

# Environmental Insight



## Secretary of the Navy Earth Day Message:

1. In the spirit of the Department of the Navy (DON) 2024 Earth Day theme, "Three C's: Communities, Critical Infrastructure, and Climate Action," I want to recognize the progress and achievements that we've made over the past year and encourage all commands to celebrate the day with local events and messaging relevant to their communities, and remember to keep that commitment all year long.

2. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and the Environment and DON Chief Sustainability Officer (EI&E/CSO) has released the DON Earth Day 2024 Planning and Reporting Guide to help align our efforts, provide ideas for local engagement and events, and direct reporting of these activities. The guide can be found on the EI&E/CSO public site: <https://www.secnv.navy.mil/climate/pages/resources.aspx>.

3. As outlined in the guide, Earth Day activities offer a valuable opportunity for commands to come together on and off-base, to advance and showcase efforts to preserve the environment while achieving the DON mission.

4. Department leadership will be participating in events throughout the country over the next week from Earth Day to Arbor Day to highlight our environmental stewardship and the critical work of the EI&E portfolio. I encourage each of you to participate in efforts on DON installations, at sea, and in your communities to make investments in our maritime dominance and mission success through sustainability and climate action.



Environmental Policy and Plans as well as previous Newsletters are located at:

<https://cnrnw.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Everett/Operations-and-Management/Environmental-Support-and-Compliance/>

### Earth Day 2024

5. For more ways to support DON sustainability efforts, I encourage you to explore the other resources on the EI&E/CSO public site listed above. Our climate strategy, Climate Action 2030, outlines the DON approach to ensure our force is more capable and resilient in the face of climate change. This strategy, and the commitment it represents, demonstrates our attention to the climate threat and our prioritization of climate security.

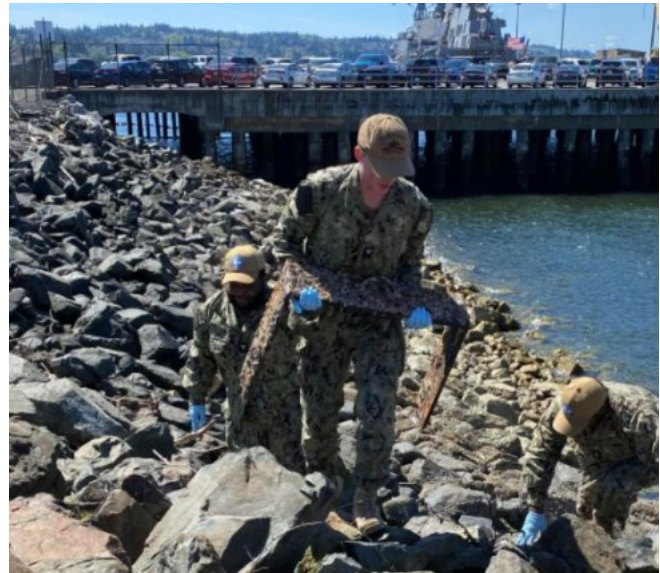
6. EI&E/CSO has also issued five serials on key priorities: infrastructure, water resilience, nature-based resilience, sustainable acquisition and procurement, and shore energy. I encourage the entire Department to read these serials, also found on the EI&E/CSO public site.

7. As we work together as a Department to improve our energy efficiency, reduce and/or sequester carbon emissions, and improve the environmental resiliency of our installations and ranges, we are becoming better warfighters and increasing our tactical and strategic advantages in our operational environment.

8. Thank you for your efforts to make us the most resilient, climate-ready and capable maritime force in the world, and I look forward to seeing you out there at Earth Day activities, and everyday.

9. Released by the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy.

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Participants collected 230 lbs of metal, 5 lbs of basic recyclables, and 75 lbs of trash on April 22, 2024 at Naval Station Everett.

Also, invasive plants, such as blackberry, were removed, the shade garden was restored near the cabins, and beautifying the campground on April 20, 2024 at Naval Radio Station Jim Creek Recreation Area.



Thank you to all the sailors and civilians who showed up and contributed to enhancing the beauty and water quality at NAVSTA Everett and NAVRS Jim Creek!

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**NSE Environmental Staff**  
Environmental Office: (425) 304-3470

Program	Phone
Spills	(425) 304-3465
Natural Resources	(425) 304-3464
Stormwater, Wastewater, & UST/AST	(425) 304-3277
Air & Drinking Water	(425) 304-3466
Recycling	(425) 304-3071
Hazardous Waste	(425) 304-5987

## What is Stormwater Pollution?

When rain hits concrete and asphalt, it cannot absorb and filter through the ecosystem as nature intended. Instead, it runs along these impervious surfaces and flows into drains and creeks, picking up any contaminants along the way. This pollutes waterways, drainages, vegetation and wildlife, and can even contaminate drinking water.

