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Snohomish County Green Initiatives

Snohomish County Green Ribbon Climate Task Force

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1. **Use of Alternative Fuels.** In 2007, the county vehicle fleet used 144,000 gallons of B20 bio-diesel.
2. **Clean Vehicle Purchasing.** New vehicles include flexible fuel (E85/gas) vehicles, hybrid electrics, and biodiesel compatible vehicles. Downsized gas engines on 8 vehicles (6 cyl. To 4 cyl.).
3. **Idle reduction Policy.** Instituted an idle reduction policy within the proposed Equipment Use Policy revision.
4. **LED Traffic Signals.** The County has converted 100% of its traffic signals to LED lights. LED is 70% more energy efficient than incandescent lights.
5. **Transit System Priority.** With the help of Community Transit, the County has installed Transit System Priority (TSP) on three major County arterials. TSP helps reduce transit times, making transit a more attractive transportation choice.
6. **Smart Ride Program.** The County's SmartRide program eliminates over 200 peak hour trips per day through the discouragement of single occupancy vehicle (SOV) commuting. This represents a savings of 29,000 gallons of gasoline per year.
7. **Commute Trip Reduction Program.** The County is actively involved in administering the Commute Trip Reduction program. County-wide this program is credited with reducing commute trips by 700 per day which represents 168,000 gallons of gasoline per year.
8. **Organics Diversion.** Organics diversion for composting at solid waste transfer stations has increased from an average of 120 tons per month in 2006 to an average of 490 tons per month in 2007.
9. **E-Waste Recycling Program.** E-waste recycling was implemented and became the model for proposed product stewardship initiatives in paint, tires and carpet.
10. **Green Building Practices at Cathcart Public Works Maintenance Center.**
 - a. Light fixtures changed from metal halide to fluorescent.
 - b. HVAC system in the Administration building is a very efficient water loop heat pump system with localized climate control.
 - c. Energy Star transformers.

11. **Green Building Practices at Transfer Station.** Sun tubes installed at the Southwest Recycling and Transfer Station.
12. **Green Building Practices on Central Campus.** The following technologies and actions have been adopted at the county's central campus:
 - a. Installed window film to reduce heat gain in buildings.
 - b. Working with janitorial company to insure that lights are shut off in offices after cleaning.
 - c. Electronic panels for controlling HVAC and lighting.
 - d. Installed low-flow high pressure aerators in sinks.
 - e. Standardized A/C temp.
 - f. Retrofitting lighting by replacing incandescent lamps with fluorescent lamps.
13. **Utility Savings.** In the process of evaluating Request for Proposals for ESCO services that will identify utility savings for county-owned buildings.
14. **Low Income Energy Assistance and Weatherization Program.** In 2007, this program resulted in weatherizing 298 low-income housing units, serving 800 low-income individuals.
15. **Methane-Powered Canola Dryer.** Purchased a canola dryer for production of bio-diesel fuel. Landfill gas exhaust will be converted into a hot air stream to run the dryer, beginning summer 2008.
16. **Online Permitting.** Improving online permitting capabilities and availability of online information.
17. **Mobile Inspections Data Entry.** Building Inspectors will enter inspections data electronically, saving paper and reducing trips between the office and the field.
18. **Comprehensive Plan Policy Guidance.** Draft Comprehensive Plan policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation are under consideration by the county.
19. **Urban Centers Demonstration Program.** The county has extended Urban Centers Demonstration Program and is working to make it permanent. Compact mixed-use land development near public transit links can help reduce vehicle miles traveled.
20. **Open Space, Agriculture and Forest and Protection.** Comprehensive plan designations, a Purchase of Development Rights program, a Transfer of Development Rights program, forest regulations restricting subdivision, and development and administering the Current Use Taxation Program all aid to preserve lands that sequester carbon.
21. **Native Plant Program.** Capital restoration projects and citizen steward driven projects resulted in planting over 45,000 plants in riparian areas. Net result is increased tree, shrub and other plant availability for carbon uptake and sequestration.