



The Ordinary Puget Sound Citizen's Point of View

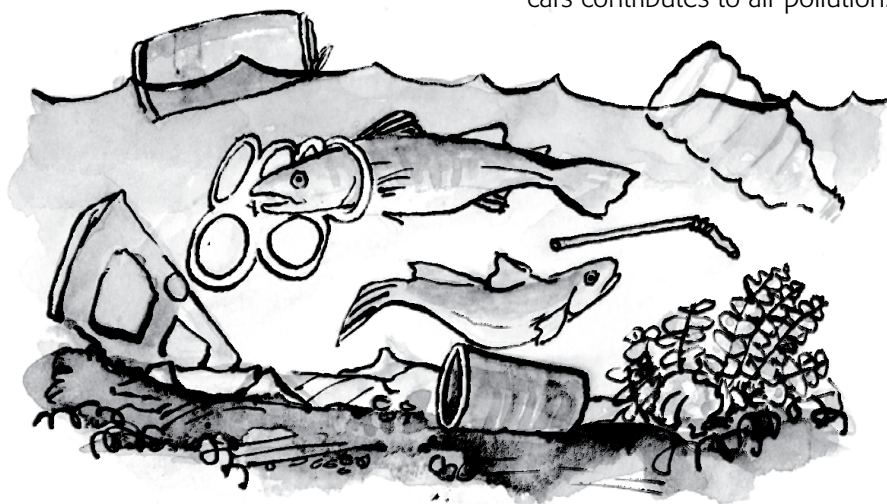
As we work, go to school, play, travel, and enjoy our homes, we affect Puget Sound and its marine life. Think about the following questions as you read this selection, then discuss the questions from the point of view of a Puget Sound citizen:

- How does each person who lives here affect Puget Sound?
- What can you and other people in your family do to help find solutions to Puget Sound problems?
- What would you have to give up or trade off to make the solutions something you could live with?
- What benefits would a healthier, cleaner Puget Sound give you and your family?



A Puget Sound Citizen's Viewpoint

It is our Puget Sound. Almost three million of us live and work here because we love the weather, the mountains, the rivers, lakes, streams, and Puget Sound. The Sound provides us with recreation and supports many businesses. We travel on it and eat food from it. We share the Sound with many animals and plants as well.



Ordinary Puget Sound Citizens Can Harm Puget Sound

As we live our lives, we produce many kinds of pollutants. Many of them end up in Puget Sound. These are a few of the problems we create for the Sound:

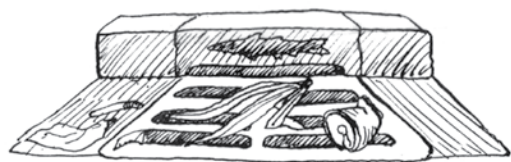
- We throw away enough things every year to cover the freeway from Seattle to Spokane with garbage piled six feet deep.
- Our cars, trucks, buses, lawnmowers, and boats use oil and other toxic chemicals that end up in Puget Sound.
- We use and throw away household cleaners, fertilizers, pesticides, solvents and paints that contaminate Puget Sound.
- We heavily use water for drinking, cleaning, watering plants, and much more.
- The fossil fuel energy we use to heat houses and run cars contributes to air pollution.



How Can Ordinary Citizens Help Puget Sound?

Many of Puget Sound's problems seem overwhelming to one person. We can help protect the Sound by working together. There are many simple things we can do each day that are helpful. Here are a few of them:

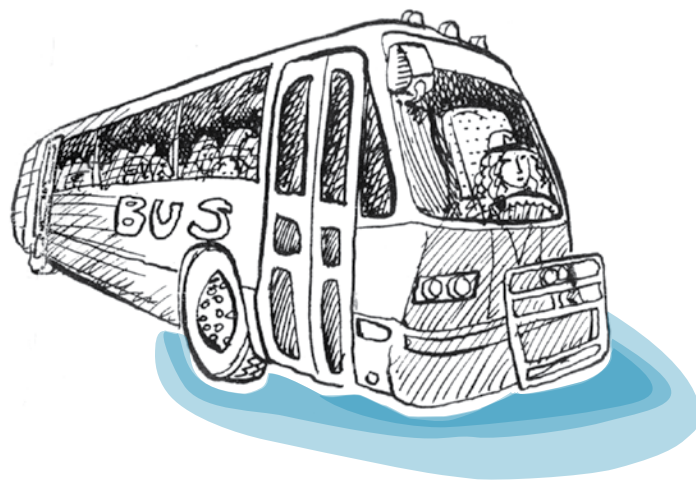
- Recycle paper, metal, glass, and plastic. Reuse materials and avoid buying things that must be thrown out.
- Buy things that are packaged in recyclable materials, which is called pre-cycling.
- Properly dispose of hazardous materials. Never pour automotive oil down storm drains or paint, oil, or antifreeze down the sink or toilet.
- Pull weeds by hand. Avoid using toxic chemicals to kill weeds and insects. Compost leaves and food scraps to use as fertilizer so you do not need to use chemical fertilizers in the garden.
- Conserve energy. Take the bus, use car pools, walk, or ride a bike. Turn off lights, computers, and television sets when you are not using them. Turn down the heat and put on a sweater to save energy and money.
- Save water by taking shorter showers and turning off the water while you brush your teeth. Make sure faucets do not leak, and run full loads in the clothes washer and dishwasher.
- Learn more about Puget Sound. Tell your friends, neighbors, and family about protecting Puget Sound.
- Take action. Get involved with a group that is working to protect and preserve Puget Sound.



Changes and Tradeoffs

Changing the way we are used to doing things is not always easy, even when we know it is better for our environment. As you read and think about how ordinary citizens help and harm Puget Sound, consider the problems and solutions.

How will these solutions help Puget Sound?
What are the tradeoffs an ordinary person will need to make to put these solutions to work?



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