



Snohomish County

# 2010 Sustainability Update



# Snohomish County Leadership

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## Background

This report is the first Snohomish County *Sustainability Update* highlighting the County's most recent initiatives in energy efficiency, resource conservation and facilitating sustainable communities. Snohomish County has always been a leader in environmental stewardship, and in 2008 the County took aggressive action on climate change when Executive Aaron Reardon issued Executive Order 07-48. Executive Order 07-48 set a County-wide goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 20 percent below 2000 levels by 2020. During that same year, Executive Reardon also appointed a Green Ribbon Climate Task Force (GRCTF), which developed a comprehensive set of recommendations to help the County achieve its GHG emission reduction goals. The GRCTF recommendations provide a strong foundation for the County to examine and expand environmentally sustainable best practices in a larger context. Through leadership and collaborative efforts with community stakeholders, Snohomish County is leading by example and addressing environmental sustainability in daily government operations, policy and practice.

## Leading By Example

Below are just a few examples of how Snohomish County has taken an active leadership role in 2010 to reduce GHG emissions and advance environmental sustainability. All of

*"We must invest in our future, directly tackling the environmental challenges facing this country. In the short-term, we're inviting our citizens, cities, businesses and public agencies to partner with us in finding ways to reduce and eliminate our sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For the long-term, we will become a leader in sustainable job growth, a promoter of innovative clean energy and a protector of the environment and natural resources. Others will look to us as an example of a county that on every level is sustainable. It's a continuous process, but one we're committed to achieve."*

-Aaron Reardon, County Executive

the County's recent efforts are outlined in the next section, "Sustainability Highlights."

## **Office of Energy and Sustainability**

In 2010, the County opened a new Office of Energy and Sustainability with a full-time staff person dedicated to resource conservation, energy efficiency, and sustainable practices. Visit the new Office of Energy and Sustainability website by going to the County home page and clicking on 'Sustainability'.

# ***Snohomish County Leadership***

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## ***County Green Team***

The summer of 2010 marked the formation of an interdepartmental government Green Team to take the lead in implementing the County's sustainability goals. The Green Team is in the process of developing a sustainability action plan for County government operations. The plan will include sustainability performance goals and action items, and the Green Team will collect data to track progress against performance goals. The data collected on specific benchmarks will then be added to the existing SnoStat system. SnoStat is the County's accountability and transparency system, which was launched by Executive Reardon in 2004. The County uses SnoStat to report to the public on aspects of public-safety, government performance, daily management and long-term planning.

## ***PUD Energy Challenge***

The County recently joined the Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD) Energy Challenge, by pledging to reduce energy use in select County facilities by 10% below 2007-2009 average usage within the next three years. The Energy Challenge is being promoted in all County facilities, however the campaign is focused on the following buildings:

- County Campus in Everett (Administration buildings, Courthouse, Mission Building)
- South District Court

- Arlington fleet shop

The County will reach its goals for this challenge through a combination of capital retrofit projects and employee education. Snohomish County is proud to be a participant in this challenge alongside other local residents, businesses, and community groups who have also taken the pledge.



**Take the pledge!** Save money and energy by joining the PUD Energy Challenge at [www.snopud.com](http://www.snopud.com).

# Sustainability Highlights

## Grant Funded Projects

### **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant**

At the end of 2009, Snohomish County received \$4.8 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding from the Department of Energy (DOE) for energy efficiency and conservation projects that help meet local, regional, and national long-term clean energy and climate goals. Through a combination of EECBG funding and County bond funds, the County is implementing 12 different projects that will help save energy, money and resources both in government operations and community-wide. These projects are funded under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). For more information about the County's EECBG projects, visit the County's home page and click on 'Sustainability'.

### **Clean Cities Grant**

Snohomish County's Fleet Division is a subrecipient of the Clean Cities Grant awarded to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. In the coming years, Fleet will implement a number of projects that reduce GHGs and improve air quality, including:

- Purchase of up to 20 alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles
- Install two biodiesel and one ethanol fueling station
- Install up to two solar electric vehicle-charging stations in the County

Installation of the fueling stations and solar powered electric

## EECBG Projects

- Energy efficiency upgrades to County buildings
- Solar powered electric vehicle (EV) charging stations
- Energy efficiency upgrades to the Evergreen State Fairgrounds
- High-efficiency lighting upgrades at County solid waste transfer stations
- Energy efficiency upgrades at the former Cathcart landfill leachate pre-treatment plant
- Free transit passes for County employees in 2011
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program to reduce traffic congestion
- Expansion of County's green fleet with two new electric vehicles
- LED streetlamp pilot project on Puget Park Drive
- Energy efficiency and conservation education program
- Residential energy efficiency loan program
- Subawards for Snohomish County cities and non-profits
- Staffing for a new Energy and Sustainability Office

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vehicle charging stations is expected to be complete by the end of 2011.

