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Neighborhood Dog Baggie Stations

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1. Impact Design

Impact Statement - If I install a post that dispenses dog poop baggies in my neighborhood, then I will reduce the amount of dog poop that is washed into our storm drains and polluting our watershed.

Community Alignment	
Group	Goal/Action
<u>Puget Sound Starts Here</u> - An organization with members around the Puget Sound region that inspires people to make simple changes in their routines for the sake of protecting our natural resources.	This organization encourages working together and <u>taking simple steps</u> to improve the health of Puget Sound. One of these steps is to clean up after our dogs.
<u>King County Water and Land Resources Division</u> - Protects public health and safety of county residents through natural resource management.	Teaches King County residents about the <u>science of stormwater</u> , how it affects our natural resources, and steps that individuals and businesses can take to mitigate its impact. This <u>video</u> explains how much pet waste makes its way into Puget Sound each day.

Procedure - Steps for implementation!

1. Take a walk! How many dog waste stations are there in my neighborhood? Take note of their locations. Find out who manages it. Also take note of any piles of dog poop I find (and pick them up with a bag!).
2. Take the data I gathered and pick some potential sites for a dog waste station. Do the [Dog Doogity Poop Pickup Dance](#) if I feel like it.
3. Talk to my neighbors or other stakeholders that would be closest to my proposed site. Explain how dog waste impacts the Puget Sound, what my data says, and ask if they would be okay with a dog waste station being installed and/or contributing money to its purchase.
4. Order or build my station! [Poogooder](#) currently provides stations for free to residents of the West Seattle neighborhood. Some cities will provide them to residents, so talk to my administration. Other potential stations can come from [Bow Wow Waste](#), [Zero Waste USA](#), or a local provider.
5. Check out the "Impact Tracking" section and gather some data. Then shout about it to people who need to know! Think about neighbors, family, and other stakeholders.

2. Impact Data Tracking - Quantify your impact!

In my research I found that there are no stations in my neighborhood for the dispensing of or the disposing of dog bags. However, my neighbors have been very consistent in picking up after their furry friends, wherever that might be, with there being little-to-no evidence of dog waste in my neighborhood. There is a trail by my house, Pipeline trail, which runs through Kirkland and into Woodinville mainly. On this trail, I usually see a few piles of dog waste, with no sign of doggie bag dispensers to be found.

How much dog waste would have made its way into Puget Sound if it had been left on the ground?

The average dog dropping [contains fecal coliform bacterias, giardia, and salmonella](#), all of which can infect fish and other aquatic wildlife and harm humans that consume them. Dog waste also [releases nutrients](#) when it decomposes, which causes algal blooms in water bodies.

The average dog poops 1-5 times per day for a [total of about 0.75 lbs](#), meaning that each pile of dog poop weighs approximately 0.25 lbs. There are approximately 153,000 dogs registered in just the city of Seattle – that's 38,250 pounds of poop per day, just from registered dogs!

One gram of poop, the size of a pea, contains 23,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria – that's a lot of potential bacteria to go into our watershed. (Hint: there are 453.5 grams in one pound)

Initial walk around:

How many piles of dog poop did I see in my first walk around? How many pounds of waste was that on the ground?

I did a walk through my neighborhood, located in the Kingsgate area of Kirkland, bordering Woodinville, and there was no dog waste to be found, this is normally the case for most of the times I walk my dogs around the neighborhood, however there have been some instances where certain dog-walkers neglect to pick up after their furry friends, which normally occurs once every other week or so. On the Pipeline trail I sometimes walk, which is more a part of Woodinville than Kirkland, there tends to be more evidence of dog waste, and none of dog-waste-dispensers. An additional statement I would like to include is the popular use of signs encouraging people to pick up after their animals in my neighborhood, which tends to be effective. I believe that by putting more of these signs up around my neighborhood and other communities within the Kirkland area, more dog-walkers will remember to bring their own dog bags on their outings with their dogs.

Although I have not yet prioritized the installment of dog dispensaries in my neighborhood, these are important tools to use, and these can be installed by individuals in their own yards to promote and encourage the use of dog bags in our Kingsgate community. I have debated doing a do-it-yourself dog bag dispenser in my front yard and will most likely be installing one by the end of the summer, as well as discussing this option with my neighbors. The promotion of this is important, so heading to social media is a great place to start for those interested in finding a solution to dog waste not being picked up in Kirkland neighborhoods.

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	Protecting wildlife	Conversation: Talk with family about consistently cleaning up after our three dogs
School — Any level	Fun assignments	Curriculum Building: Write up impact story as a class assignment like a science report, economic study, narrative fiction, or a spoken word piece. I can do this from the perspective of yourself, a dog owner, a dog, a dog's... poop, or even as a marine organism impacted by all the fecal coliform and other nasty stuff. To get the word out more, I'll submit my impact story to one or more local youth or adult blogs, such as Sustainability Ambassadors' SAWG BLOG
Community — Neighbors	Clean yards, clean shoes	Conversation: Talk with those who have dogs, ask them if they pick up their poop and where they might want to see changes made (like a park or more stations). This could include the discussion of DIY dog bag stations and including the use of signs encouraging the picking up after one's own dog.
Community — Instagram users	Clean sidewalks	Social Media Presentation: 30-40% of dog owners don't pick up after their pets. Create a PowerPoint (but cool) with images and infographics. I'll record my voice. Record my dog's voice. Add the perfect music and upload clips on Instagram. I can inform these owners about the harm they are causing the Puget Sound, and convince them to change their ways.

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