

Legislative Report and Program Update

Ecology announces the publication of the 2008 Soil Safety Program Legislative Report (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0909127.html>). This fact sheet provides updates to the Legislative Report and background on the Soil Safety Program. Recently, local health departments in King and Pierce counties completed all planned soil sampling. Cleanup work continues at schools and childcares with arsenic and lead contamination.

Ecology also announces the continuation of the Soil Safety Program through 2011. The agency will fund sampling at new schools and childcares in the 2009-2011 biennium. The state legislature provided spending authority for \$4 million out of the State Toxics Control Account to fund school and childcare cleanups in the Soil Safety Program and school cleanups in eastern and central Washington.

What is the Soil Safety Program?

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed a law to keep children safe from polluted soil. Ecology created the Soil Safety Program in response to this law. The program provides:

- Outreach and education about how to protect children from being exposed to polluted soil within the Tacoma Smelter Plume (see the back of this mailer).
- Free arsenic and lead soil testing for schools and childcares.
- Protective actions for play areas with arsenic or lead exceeding state standards. Actions include removing or covering polluted soil.

Ecology is partnering with Public Health—Seattle & King County and Tacoma—Pierce County Health Department to provide the soil testing and outreach. The program serves parts of King, Pierce, and Thurston counties. See page 3 for a map of the Service Area.

Why does it matter?

The Soil Safety Program focuses on protecting children in places they spend a lot of time—childcares and schools. Children are particularly vulnerable to toxins like arsenic and lead. Their small bodies are still developing and can be harmed by even

More Information

For questions about the Soil Safety Program, please contact:

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E-mail: ahar461@ecy.wa.gov

Public involvement contact:

Hannah Aoyagi
Phone: (360) 407-6790
E-mail: haoy461@ecy.wa.gov

Soil Safety Program Web site

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/dirt_alert/soilSafety/SoilSafety.htm

Local Dirt Alert Programs

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept:

Chris Matter-Rinehart
Phone: (253) 798-6492
E-mail: DirtAlert@tpchd.org
<http://www.tpchd.org/DirtAlert>

Public Health-Seattle & King County:

Thai Nguyen
Phone: (206) 263-8474
E-mail: Thai.Nguyen@kingcounty.gov
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/toxic/ArsenicLead.aspx>

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small exposures. They also spend more time closer to the ground and have mouthing behaviors that expose them to toxins in soil and dust. The Soil Safety Program also teaches parents, caretakers, and teachers how to keep themselves and the children they care for safe.

Program Accomplishments

All schools and licensed childcares requiring soil sampling have been addressed. Play areas with arsenic or lead exceeding state standards have either been cleaned up or will be cleaned up between July 2009 and June 2011.

Schools

- 215 were evaluated.*
- 180 were sampled.
- 31 had elevated arsenic or lead.
- 26 required further action.**
- 22 completed soil safety actions.

Childcares

- 709 were evaluated.*
- 614 were sampled.
- 91 had elevated arsenic or lead.
- 87 required further actions.**
- 30 completed soil safety actions.

**Some facilities evaluated had paved play areas, where no soil exposure was possible.*

***Some facilities closed or changed their play areas before Ecology could provide soil safety actions.*

Ecology is managing the cleanups at most schools and childcares. Two school districts chose to hire their own contractor using Ecology funding. Cleanup typically involves removing contaminated surface soils and replacing them with clean fill. The surface is then covered with a safe play surface such as sod or wood chips.

An important part of the Soil Safety Program is education and outreach. Local health departments give schools and childcares tools for teaching children about healthy actions (see box

below). Brochures, videos, curriculums, nail brushes, and other educational materials are available through the contacts on page 1.

What Happens Next?

Ecology will finish work under their current contract in June of 2009. Further work will not begin until the new fiscal year, July 1, 2009. When data on newly opened childcares become available, local health departments will begin soil sampling again. Any contaminated facilities will be cleaned up by Ecology, using remaining funding.

Ecology is developing an Interim Action (partial cleanup) Plan for the Tacoma Smelter Plume site. This plan will propose several approaches to addressing the widespread arsenic and lead contamination. The public will be invited to comment on the plan, expected in 2010.