## **Community Power!**

Snohomish PUD has recently launched a new grant-funded Community Power! program, with partnership from Snohomish County and the City of Everett. Launched in April 2010, this program provides a combination of free conservation measures and energy assessments to residents and small businesses. Community Power! brings cost-effective energy savings to local neighborhoods using a two pronged approach:

- Works with multi-family buildings and small businesses in targeted neighborhoods to install low-cost energy efficiency measures
- Invites communities to apply for support of a neighborhood-wide energy efficiency project

For more information on the Community Power! program, visit [www.snopud.com/communitypower](http://www.snopud.com/communitypower).

## **Energy Efficient Buildings**

### **Upgrades to County Facilities**

Through a combination of EECBG grant money and County General Obligation Bonds, the Facilities Management Department has ramped up energy efficiency retrofit efforts that will reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption,

and save money. Approximately 20 County facilities are undergoing energy efficiency upgrades, such as:

- Lighting upgrades to more efficient bulbs and fixtures
- Lighting reduction (de-lamp) where feasible
- Building management system control re-commissioning and updates
- Day-lighting controls
- Installation of occupancy sensors
- Computer room air conditioning controls updates
- Equipment upgrades

Facilities Management uses Energy Star Portfolio Manager to



Two new energy efficient water-cooled chillers were recently installed in the the County Campus. These two chillers will save approximately \$11,500 per year in energy costs.

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track energy and water use in all County facilities.

Over the past six years, a variety of energy efficiency retrofits have been completed at existing County Parks and Recreation facilities, including:

- Indoor and outdoor lighting upgrades
- HVAC unit upgrades and increased temperature controls
- Low-flow toilets
- Remote electronic control of restroom locks

Energy efficient irrigation systems have been installed at several Parks' facilities, which use smart technology to determine water demand for irrigation. This technology helps reduce water consumption and the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Solar panel installation is planned for Miners Corner and the Yurt Village at River Meadows. These solar power collection systems are anticipated to offset all of the energy needs at Miners Corner and a portion of the energy demand for the Yurt Village at River Meadows.

In the last few years, the County Airport has reduced energy consumption at the Future of Flight facility by turning off unnecessary electrical devices and lighting when not in use, replacing old fixtures and lamps with more energy efficient units, and delamping. These system operation adjustments resulted in 36.3% reduction in electricity consumption over a

four-year period. The Airport has made changes to the Future of Flight's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system over the past three years to increase energy efficiency, including:

- Thermostat monitoring and adjustment
- Replacement of inefficient and defective devices
- Turning off individual HVAC units when appropriate to reduce the daily energy load.

This process has produced a 20.3% reduction in electrical and gas consumption over the past three years.

The renovation of Airport Building C-71 for the WA Aerospace Training Center also achieved significant reductions in energy use through lighting upgrades and the installation of an "Energy Ball" power generation wind turbine. The lighting retrofits are expected to produce a 52,297 kWh savings per year and the installation of the "Energy Ball" will produce 2 kWh savings when tied into the existing PUD electrical system.

## Power Management of Electronics

### ***Sleeping Monitors***

The County's Department of Information Services (DIS) is helping the County save energy by automatically powering down monitors after ten minutes of inactivity. This provides significant energy savings for approximately 3,000 computer monitors in use at the County. DIS has applied a similar policy

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to kiosk monitors, which are powered down after County operating hours. Kiosk monitors use substantially more power than desktop monitors, so the energy savings through effective power management is even greater for kiosk monitors than desktop monitors.

## **Electronic Hierarchical Storage**

The County's need for electronic data storage nearly doubles every two years. To reduce the energy required for this storage, DIS continues to find cost-effective solutions to increase storage capacity. One of these low cost solutions is the use of a file vault system which provides low-cost storage for ordinary files that are used infrequently.

## **SQL Database Consolidation**

DIS currently supports over 550 Microsoft SQL databases at the County, which run on different servers and a variety of versions. In order to reduce energy consumption, DIS regularly inventories SQL databases and retires those that are no longer in use. Databases are then consolidated on different server clusters. SQL database consolidation reduces the quantity of servers needed, reduces energy consumption for equipment cooling, and reduces physical space needs.