All of Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point are subject to the Clean Water Act. Working together, we can help keep the Puget Sound clean!

**What causes it?**

- SPILLAGE OF OIL, FUEL, AND ANTIFREEZE.** Vehicle maintenance is **NOT** permitted on NBK property since it generates hazardous waste and pollution hazards that the base is liable for. To conduct maintenance on your vehicles, please contact commercial garages in town.
- CIGARETTE BUTTS AND TRASH.** Rain picks up harmful bacteria and toxic metals from trash. Especially harmful to the environment are cigarette butts, which contain metals toxic to aquatic organisms.
- PET WASTE.** Poop left outside takes a very long time to decompose. It spreads parasites and bacteria that are not only harmful to the ecosystem, but also to humans and other pets. Always pick up after your dog.
- PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS.** Due to their toxicity, the use of these substances on military bases are highly regulated, and therefore are not permitted for use by housing residents.
- SEDIMENT AND EROSION.** Excess sediment harms aquatic organisms and reduces oxygen levels in the water. Cover dirt piles with a tarp. Never hose off any impervious surfaces without permission from NBK Public Works.

Any pollution entering the storm drain must be stopped to prevent harm to the environment. Contact (425) 210-8391 immediately if you see this happening.

### Only rain down the drain.

## MS4 Education Materials

A large part of our MS4 Stormwater Permit is public outreach and education. You will notice some outdoor stormwater signage and indoor postings around the base which is meant to educate and remind base personnel of the Navy's commitment to stormwater compliance. The intent is to provide positive reinforcement as well as provide our contact information for reporting spills. Our program has both the pictured magnets available for posting on refrigerators in your command. If a command representative would like to come by and pick some up, please let us know so we can arrange a time to meet you. Please help us keep these magnets attached to refrigerators and postings post-

ed. EWCCs are our conduit to the tenant commands on base, and your support of our environmental programs goes a long way in ensuring your command's understanding and compliance. If you need additional magnets or replacements, please let us know.





## Recycling Tips

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in several of the Earth Day activities around the Puget Sound earlier this week. As we all know, its crucial to preserve our natural resources and minimize our impact on the planet. Whether it's recucling or reducing energy use, every little thing we do counts. Let's keep the Earth Day vibe alive in everything we do, keeping in our mind our duty to keep this planet safe for future generations!

Speaking of recycling, check out these ways you can improve recycling at home or on base.

- 1. Recycle Bin Item Separation:** Please place recyclable items loosely in the bin. Avoid nesting items like placing cans inside boxes or bottles inside cans. Nested items complicate the sorting process, as automatic sorters cannot separate them, and hand sorters do not have the time, leading to recycling contamination.
  - 2. Cardboard Flattening:** Always flatten cardboard and corrugated boxes before disposal. Unflattened boxes take up excessive space and require more frequent hauling, which could lead to cleanliness issues around disposal areas and an increased usage of fossil fuels.
  - 3. Cleanliness of Recyclables:** Ensure that all items placed in the recycling bins are clean, empty, and dry. Contaminants like food residues and liquids can attract pests, cause odors, and leads to rejection of the materials and recycling contamination.
  - 4. Avoid Wish-Cycling:** Only recycle items that you are sure are accepted by our program. Introducing non-recyclable materials by guessing can disrupt the recycling process. When in doubt about an item, it's safer to dispose of it as waste. This is especially important with plastic items. Locally in Kitsap County and on base, only #1 PETE and #2 HDPE bottles are accepted.
  - 5. Labels on containers:** labels on cans and bottles do not need to be removed as most recycling processes can handle them through thermal stripping. However, removing them when possible is beneficial and ensures the labels are discarded as they are not recyclable.
  - 6. Bottle Lids:** Lids on bottles can be left on as many will detach during compaction and processing stages at the recycling facility.
  - 7. Wrapping paper:** Most wrapping papers should not be recycled due to their low fiber content, which makes them unsuitable for paper production after recycling.
  - 8. Greeting cards:** greeting cards made of cardstock are recyclable, except those with excessive glitter or non-paper embellishments. Removing any non-recyclable decorations can make your card suitable for recycling.
  - 9. Paper Size Limitations for Recycling:** Avoid recycling items smaller than a postcard, as they can fall through sorting screens at recycling centers, and also do not have enough fiber content for paper production.
- Importance of Recycling Aluminum:** Aluminum cans are highly sustainable and can be recycled indefinitely without loss of quality. Recycling aluminum saves significant energy and resources compared to producing new aluminum, thus significantly reducing environmental impact.



**Help keep wildlife wild and healthy.** Please do NOT feed wildlife on base such as ducks, geese, gulls, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, etc.. One way you can help reduce wildlife conflicts with people is by not feeding wildlife near human populations.