

Friday Five

Your weekly Thurston County update



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#1 - *The Switch Is On* Makes Home Upgrades Easier and More Affordable



Have you considered electrifying your home with clean energy technologies like a new heating and cooling system, heat pump water heater, induction cooking stove, or rooftop solar? Upgrading to highly efficient clean energy technologies improves your home and our community. For instance, heat pumps unlock energy savings while providing both heating and cooling to keep you comfortable year-round. They also improve public health by reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Thurston County is partnering with neighboring counties and cities to launch a new resource – [The Switch Is On](#) – to help residents with home energy upgrades. It includes:

- Incentive finder: Utility rebates and tax credits are currently available, and new incentives are coming soon from federal investments and Washington’s Climate Commitment Act. [Find out what you qualify for now.](#)
- Contractor finder: Guidance from a trusted, pre-qualified contractor makes electrification projects easier. [Find an expert contractor](#) to help you determine the right upgrades, products, and incentives for your home and budget.
- Informational resources: Check out [The Switch Is On website](#) to learn how various technologies work, what benefits you’ll get from your upgrades, and what steps to take to initiate your project.

To get notified about new incentives and receive expert advice on navigating your home electrification projects, [subscribe to The Switch Is On](#).

#2 - Planning Your Summer Vacation? Thurston County Auditor's Office Offers Passport Services



Passport Services are offered without an appointment during regular business hours at the Thurston County Auditor's Office. While walk-in service is available, it's still highly encouraged you make an appointment to ensure prompt service instead of a potentially long wait time.

The Auditor's Office is the only provider of passport services in Thurston County during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Auditor's passport facility is located at 3000 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

The Auditor's Office offers the following advice to facilitate the walk-in process:

- Walk-in hours for passports are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Walk-ins should check-in at the lobby kiosk to receive their number.
- Arrive early in the day when business is lighter. This typically results in faster service.
- Due to lunch breaks, staffing levels are limited between noon and 2:00 p.m.
- Complete all paperwork before arriving.
- If you plan to have your picture taken wear dark clothes, they produce a better photo. Please do not wear white or cream clothing.
- The U.S. Department of State portion of the fees must be paid by check or money order.

To make an appointment and find more information about Auditor Passport Services, visit ThurstonAuditor.gov.

#3 - Submit a Public Comment at the Next Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Do you have input on solid waste management in Thurston County?

Submit a public comment at the next SWAC Meeting.



SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**April 3, 2024
10-11:30am
In person & online**

The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting is on Wednesday, April 3, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Rainier Conference Room - Building C, at Thurston County Public Works ([9605 Tilley Road S., Olympia, WA 98512](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/9605-Tilley-Road-S.-Olympia-WA-98512)). SWAC is made up of elected officials, residents, and industry representatives. The SWAC reviews all issues affecting Thurston County's solid waste programs and makes recommendations to the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners. This committee leads the development of a five-year Solid Waste Management Plan to help guide how Thurston County and participating cities manage waste now and into the future.

Do you have input, feedback, or a question? Anyone can submit a public comment online, over the phone, or in person. More information about the SWAC and upcoming meeting can be found on the [Solid Waste Advisory Committee webpage](#).

#4 - Prepare in a Year: 12 Steps for Disaster Prep

Prepare in a Year: 12 Steps for Disaster Prep

Wednesday March 27, 2-3 PM

For adults

Get started with 12 steps for disaster preparedness with Thurston County Emergency Management. One simple activity a month will have you better prepared in a year. Plus Q&A and free giveaways!



Lacey Timberland **LIBRARY**

500 College Street Southeast • TRL.org • 360.491.3860



Join Thurston County Emergency Management at the Lacey Timberland Library on March 27, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to learn 12 steps for disaster preparedness. Being prepared for disasters may seem daunting or intimidating, but it's actually quite simple and as easy as completing one activity a month. By the end of 12 months, you'll be much better prepared. Think of disaster preparedness not as a checkbox, something to do once and never again, but rather a continual process of learning, restocking supplies, and encouraging others to be prepared.

Questions? Contact Cherie Carey at cherie.carey@co.thurston.wa.us.

#5 - Subscribe to the Thurston County YouTube Channel



Thurston County

@ThurstonCountyWashington · 1.14K subscribers · 2K videos

The official YouTube page of the Thurston County Government. This is your one-stop shop for more

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The Switch Is On in Thurston County: Rebates and incentives ...

144 views · 13 days ago

The greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Thurston County, Washington is residential homes. You can help change that by switching to electric appliances and working to improve home efficiency. The Switch Is On is a campaign to teach residents about the benefits of choosing electric and help them make the switch. Visit wa.switchison.org to find rebates, incentives and contractors.

Did you know Thurston County has a YouTube channel? The [official YouTube channel of Thurston County](#) is where you can [watch live](#) and recorded Board of County Commissioner meetings and work sessions. You can also watch episodes of [Coffee with a Commissioner](#), our talk show program where our commissioners interview subject matter experts on timely and relevant topics to Thurston County. Subscribe to the channel so you don't miss out on new videos!



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Stay current on upcoming public hearings, meetings, and work sessions by bookmarking the [Board of County Commissioners' master calendar](#)! Please call the Board of County Commissioners office at (360) 786-5440 if you're having problems viewing the calendar.

Thurstoncountywa.gov



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