## **Computer Server Virtualization**

The County is achieving dramatic energy savings by

constructing multiple virtual workstations on one physical computer. Computer server virtualization maximizes computing capacity, significantly reduces management costs, and provides greater resiliency against hardware failures. This strategy also reduces the quantity of physical computers needed, which means less energy is needed for cooling equipment. DIS has recently converted 130 virtual servers, 33 virtual desktops, and all virtualized systems reside on just 20 physical machines.

## **Green Transportation Infrastructure & Programs**

### **Electric and Hybrid Vehicles**

In 2010, Fleet Management focused on electrification of the County fleet. Using EECBG grant funds, Fleet will install sixteen electric vehicle (EV) smart-charging stations in the County parking garage and four electric vehicle smart-charging stations at the Cathcart Way Operations Center. Each charging station will be powered primarily from solar arrays, and the installation of the solar array that will power EV charging stations at the County Campus was completed in the summer of 2010. The solar panel systems purchased for the County campus and Cathcart were manufactured locally in Marysville. Smart charging stations will have the ability to collect and report vehicle charging data, and will be supplied with back-up power from the building electric grid when required. Solar

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A 16.4 kW solar panel system was recently installed on the roof of the County campus administration building. This solar array will generate electricity for approximately 16 electric vehicle charging stations in the County parking garage and will prevent approximately 21,000 pounds of CO2 from entering the atmosphere each year.

powered EV charging stations are scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Fleet also received Clean Cities Grant funding for two additional solar-powered smart-charging facilities to be installed at Community Transit’s Park-and-Ride at McCollum Park and the Evergreen State Fairgrounds. These stations are expected to provide County electric vehicle users with another 12 to 16 smart-charging stations at each facility. In 2011,

Fleet will begin buying electric vehicles for County business, including at least five Nissan Leafs. All Clean Cities grant projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2011.

## **Use of Alternative Fuels**

Since 2007, Snohomish County’s Fleet Management Division has been transitioning from use of petroleum fuels to biofuel blends. Today about 70% of the County’s diesel fleet is operating on blends of B10, B20 and B40 biodiesel. This reduces carbon emissions by about 640 metric tons annually. The County is on target to have 95% of its diesel fleet using



Snohomish County has a diverse fleet of vehicles, including 14 hybrid vehicles, 23 solid waste trucks that are biodiesel certified, and a hybrid electric truck.

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biodiesel blends well before the June 30, 2015, state mandate. In 2010, Fleet will begin installing additional biodiesel and ethanol fueling stations through Clean Cities grant funding. Installation is expected to be complete by the end of 2011.

## ***Biofuel Production***

In 2008, Snohomish County purchased a methane-powered seed dryer and an oil seed crusher for production of biodiesel fuel. The seed dryer was put into operation at the Cathcart facility, where methane gas from the former landfill is converted into a hot air stream to run the dryer. While the Cathcart facility is still operating as a pilot program, it is anticipated that local farmers will grow enough canola to produce a substantial portion of the County's biofuel. The canola seed is dried and crushed on-site at the Cathcart facility with the oil locally processed into biodiesel fuel.

## ***LED Traffic Signals***

The County has converted 100% of its 1,300 traffic signals to LED lights. LED lights are 70% more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs and last ten times longer.

## ***Snohomish County Employee Trip Reduction Program***

The County's SmartRide program focuses on reducing the number of County employees who drive alone to work for their daily commute. The program provides alternative

commute information to employees and provides a financial incentive for program participants. A 2009 survey of employee commute habits showed that 35% of all employee commute trips used an alternative to driving alone. This represents 98,000 vehicle trips per year removed from County roads, an annual fuel savings of 75,000 gallons, and a reduction of 231 metric tons of CO2 equivalent per year.

## ***Commute Trip Reduction Program in Unincorporated Snohomish County***

Snohomish County is responsible for regulating and monitoring the statewide Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Program in unincorporated Snohomish County. Currently, there are 10 employers partnering in this program representing 3,700 employees and a reduction of 205,000 vehicle trips per year. The CTR program is currently saving 195,000 gallons of fuel and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 599 metric tons CO2 equivalent annually.

