

## Update on the progress of the Tacoma Smelter Plume project

The Washington State Department of Ecology continues work to manage risks from contaminated soil in the Tacoma Smelter Plume. The plume is a 1,000 square mile area of arsenic and lead soil contamination from the former **Asarco smelter** in Ruston.

In 2009, the State of Washington received a settlement from Asarco for environmental damages. Ecology is using a majority of the settlement to sample and replace soil on residential yards.

### Public Open House

We are hosting a public meeting to provide an update on the progress of the Tacoma Smelter Plume project.

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016 — 6:30-8 p.m.**  
Point Defiance Elementary School, Cafeteria  
4330 N. Visscher St., Tacoma, WA 98407

At the open house, we will provide an update on the progress of each of the four main programs:

- Yard Sampling and Cleanup: Sample and replace soil from existing residential yards in areas of highest contamination.
- Soil Safety: Sample and replace soil in child play areas at schools, childcares, parks and camps.
- Outreach and Education: Partner with health departments in King, Pierce and Thurston counties to raise awareness and promote behaviors that reduce soil exposure.
- Technical Assistance: Work with local governments and developers to encourage voluntary cleanup during development.



Former Asarco Smelter in Ruston/North Tacoma.

### Ruston/N. Tacoma Homes

#### Public Open House

**May 24, 2016**  
**6:30—8 p.m.**

#### Contacts:

##### Department of Ecology

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##### Smelter Search Map

Check if your home is affected and what services are available:  
<http://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/smeltersearch>

##### Arsenic in Soils Database

Search for soil testing results and soil removal information:  
<http://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/areispublic>

##### Health questions, free soil testing

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.  
(253) 798-6492  
E-mail: [DirtAlert@tpchd.org](mailto:DirtAlert@tpchd.org)  
Website: [DirtAlert.info](http://DirtAlert.info)

Facility Site ID #: 89267963  
CSID #: 3657



### Sampling underway on residential yards

Ecology launched the Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program in 2013. Since then, we have sampled 2,951 yards in the service area (see map below). Of those yards, 2,334 were in the Tacoma area and 617 were on Vashon-Maury Island. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department collected the samples in Tacoma.



### Over 1,000 yards slated for soil replacement

So far, we have identified around 1,100 yards that qualify for soil replacement. This includes 717 yards in the Study Area that were sampled during the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Superfund Cleanup.

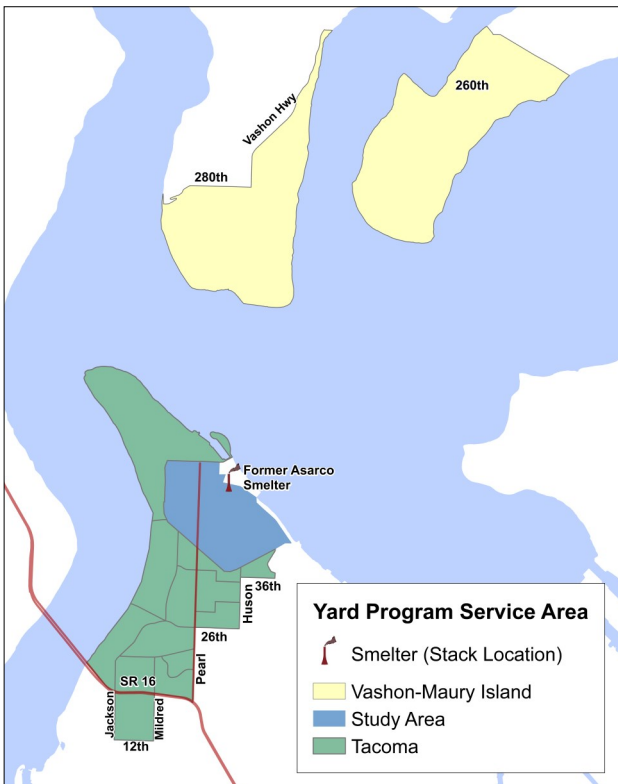
Ecology’s soil sampling has identified 385 additional yards that qualify for soil replacement. Ecology has completed soil replacement on 126 yards in Tacoma and 21 on Vashon-Maury Island.

As we continue sampling, we expect to find around 150 more yards that qualify for soil replacement. At the public meeting, we will share the results of our sampling efforts and our schedule to replace soil in yards.