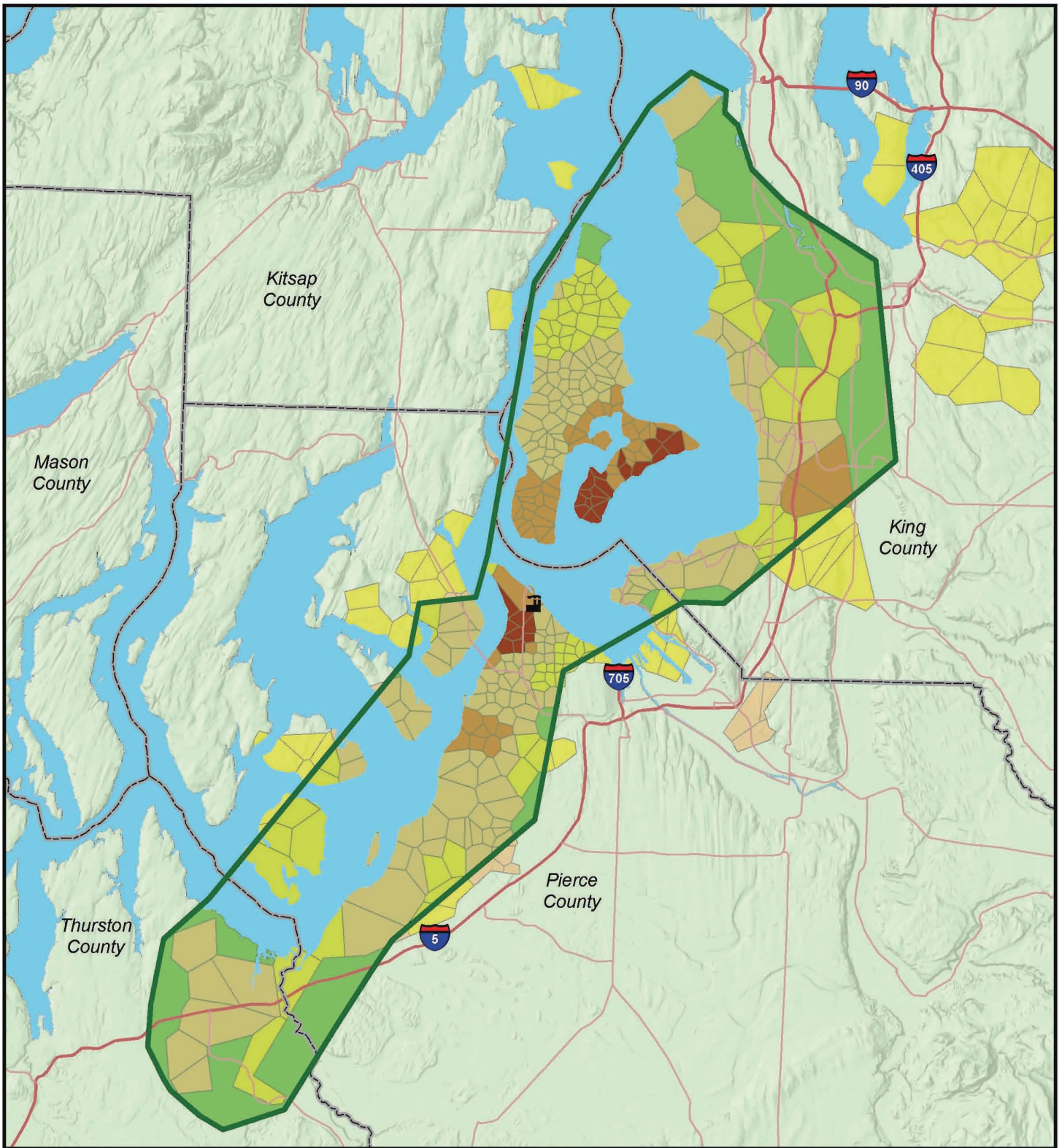
Contact Hannah Aoyagi at (360) 407-6790 or haoy461@ecy.wa.gov to be added to the mailing list. For more information about Ecology's plans, please visit: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/tacoma_smelter/2009/planning.html

Healthy Actions

You can limit your family's exposure to arsenic, lead, and other types of possible soil contamination by:










- Washing your hands after working or playing outside, and before eating.
- Using a doormat or shoes off policy to keep dirt outside.
- Scrubbing fruits and vegetables from the garden.
- Vacuuming regularly and dusting with a damp cloth.
- Keeping children's toys clean.

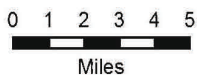




Map Features

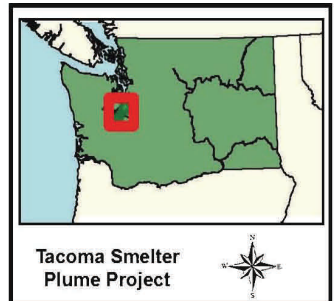
Arsenic Concentrations in Soil, 0-6 inches, 90th Percentile (mg/kg) in the Soil Safety Program Service Area

- | | |
|--|--|
|  20.1 to 40.0 |  Soil Safety Program Service Area |
|  40.1 to 100.0 |  Stack |
|  100.1 to 200.0 |  County_Boundaries |
|  > 200.0 |  Interstates |
| |  Highways |



Map Created: December, 2006 by Toxics Cleanup Program

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Tacoma Smelter
Plume Project





DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY

State of Washington

PO Box 47775

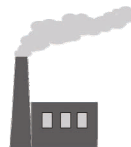
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

**Tacoma Smelter Plume
Soil Safety Program
Pierce County, WA**

**Legislative Report and Program Update
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**The Tacoma Smelter
Plume Site**

The Tacoma Smelter Plume is a 1,000 square mile area polluted by arsenic and lead from the former Asarco Smelter in North Tacoma. The smelter released these toxic metals into the air during nearly 100 years of operation. Parts of King, Pierce, Thurston, and Kitsap counties are affected.

Please visit Ecology's Web site for more information, including maps: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/tacoma_smelter/ts_hp.htm