## ***Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Programs***

Snohomish County Public Works, in partnership with Community Transit, is successfully operating programs to encourage County residents who drive regularly on congested County roads to choose alternative modes of transportation. The current program is operating in 20th Street NE, 164th Street SE, and 128th Street SW and provides personalized

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The County is working with local transit agencies to reduce vehicle miles traveled through an employee commute trip reduction program.

assistance options to carpool, vanpool, use public transit, bike, and walk. The program also provides financial assistance to encourage participation. Since 2008, when the program began, the program has removed an estimated 16,000 vehicle trips from congested County roadways, saved an estimated 13,000 gallons of fuel, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 40 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

## Waste Reduction & Recycling

### **Organics Diversion**

Organics diversion for composting at solid waste transfer stations has increased from an average of 120 tons per month

in 2006, 490 tons per month in 2007, to 550 tons per month in 2010. Organics are processed for compost, which is a change from past procedures where organic waste was incinerated. Over 65,000 curbside organics collection customers can now include food waste in their organics bin for composting at local permitted composting facilities.

### **E-Waste Recycling Program**

Snohomish County staff and elected officials played a key role in getting the nation's first full producer responsibility E-Waste law passed in 2006, and now 23 states have passed similar laws. Since the law took effect on January 1, 2009, manufacturers are responsible for paying the end-of-life costs of electronic products including computers, monitors, and televisions. In 2009, 3.7 million pounds of electronics were collected for proper recycling from Snohomish County residents, school districts, small businesses, small governments and nonprofits, amounting to 16.5% of the total collected in the state. There are now more than 25 collector locations in Snohomish County and two businesses serving as approved processors. The Washington law has become a model for proposed product stewardship initiatives for pharmaceuticals, paint, and carpet in Washington. A similar law for mercury lighting was passed in 2009.

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## **Secure Medicine Disposal Program**

Through the Solid Waste Division sponsored Secure Medicine Return program, 28 law enforcement offices began collecting all forms of unused and expired medications from residents for proper disposal. This program helps avoid accidental poisonings and environmental contamination from flushing and improper disposal of unwanted medicine. Currently, there are a total of 14 pharmacy locations established for this program, and Snohomish County now has one of the most extensive drug take-back and safe disposal systems in the country.

## **Waste Management at County Parks**

Snohomish County Parks Department recently installed a large volume trash compactor which was salvaged from renovation of the County Courthouse. The compactor is being utilized at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds to reduce garbage hauling expenses and is expected to reduce vehicle trip generation by a factor of four, which will significantly reduce GHG emissions. Parks has also added new facilities for recycling plastics, glass, and paper at one County park as a part of a demonstration project.

## **Natural Resource Conservation**

### **Low Impact Development**

Snohomish County's Surface Water Management Division

received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to install Low Impact Development (LID) improvements at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds to better manage stormwater at key locations. A variety of LID techniques were installed in 2008, complete with interpretive displays as a demonstration for Fairgrounds visitors. LID has a variety of benefits, such as:

- Reduces volume of stormwater runoff collected and released into local water bodies
- Recharges groundwater
- Provides water quality treatment and erosion flow control
- Facilitates native vegetation retention and replanting
- Emphasizes the use of native plant species and sustainable landscape design as part of LID best management practices (BMPs)

The LID demonstration project at the Fairgrounds demonstrates practical techniques available to homeowners, developers, and businesses to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality.

Snohomish County Parks & Recreation incorporates a variety of green, sustainable, and LID elements into all new County park projects. The Department's administration building, built in 2004, includes a stormwater collection system that is used for toilet flushing. Several LID facilities are located on

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This bioswale is one of the many examples of low impact development (LID) best practices installed as part of an LID demonstration project at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds.

site, including rain gardens, pervious pavement and full dispersion of roof runoff through forested areas. In addition, Miner's Corner, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, River Meadows and Willis Tucker Park will all include LID applications, such as rain gardens, pervious pavement, vegetated roofs, and stormwater collection systems for water reuse. Snohomish County Parks also incorporates sustainable landscape design into every new park development, including drought or wet tolerant plants as the site dictates, no-mow zones, invasive species removal, and the retention or replanting of existing forested areas.

## **Native Plant Program**

The Surface Water Management Division, in collaboration with Planning and Development Services, has an active and expanding native plant program on both public and private riparian lands. Utilizing community volunteers and with the support of a Washington Conservation Corps crew, the Native Plant Program installs approximately 20,000 plants per year in riparian (streamside) zones throughout Snohomish County. Native plants help improve air quality, prevent flooding and erosion, improve water quality, create fish habitat, and play a crucial role in stream ecology.

