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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
<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.	Encourages local residents to make <u>three simple changes</u> in how they approach their car care, resulting in a healthier Puget Sound.
<u>King County Water and Land Resources Division</u> - Protects public health and safety of county residents through natural resource management.	Encourages residents to do their part to reduce stormwater pollution through <u>simple action steps</u> , like keeping soapy water out of drains, and educates them on the <u>science of stormwater</u> .

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)? 3

How many cars did I convert from using at-home washing (100 gallons) to an automatic car wash (35 gallons)? 2

- 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: $3(120 \text{ gallons}) + 2(100 \text{ gallons}) = 560 \text{ gallons}$
- Water use after cleaning methods changed: $5(35 \text{ gallons}) = 175 \text{ gallons}$

560 gallons used monthly before changes - **175 gallons** used monthly after changes = **385 gallons** of water saved monthly

- Polluted water going down the drain before changes: $2(100 \text{ gallons}) = 200 \text{ gallons}$
- Polluted water going down the drain after changes: $0(100 \text{ gallons}) = 0 \text{ gallons}$

I have helped conserve 385 gallons of fresh water and prevented 200 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
Family — Siblings	Clean car	Conversation: Encourage them to use commercial car washes because it is better for the environment and usually easier!
School — Peers	Clean car	POV Video: I'll take a video from inside the car as it's being washed. I'll narrate what's happening and where the water is going or while self washing the car zoom in to the drain and explain where the water is going.
Community — Newspaper readers	Healthy salmon	Infographic: Create a colorful and insightful infographic that teaches people about how commercial washes recycle their water using templates from services like Canva
Aligned Groups — Puget Soundkeeper	Preventing pollution.	Email: Show them my work through the video in the car wash

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