

## **Yard Cleanup Program Final Design and Response to Comments**

The Yard Program Design and Implementation Plan for the Tacoma Smelter Plume is now final. It explains how the Department of Ecology (Ecology) will sample and cleanup yards in the Yard Program. Funding for this work comes from a \$94 million settlement with Asarco.

See inside for a sampling and cleanup schedule and map.

The comment period for the draft plan ran March 14—April 29, 2013. We received seven comments and questions about the design. A responsiveness summary lists all of the comments, provides responses, and explains some of the changes to the plan.

You can find the final design and response to comments on our website, listed to the right.

### **Public Comment Highlights**

The following topics had some of the strongest public interest:

- **Providing outreach and education on gardening.** We heard many questions about gardening in contaminated soil. One commenter suggested we provide more information to homeowners. We are now designing a brochure on gardening in the Tacoma Smelter Plume.
- **Outreach for children and other sensitive people.** One commenter from Tacoma suggested that Ecology first cleanup yards where children and other sensitive people are living. If a homeowner has small children they can request to have sampling done sooner. We are also providing extra outreach materials for homeowners with small children.

### **Ecology's changes to the Yard Program Design**

During the comment period, we decided to add more detail on soil sampling at apartments and condos. The new sections cover where to sample within large multi-family complexes, how many samples, and how to gain access.

#### **Ecology Contacts**



#### **Residential Yard Sampling & Cleanup Program**

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#### **Where to find the final Design and Implementation Plan & Responsiveness Summary**

Ecology's website:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/tacoma-smelter.html>

SW Regional Office, Dept. of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA  
Contact Susan Baxter at  
[Susan.Baxter@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Susan.Baxter@ecy.wa.gov) or  
(360) 407-6365

Your local library will have a hard copy or can help you find it online.

**Facility Site ID #: 89267963**

### Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program Update

Ecology has started sampling and cleanup in north Tacoma and on southern Vashon-Maury Island.

#### Sampling Schedule

- **Tacoma:** In August 2013, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department started contacting homeowners and collecting samples in west Tacoma.
- **Vashon-Maury Island:** Ecology sent letters offering soil sampling to over 700 homeowners in the service area. We sampled over 300 yards this fall and will continue sampling in 2014.
- **EPA Study Area:** In October 2013, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department began contacting homeowners about past sampling results from the EPA/Asarco cleanup and how to reduce contact with soil.

We plan to host public meetings to answer questions about homeowners' sampling results. We are also planning workshops on how to reduce contact with soil, such as building raised garden beds, and how to cover bare patches of dirt.

### Cleanup Schedule

- **Current cleanup:** This fall, Ecology started cleanup on eight yards left over from the Environmental Protection Agency's cleanup in the Superfund area (see map on page 3).
- **Planning for cleanup in 2014:** Ecology also contacted the first 80 homeowners eligible for cleanup inside the Superfund area. Ecology plans to start cleanup of these yards in spring and summer of 2014.  
On Vashon-Maury Island, Ecology met with the first group of homeowners eligible for cleanup. Ecology plans to complete cleanup on these yards in spring and summer of 2014.
- **Future cleanups:** Ecology will begin contacting the first group of homeowners in the Tacoma area (outside EPA area) sometime in 2014.

For more about Ecology's sampling and cleanup schedule, please visit our webpage:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites\\_brochure/tacoma\\_smelter/2011/yard.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/tacoma_smelter/2011/yard.html)

### How can I find out what's in my soil?

For homeowners inside the Tacoma Smelter Plume, but outside the Yard Program service area (map to right), Ecology has a free home soil testing program.

- **King County:** Public Health Seattle & King County offers free home soil testing. Please contact (206) 477-DIRT or [DirtAlert@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DirtAlert@kingcounty.gov).
- **Pierce County:** The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department offers free home soil testing. Please contact Glenn Rollins at [DirtAlert@tpchd.org](mailto:DirtAlert@tpchd.org) or (253) 798-3503.