## **Wildlife Crossings**

Public Works staff has been installing wildlife crossings as a means to address habitat loss and connectivity issues associated with road and bridge projects. Wildlife crossings are critical components for wildlife viability, as they help to maintain and increase existing wildlife populations in key habitat areas, help reduce vehicle collisions with wildlife, and prevent the isolation of wildlife populations in order to facilitate genetic diversity. Installation of wildlife passages under a bridge on Ash Way over Swamp Creek and in a culvert on Quilceda Creek associated with 51st Ave NE intersection improvements have been completed in recent years. Public Works is currently completing the installation of a wildlife crossing, one-mile of wildlife exclusion fencing, and two

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escape ramps as part of the Granite Falls Alternate Route project.

## **Habitat Preservation**

The preservation, enhancement, and creation of wetland, stream and wildlife habitat is a key focus in Public Works' projects, particularly in transportation projects where critical areas and buffers can be impacted. In order to better protect these areas, a variety of techniques are used, including installation of snags, bat boxes, and other habitat features.

## **Vegetation Management Plan for Parks Facilities**

Parks has an approved Vegetation Management Plan that outlines best management practices for landscaping to promote sustainable and ecologically sensitive habitat. A forest management plan is being developed for the Lord Hill Regional Park that will look at long-term sustainability of the park's valuable natural resources.

## **Bioengineering**

Public Works staff is using bioengineered slopes for projects as an alternative to the traditional use of armored walls and rip-rap. Bioengineering incorporates the use of native plants in order to:

- Provide erosion control
- Stabilize stream banks and slopes

- Restore native landscapes
- Provide wildlife habitat

Bioengineering also typically requires less heavy equipment for excavation, which can reduce project costs, soil compaction, and environmental impacts.

## **Marine Resources Management Program**

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is a group of long-term volunteers committed to protection and restoration of the marine environment. The MRC works with a variety of partners to conduct projects and outreach with measurable benefits to habitat, science, water quality, and marine life. Current projects include:



The Marine Resources Management Program's devoted group of volunteers are key to the program's success.

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- Establishing the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) to integrate stakeholders into local marine management
- Creating a free nautical chart for recreational Dungeness crabbers with information on how to reduce crab pot loss
- Expanding our Mussel Watch program which uses citizen volunteers to take mussel samples to obtain information on local chemical contaminant trends

The County recently partnered with the City of Everett and the Northwest Straits Initiative to present *Beneath the Salish Sea*, a movie highlighting the biodiversity and beauty in Puget Sound, which drew over 250 attendees. Future projects will continue to forge successful partnerships and build toward a healthy, sustainable marine environment.

## Smart Growth Planning & Development

### Urban Centers

Urban centers are compact, people-oriented areas that provide a wide variety of services. Urban centers focus on centralized living, where working, shopping, and connectivity to multi-modal transit services are integral to the site design. The County's Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designates seven urban center locations, including:

- Interstate 5 and 128th St SE
- Interstate 5 and 164th St SW (includes the Ash Way Transit Pedestrian Village)

- State Route 527 and 196th St SE
- State Route 99 and State Route 525
- State Route 99 and 152nd St SW
- Interstate 5 and 44th Avenue West
- Point Wells (North of the City of Shoreline and west of the Town of Woodway)

In 2001, the County established an Urban Center Demonstration Program (UCDP). This program encouraged transit-oriented development and incorporated key sustainability principles, such as providing compact mixed-use development near public transit to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The program ended in 2009 and was replaced with a new set of regulations adopted by Snohomish County in 2010.

The UCDP resulted in:

- Five completed projects
- Five approved but not constructed projects
- Two projects under review

In May 2010, the Snohomish County Council passed new regulations to replace the UCDP. The new regulations include several incentives designed to achieve the UCDP sustainability goals while providing an applicant with the ability to gain additional building square footage. Greater emphasis is placed on pedestrian facilities and open space under the new regulations. Lastly, an applicant is required to fill out a preliminary LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental

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Design) checklist for each urban center development (though the code does not require buildings to be LEED certified).

## **Preservation of Open Space, Agricultural, and Forest Land**

Planning and Development Services (PDS) employs several strategies to facilitate land preservation, reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainability, including:

- Comprehensive plan policies, designations and zoning
- Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program
- Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program
- Forest regulations restricting subdivision and development
- Open space, agriculture and designated forest land tax classifications that encourage the retention of resource and open space lands by reducing the tax burden

The Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) has been contracted by the County to review and propose amendments to the County's TDR and PDR programs. CLC's efforts are designed to improve the programs and encourage greater use.

