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## Use a Commercial Car Wash

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### 1. Impact Design

**Impact Statement** - If I only wash my car at commercial automatic in-bay car washes, then I will conserve water and reduce stormwater pollution.

Community Alignment	
Group	Goal/Action
<b>Full Circle Environmental</b> - This organization has partnered with the skilled and professional team at Triangle Associates to provide charity car wash outreach on behalf of Kirkland, Bellevue, and Redmond.	<a href="#">Their on-going outreach</a> informs businesses and charities about local car wash regulations, monitors charity car wash occurrences during strategic months of the year, and provides evidence of city action toward the <a href="#">National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance</a> .
<b>Mister car wash</b> - A commercial car wash company who are focused on finding smarter ways to reduce their environmental impact and offsetting their carbon footprint.	<a href="#">They are committed to making investments and operational decisions</a> that reduce the impact and enhance sustainability in the following areas: Freshwater Recycling and Reduction, Environmentally Friendly Chemistry, and Smart Energy Consumption.
<b>King County Water and Land Resources Division</b> - Protects public health and safety of county residents through natural resource management.	Encourages residents to do their part to reduce stormwater pollution through <a href="#">simple action steps</a> , like keeping soapy water out of drains, and educates them on the <a href="#">science of stormwater</a> .

#### Procedure - Steps for implementation!

1. Take a stroll around my block. How many cars did I see? Was anyone washing theirs? If so, did I see evidence of grungy soap water going down the storm drain? Take some notes.
2. Research the [effects of car washing](#) on bodies of water like the Puget Sound, the [water consumption](#) for different types of car washes, and the [different types](#) of automatic car washes.
3. Encourage my family and neighbors to use a commercial automatic in-bay car wash, and tell them about water conservation techniques and the effects of car washing on Puget Sound that I learned from my research.
4. After I use a commercial car wash, write some data down in the impact tracking section. If I've convinced friends or family, add data for them too!
5. Spread the word to my stakeholders! There are thousands and thousands of cars in Seattle, which means thousands and thousands of potential gallons of contaminated water entering the stormwater system and the Puget Sound. It is much easier to prevent pollution than to clean it up.

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

There are many different types of automatic car washes and they all use different amounts of water.

How many cars did I convert from using a tunnel car wash (120 gallons) to an automatic car wash (35 gallons)? **4**

How many cars did I convert from using at-home washing (100 gallons) to an automatic car wash (35 gallons)? **3**

- This number is important not only for water conservation but also for preventing pollution.
- At-home car washes send pollution into storm drains, compared to commercial washes that are required to properly treat dirty water before it reaches the Puget Sound.

### Gallons of Water Offset Monthly:

*Assuming the people that I talked to wash their car once a month, and in the future will use an automatic car wash instead of other wasteful methods*

- Water use prior to changes: **4**(120 gallons) + **3**(100 gallons) = **780 gallons**
- Water use after cleaning methods changed: **7**(35 gallons) = **245 gallons**

**780 gallons** used monthly before changes - **245 gallons** used monthly after changes = **535 gallons** of water saved monthly

- Polluted water going down the drain before changes: **3**(100 gallons) = **300 gallons**
- Polluted water going down the drain after changes: **0**(100 gallons) = **0 gallons**

I have helped conserve **535 gallons** of fresh water and prevented **300 gallons** of polluted water from entering my stormwater system each month.



### 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
<b>Family —</b> Parents	Cleaner car and caring for the environment	<b><u>Conversation:</u></b> Explain to them how using commercial car washes is better for the environment since it saves water and prevents polluted water from going down the storm water drain.
<b>School —</b> Peers and Teachers	Clean car	<b><u>School Newspaper (Pouch) and the News (Kang News):</u></b> Write about the benefits of using a commercial car wash and try to emphasize the fact that it uses a lot less work than washing your car at home. Also, try to feature a science teacher on the School news Channel who can talk more about the environmental impacts that changing to a commercial car wash can have.
<b>Community —</b> Newspaper readers and Flyers	Healthy salmon, Cleaner car and caring for the environment	<b><u>Flyers, SA Newsletter and featured articles in the citywide newspaper:</u></b> By creating colorful flyers and brochures and writing articles about how using commercial car washes can have a positive impact on the environment, we can engage the community and have them play a part in moving to a sustainable future.
<b>Aligned Groups —</b> <a href="#">Full Circle</a> <a href="#">Environmental</a>	Organize charity car washes	<b><u>Email:</u></b> Show the organization some of the articles from the SA Newsletter and some of the impact projects and collaborate with them to hold a charity event that spreads knowledge on the importance of the use of commercial car washes

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