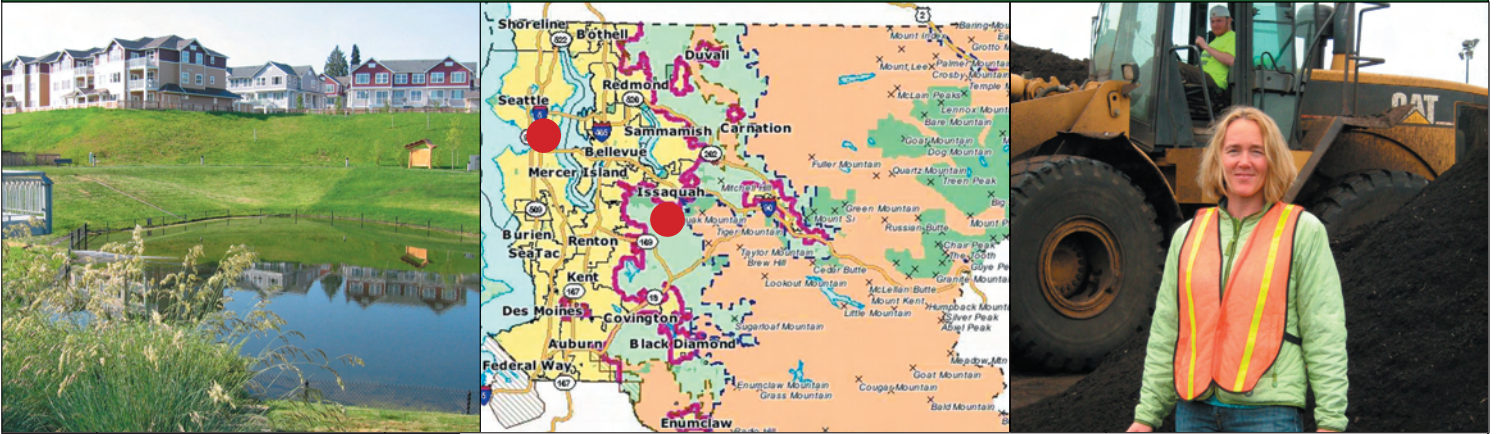


# URBAN RURAL CONNECTIONS – A WHOLE KING COUNTY



## Composting and Low Impact Development

### SvR Design Company, High Point Neighborhood

The nationally acclaimed Seattle Housing Authority's 120 acre High Point neighborhood development in West Seattle demonstrates what the efforts of individuals, agencies, and corporations can do to create a sustainable community. When King County residents recycle yard waste and food scraps, the material that is composted in Maple Valley is returned to urban neighborhoods to add soil health, conserve water, and help create eco-friendly neighborhoods.

High Point is Seattle's first complete neighborhood designed under Seattle Public Utilities' natural drainage systems approach. It has successfully placed thousands of yards of compost in its bioretention soils, parks and landscapes. Adding these valuable, recycled organics to the soil diverts material from landfills and continues to enhance vegetation and filter sediments for storm water management.

The trees and plants at High Point have thrived and are in a "showy" state all year, creating a wonderful urban neighborhood for plant enthusiasts who like to walk. In addition, amending soils with compost creates a zone of soil that functions like a sponge similar to the forest duff, absorbing the water in the top layers and allowing slow filtration which gives an opportunity for microorganisms to cleanse and treat pollutants.

By composting residential plant trimmings and organics in Maple Valley, locally made compost is returned to the neighborhood for pea patches, container gardens, natural drainage systems and landscapes. This successful collaboration demonstrates what rural King County businesses and urban dwellers, planners and companies are doing together to create a more sustainable and thriving King County.

### Cedar Grove Composting, Maple Valley

Jamie Burke is a Soil and Contractor Specialist with Cedar Grove. "Educating the building and land development community on the environmental benefits that come with the use of compost is very satisfying, and direct involvement with low impact development projects that minimize erosion and restore soils to healthy and functional levels gives me a great sense of accomplishment," says Jamie. "Working for Cedar Grove, I feel like part of the solution to restore, preserve, and promote healthy soil practices that will keep Puget Sound and surrounding waterways clean."

Cedar Grove Composting's 28 acre site in Maple Valley has been accepting materials from King County residents and businesses since 1989, successfully diverting over 2 million tons of recoverable organics since it began operations. Through the years, continual upgrades in the technology have expanded the site's ability to recycle food waste with its green waste, the largest recoverable material historically going to landfills. The recycled compost is distributed through garden centers, nurseries, and bulk dealers throughout the Pacific Northwest. It is also used directly in landscaping, transportation, and construction projects in both rural and urban areas, and is a key component of Soils for Salmon ([www.soilsforsalmon.org](http://www.soilsforsalmon.org)), a Washington Organic Recycling Council project to build soil for cleaner water, healthier streams, successful landscapes, and healthier communities.