In 2007, at the recommendation of the Snohomish Agriculture Economic Development Action Team (SAEDAT), the Agriculture Sustainability Project (ASP) was commissioned by Snohomish

County Executive Aaron Reardon. The ASP is a community-based initiative designed to enhance and strengthen the County's agricultural economy as well as protect its critically important farmland. This initiative resulted in farmers, agricultural agencies, advocates and government coming together as key stakeholders in developing a plan for the preservation and economic prosperity of Snohomish County's rapidly changing agrarian industry.



The Agriculture Sustainability Project (ASP) is one of the many ways Snohomish County is working with the agricultural community to support local farmers and protect vital farmland.

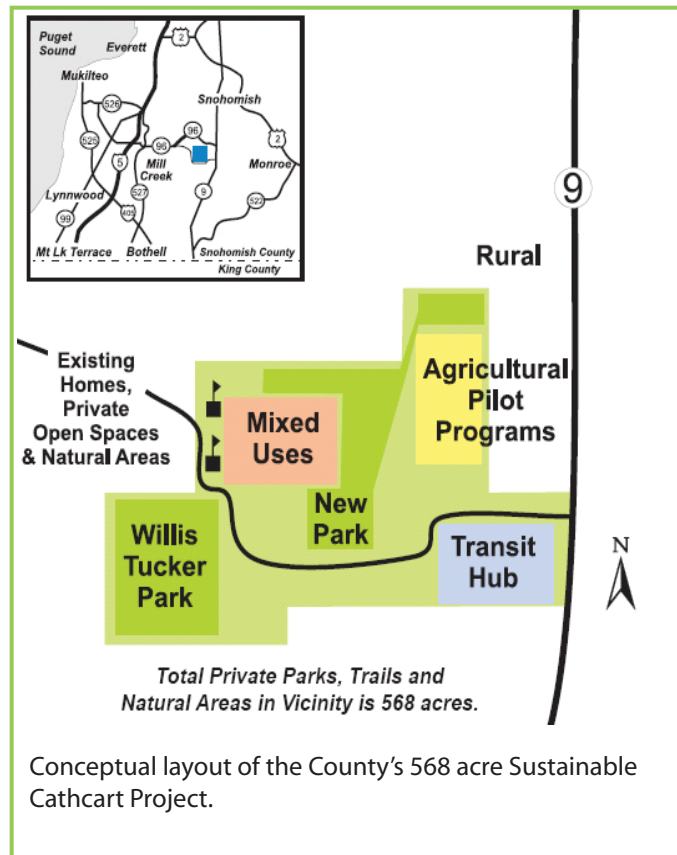
The group's efforts resulted in a report, "A Community Vision for Sustainable Agriculture in Snohomish County," which takes an in-depth look at the challenges and opportunities

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for local farmers. The report also outlines a wide range of recommendations and findings to guide Snohomish County in supporting the agricultural community in the future.

## **Sustainable Cathcart Mixed-Use Development**

The County's Sustainable Cathcart project reached an important milestone in July 2010 with County Council approval



by a 5-0 vote of a series of comprehensive plan amendments designed to articulate a sustainable vision for the County-owned Cathcart properties. The Cathcart vision includes a new mixed-use urban village with higher density, affordable housing, a new transit center to improve neighborhood bus service, and an employment cluster to provide job opportunities for neighborhood residents.

The Sustainable Cathcart project will promote shorter and fewer per capita auto trips, and more walking, biking, and transit trips which will reduce per capita energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The County is pursuing grant opportunities for site planning and feasibility studies, which will better position the site and the County for public and private partnerships to realize this vision.

## **SR 99/Evergreen Way Corridor Land Use & Transportation Integration Program (148th St. north to 41st St.)**

This program is a joint planning exercise by the Cities of Everett and Mukilteo, Community Transit, Everett Transit and Snohomish County. The program examines land use and non-motorized strategies to support bus rapid transit (Swift) service. The project vision includes transit-oriented development with an integrated pedestrian and bicycle plan. The planning for this project includes:

- Developing an appropriate mix of land uses

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and densities to support bus rapid transit

- Identifying generalized land use locations
- Identifying where pedestrian and bicycle capital improvements are needed to improve circulation and access
- Developing implementation strategies

A consultant along with City, County, and transit agency staff are preparing scenarios for the corridor based on market surveys, sites with redevelopment potential, transit accessibility, and public input. Work sessions are being conducted as well as meetings with small neighborhood groups, businesses, landowners and developers both before and after alternative scenarios are developed. The alternative scenarios will be structured into a recommended revitalization strategy. By tying the land use strategies to transit and non-motorized facilities along the corridor, the program will reduce vehicle miles traveled and GHG emissions.