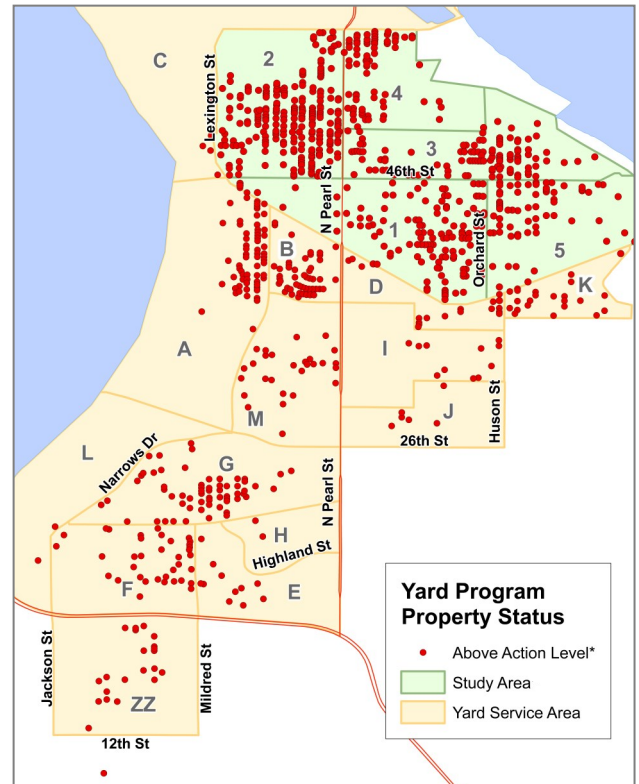
### Last chance to sign up for soil sampling

Ecology plans to complete soil sampling in Tacoma and on Vashon-Maury Island by June 2017.

**To sign up for soil sampling**, please contact Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) at (253) 255-8135 or [DirtAlert@tpchd.org](mailto:DirtAlert@tpchd.org). Later this year, TPCHD will send one final letter offering sampling.



Service area for the Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program (Yard Program).



\* Properties marked “Above Action Level” are those with either average arsenic above 100 parts per million (ppm) or lead above 500 ppm. These yards qualify for free soil replacement.

## 10 years of protecting kids from arsenic and lead

This year marks the ten-year anniversary of the Soil Safety Program. Since 2006, we have sampled more than 1,000 schools, parks, childcares, camps and multi-family housing play areas.

We replaced soil or posted signage at 86 childcares, 25 schools and 24 parks. If a play area had an average for arsenic or lead above the state cleanup levels, we offered to replace the soil. Some play areas were not accessible for the equipment, such as in forested areas or on steep slopes. In these areas, we posted signs to inform visitors.

### In the last year, we replaced a total of 6,130 tons of soil in Tacoma parks.

In 2015, we replaced soil at two parks, Optimist Park and Baltimore Park. In early 2016, we replaced soil at Fort Nisqually in Point Defiance Park. There will be fences around the new grass at these parks until later this summer to allow the roots to establish.

### Encouraging Voluntary Cleanup

Our Technical Assistance Coordinator works with other state and local governments, developers and landowners to streamline the cleanup of contaminated soil.

Since 2010, we have partnered with 18 local permitting offices in King, Pierce and Thurston counties to encourage landowners and developers to clean up soil during construction.

So far, we have provided 34 opinion letters and 34 No Further Action (NFA) letters on cleanup plans. In all, our efforts have led to cleanup of 348 acres of contaminated soil during development.



Contractors removed the top 12 inches of soil at Baltimore Park in Tacoma.



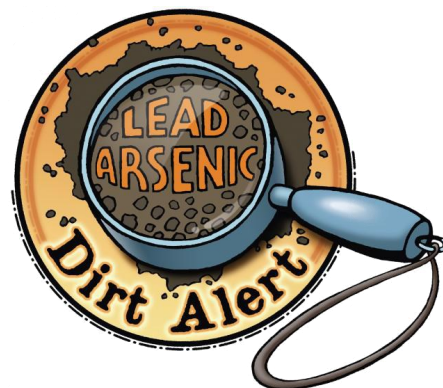
Meridian Campus-Campus Springs replaced soil in over 127 acres in eight parcels before building homes and schools.

### Protect your family from arsenic and lead!

We recommend **Healthy Actions** to protect your family from contaminated soil:

- Wash hands after working or playing outside.
- Take off shoes or use a doormat.
- Vacuum and damp dust regularly.
- Keep children's toys free of dirt.
- Wash fruits and vegetables from your garden.

For more information, visit [DirtAlert.info](http://DirtAlert.info)






DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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4330 N. Visscher St.  
Tacoma, WA 98407



 Please recycle.

## **Tacoma Smelter Plume Pierce County, WA**

### **Update on the Progress of the Tacoma Smelter Plume project**

¿Habra Español? Si necesita esta información en español, contáctenos a [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov).

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-6245.

Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

**Unable to attend?** We will post a copy of the slides after May 24th, 2016 at:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/CleanupSiteDocuments.aspx?csid=3657>

## **Public Open House**

**May 24, 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Point Defiance Elementary School**  
**4330 N. Visscher St.**  
**Tacoma, WA 98407**

Ecology invites you to a public open house on the progress of the Tacoma Smelter Plume project. Staff will be present to talk one-on-one during the open house session. At 7 p.m., staff will give a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

**6:30-7 p.m. Open house session**  
**7-8 p.m. Presentation**  
**Question and answer session**

*Light refreshments will be provided.*