## Use a Commercial Car Wash

**Your name, Class of \_\_\_\_**

**School, School District, City**

Impact Design **- Design the process!**

**1. Impact Statement**

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

**2. Community Alignment**

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| **Group** | **Goal/Action** |
| [**Seattle Public Utilities**](https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/about) - Manages the water, sewer, drainage, and waste collection services of the city of Seattle. | [Promotes pollution prevention](https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/sustainability-tips/pollution-prevention/car-washing) through using commercial car washes or washing on permeable surfaces like lawns. |
| [**Puget Sound Starts Here**](https://pugetsoundstartshere.org/Default.aspx) - 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 [three simple changes](https://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org/CarCare/index.html) in how they approach their car care, resulting in a healthier Puget Sound. |
| [**King County Water and Land Resources Division**](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wlr.aspx) - Protects public health and safety of county residents through natural resource management. | Encourages residents to do their part to reduce stormwater pollution through [simple action steps](https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/wastewater/cso/about/help.aspx) like keeping soapy water out of drains and educates them on the [science of stormwater](https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/introduction/science.aspx). |

**3. Procedure**

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](https://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org/CarCare/index.html) on bodies of water like the Puget Sound, the [water consumption](https://www.carlblackoforlando.com/blog/what-is-the-average-amount-of-water-used-to-wash-a-car/) for different types of car washes, and the [different types](https://www.wet-inc.com/what-are-the-different-types-of-car-washes/) 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.

Impact Tracking - **Quantify my impact!**

4. **Data**

**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)? 5**

- This number is important not only for water conservation but particularly 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 natural water systems like 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 gallons) + **5**(100 gallons) = **860 gallons**

- Water use after cleaning methods changed: **8**(35 gallons) = **280 gallons**

 **860 gallons** used monthly before changes - **280 gallons** used monthly after changes = **580 gallons** of water saved monthly

- Polluted water going down the drain before changes: **5**(100 gallons) = **500 gallons**

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

**I have helped conserve 580 gallons of fresh water and prevented 500 gallons of polluted water from entering my stormwater system each month.**

Impact Storytelling **- Share my data with who needs to know!** [**Impact Storytelling Tips**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1do-KoX9J5onLrEEoSiKnmNWHYlk_jf0lJZ-ANkXCLMk/edit)

**5. Stakeholder Communication**

*Think about video, graphs, e-news, and public presentation*

* Create a colorful and insightful infographic that teaches people about how commercial washes recycle their water and thus reduce the environmental impact of car washing. You can use templates from services like [Canva](https://www.canva.com/) or [HubSpot](https://www.hubspot.com/infographic-templates) to get started.
* Take a POV video from inside the car as it’s being washed. Narrate what’s happening and where the water is going and do your best to channel David Attenborough.
* Present a powerful PowerPoint that compares an at-home car washes water use to other water-using activities: How many five-minute showers could you take with that same amount of water? How many times could you run a washing machine or a dishwasher? How many betta fish could that amount of water support comfortably?

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| **Stakeholder** | **Interests** | **Approach** |
| [Puget Soundkeeper](https://pugetsoundkeeper.org/) | Preventing pollutants from entering the stormwater system in the first place. | Show them my work through whichever storytelling method I choose, and ask how I can be further involved. |
| My family, friends and neighbors that drive | Having a clean and functional car | Encourage them to use commercial car washes because it is better for the environment and usually easier! |

Add your project to our website! Contribute to collective impact… [sustainabilityambassadors.org](https://www.sustainabilityambassadors.org/)