## **Planning for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

Planning and Development Services introduced development code amendments in 2010 to permit and encourage electric vehicle infrastructure including the structures, machinery, and equipment necessary to support electric vehicles; including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

## **Green Purchasing & Procurement**

Snohomish County continues to make significant progress in green purchasing and procurement strategies, particularly with respect to increasing the amount of recycled products purchased by the County. Between July 2009 and April 2010, expenditures for recycled office supply items increased from 28.6% to 35.9%. Snohomish County currently purchases 35% of its office supply products from Corporate Express/Staples, and has been working closely with Corporate Express on an electronic ordering system that automatically substitutes a national brand product to a green product. This program encourages Snohomish County employees to purchase environmentally-preferable products whenever they are available at a reasonably competitive price.

In addition, the County continues to work with Staples to educate internal County users of this program to decrease their order frequency. Reducing order frequency reduces the number of deliveries which lowers costs, conserves fuel consumption, reduces the number of boxes used in packaging orders, and reduces GHG emissions. This initiative has realized substantial success, as demonstrated by a 20.8% decrease in number of orders placed between July 2009 through April 2010, and corresponding decrease in spending by 19.4%. Staples, at the County's request, continues to identify equivalent recycled content items that can be substituted for the core items initially contained in the purchasing contract.

# Sustainability Highlights

## Community Weatherization & Energy Assistance Programs

### **Weatherization Program**

The Weatherization Program provides energy efficiency retrofits to low-income households through a combination of federal and state grants. Snohomish County Department of Human Services has operated the Weatherization Program continuously for more than 25 years, and the program doubled its production in 2010 from previous program levels. Between 2007 and 2010 the program weatherized a total of 1,576 units, assisting 3,313 people. See the Weatherization Program Summary table (right) for annual totals.

Snohomish County Weatherization Program Summary 2007-2010		
	No. Units Weatherized	No. People Assisted
<b>2007</b>	298	800
<b>2008</b>	268	572
<b>2009</b>	319	584
<b>2010</b>	691	1,357
<b>TOTAL 2007-2010</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>3,313</b>

### **Energy Assistance Program**

Snohomish County Department of Human Services has successfully operated this program for more than 25 years, which helps low-income households pay utility and heating bills. In 2009, the Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program administered approximately \$3.7 million through Health and Human Services' (HHS) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help low-income households pay utility bills. Between 2007 and 2010, the Energy Assistance Program provided over \$7 million dollars to a total of 24,809 households needing assistance in paying utility bills. See the Energy Assistance Program Summary table (right) for annual totals.

Snohomish County Energy Assistance Program Summary 2007-2010		
	No. Households Served	Total Energy Assistance (\$)
<b>2007-2008</b>	5,958	\$3,362,378
<b>2008-2009</b>	9,385	\$3,738,622
<b>2009-2010</b>	9,466	\$3,458,164
<b>TOTAL 2007-2010</b>	<b>24,809</b>	<b>\$7,449,164</b>

# Sustainability Highlights

## WSU Extension Education & Outreach Programs

### **Carbon Masters Programs**

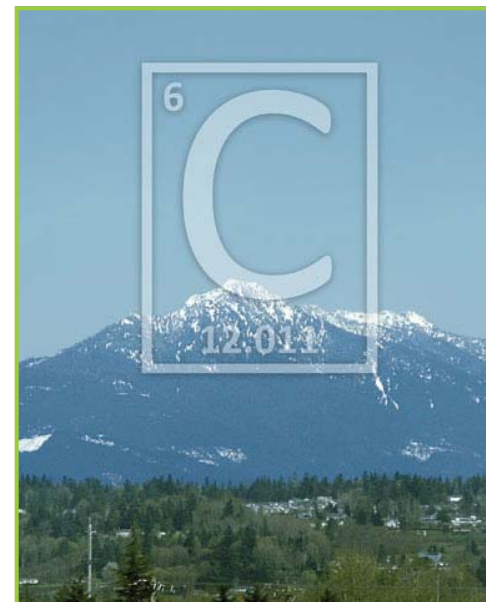
Washington State University (WSU) Extension, the University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group, and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency partnered in 2009 and 2010 to implement the Carbon Masters™ program. The Carbon Masters™ program brings university expertise on the fundamentals of climate change science, policy, and research directly to communities through a trained volunteer program. The program mission is to engage volunteer educators and the community with credible climate change science, public policy activities, and cost-effective energy saving techniques. Eighteen volunteers completed the first pilot training in 2010 and are currently engaged in citizen-scientist community projects, such as:

