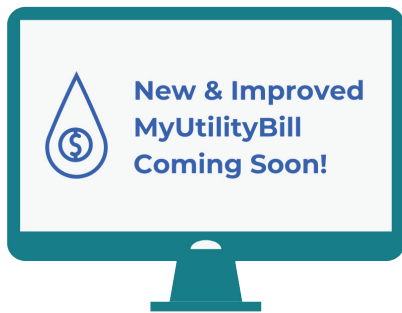
If a storm drain appears blocked below the street surface, please call us at 24/7 at 425-452-7840. We are here to help!

## Report Stormwater Pollution

Only rain should ever go down a storm drain. If you see signs of a pollutant spill in a stream, lake, or storm drain, please call the Utilities 24-hour emergency number at 425-452-7840. The sooner you call, the quicker staff can respond to resolve problems. Thank you for helping keep our shared waters healthy.



## MyUtilityBill Upgrade



Utilities is preparing to launch a new version of our online bill pay platform, MyUtilityBill. The new system will offer improved features and ease in paying bills. Customers will use the same website address to access MyUtilityBill, but

will need to re-register accounts to process payments.

We anticipate this upgrade will be effective in early fall. More information on what to expect and how to register on the new site is coming soon!

## Water-Saving Freebies & Rebates



Installing water-efficient fixtures and practicing wise water use can help you reduce your water consumption, potentially lower your utility bills and help ensure a reliable water supply for future generations.

Looking to get started saving more water? Bellevue Utilities customers can receive free indoor and outdoor water efficiency items through our membership in Cascade Water Alliance. You pay only shipping and handling.

### Sample items can include the following:

- **Low-flow shower head:** Reduces gallons per minute and energy demand from your water heater
- **Dye tablets and strips:** Helps in finding silent toilet leaks that can add up to big water waste
- **Digital shower timer:** Attaches to the wall with a suction cup
- **Kitchen faucet aerator:** Reduces water flow, with 360-degree swivel capability
- **Bathroom faucet aerator:** Reduces water flow, but not performance

To order items, visit [Cascadewater.org/waterefficiency/free-items](http://Cascadewater.org/waterefficiency/free-items) and reference your account or customer number from your utility bill. Free items are also available for apartment or condo owners and managers.

## Bellevue Utilities News is available online and in other languages at [www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities).

可在以下网站用中文查看《贝尔维尤市公用事业新闻》(Bellevue Utilities News): [www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities)

벨뷰 유틸리티 뉴스 (Bellevue Utilities News)는 [www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities) 웹사이트에서 한국어로 이용하실 수 있습니다

«Коммунальные новости Бельвью» (Bellevue Utilities News) имеется на русском языке по адресу [www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities).

Novedades de Bellevue Utilities (Bellevue Utilities News) está disponible en español en [www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities)

Tin Tức Về Tiện Ích của Bellevue (Bellevue Utilities News) có bản tiếng Việt trong [www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities).

# Greener Living Community Workshops

We're offering more free classes to help you make sustainable home choices this fall and winter, including in-person classes at the Bellevue Botanical Garden indoor education conference room and live virtual classes.

The popular "Greener Living" workshops, designed to teach simple ways to be kind to our earth while reducing toxins and waste at home, have been running for more than a decade. Class topics are updated regularly based on need and interest.

### Current workshop topics include the following:

- **Safer Cleaning** – Shop for and make your own safer cleaning products with common ingredients.
- **Reduce Wasted Food** – Maximize your food through proper storage, label reading and innovative recipes.
- **Super Sorter** – Learn where common items belong: recycle, compost or garbage, and how to handle unusual and potentially hazardous items.
- **Plastics: Problems and Possibilities** – Learn which plastics can be recycled and how to help reduce global impact.
- **Sustainable Shopping** – Tips to help reduce consumption and make environmentally friendly purchasing choices.

The fall series of classes will run from September through November, and each class will be offered more than once.

For full class listings, dates and times, visit [BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes](http://BellevueWA.gov/greener-living-classes).

Registration is required to attend classes. To register, email [recycle@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:recycle@bellevuewa.gov) or call 206-949-1787.



### Rebate programs through Puget Sound Energy (PSE):

Considering upgrading water-using appliances? PSE's rebate program can provide up to a \$100 rebate on

certified EnergyStar water-efficient washing machines. Visit [PSE.com/appliances](http://PSE.com/appliances) to learn more.

**General information**—425-452-6932  
[utilities@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:utilities@bellevuewa.gov) | [utilities.bellevuewa.gov](http://utilities.bellevuewa.gov)

**Customer Service/Billing**—425-452-6973

**Drinking Water Quality**—425-452-6192

**24 Hour Emergencies**—425-452-7840 (flooding, water main breaks, no water, sewer overflows, pollutant spills)

**Republic Services** (solid waste service)—425-452-4762