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Hair - Nope, Not Flushable!

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1. Impact Design

Impact Statement - If I keep hair out of my household's sinks, showers, and toilets, I will prevent clogs in my city pipes, ensuring that wastewater systems can function properly to keep our environment healthy.

Community Alignment	
Group	**Goal/Action**
City of Kirkland	City of Kirkland's Wastewater web page asks citizens to be mindful of what goes into their wastewater and to not flush "unflushables"
King County	King County lists hair as an item not to flush down the toilet. Keeping hair out of toilets and drains will help keep city pipes unclogged and allow material to move smoothly down pipelines without getting caught by hair. The properties of hair can make clogging from fats, oils, and grease more impactful.

Procedure - *Steps for implementation!*

1. What makes hair so disruptive to sewer systems? Learn about the properties of human hair and think about what this might mean for my local pipes. Hair tends to snag on anything in its course and ball up easily, creating a web that captures more and more particles as it travels down pipes.

2. Do a Drain Audit, testing household drains for clogs and functionality. If drains already have hair in them, follow this procedure to deal with clogs without needing to use harsh chemicals: pour a cup of baking soda into the drain and wait 3 minutes, then pour a cup of vinegar into the drain and let the mixture sit for a few hours.

3. Prevent hair from going down drains by throwing away hair in a trash can when brushing hair, brushing hair before showering to remove weak strands, and adding mesh screens over drains frequently exposed to hair.

4. Discuss findings with my household members, as well as other community members I know, encouraging them to follow the same steps to keep hair out of drains.

2. Impact Data Tracking - *Quantify your impact!*

To think about my impact on sewer systems, I can track a few indicators of keeping hair out of drains:

# of mesh screens added to household drains: (**2** in my household + **0 (as of right now)** in other households)
# of people I've shared information with about hair and drains: **13**

That's **2 drains** now protected from loose hair and **14 individuals** working to keep our pipes healthy!

3. Impact Storytelling - *Share your data with who needs to know!* **See more [tips](#)**
Think on 4 scales of stakeholders… Family, School, Community, and Aligned Groups

Stakeholder	Interests	Approach
Family — Parents	Preventing clogs	**Family Conversation:** Share my findings from research about hair with my family through a conversation over dinner
Community – Friends that attend my school	Helping the environment	**Text Messages:** Reached out to a dozen or so friends and explained what I had learned by conducting this project in my house. They were initially amused but ended up learning something about how to protect the city's water systems!

Add your project to our website under "[Submit your Impact](#)"! Contribute to collective impact…