- Cool Schools curriculum delivery to local children
- CFL Porch Light Exchange
- Conservation education with an energy saving kit installation for low-income residents in the City of Snohomish
- Consumer Outreach/Low Carbon Pledge
- Conversation Circles centered on climate change
- Relationship building with Tulalip Tribes, and more.

A second cadre of volunteers began training in the fall of 2010.

### **Natural Yard Care**

The WSU Extension Master Gardener program is partnering with Public Works Surface Water Management to reduce pesticide and fertilizer runoff into stormwater which ultimately drains to streams and the Puget Sound. The pilot educational program started in the fall and targeted two communities. A set of publication materials from the City of Seattle are being revised and printed for use in Snohomish County. Master



The continued success of WSU Extension education and outreach programs help raise awareness about climate change and facilitate action on a local scale.

# ***Sustainability Highlights***

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Gardener volunteers will receive extra training on Natural Yard Care, then answer questions at clinics, events and through e-mail and phone hotlines.

## ***Low Impact Development (LID)***

The WSU Extension Master Gardener and Beach Watcher programs are teaming with Public Works Surface Water Management to demonstrate and teach Low Impact Development (LID) retrofit methods that treat and infiltrate stormwater before it reaches water bodies. Beach Watcher trained volunteers and staff teach shoreline homeowners how to be Shore Stewards and provide educational signs for program participants to display on their property. More than 200 property owners have been added to the Shore Stewards program this year. Master Gardeners trained volunteers focus on rain garden education. Two demonstration rain gardens have been built and six public workshops have been completed. A cluster rain garden project is being implemented with the City of Everett in 2010. Partnerships have also been established with the Snohomish Conservation District and Stewardship Partners.

## ***Beach Watcher Program***

The WSU Beach Watcher program gives participants 100 hours of training in watershed and marine science in exchange for their time in community education. More than 50 Beach

Watchers currently lead education, beach monitoring and environmental restoration projects. In partnership with the Marine Resources Committee and Public Works Surface Water Management, Beach Watchers work on priority marine issues with residents, recreational fisherman, and youth. They have reached thousands of County residents in 2010.

## ***Forest Stewardship***

More than half of Snohomish County is forested, and most forestland at lower elevations is owned by families rather than the government or corporations. Lowland forests are key to protecting streams by providing habitat for fish and wildlife, by acting as a sponge for stormwater and a sink for greenhouse gases. The Forest Stewardship program helps families to develop stewardship plans which then make the forest owners eligible for tax and stewardship incentives. The program helps preserve family forests.

## ***4-H Natural Resources***

Youth are the future managers of our natural resources. The 4-H program fosters an understanding and appreciation of the environment. Through in-school programs that provide trips to forests, beaches and natural resources, youth explore career and learning opportunities. They get hands-on experience by participating in habitat restoration projects and receive expert instruction in fish-hatchery operations.

# Sustainability Highlights

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## **Agriculture**

WSU Extension provides the technical assistance to County farmers to help them be successful. The agriculture program is educating farmers on no-till and reduced-till practices that reduce fuel consumption by equipment. Cover crops and organic farming techniques that reduce use of petroleum-based inputs are also being taught as methods to reduce energy consumption on the farm. A project is being developed with the U.S. Navy through the City of Everett that could provide a much bigger market for biofuels. WSU is working with Snohomish County, the Tribes, and a wide variety of stakeholders to develop a “Sustainable Lands Strategy” for Snohomish County that balances the preservation of farmlands with habitat restoration objectives.

## **Partnerships**

Snohomish County’s success in environmental stewardship in recent years is due in large part to the critical work of local partners, including cities, agencies, educational institutions, businesses, stakeholder groups, and citizens. The County is a member of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, Climate Communities, National Association of Counties (NACO) and the Puget Sound New Energy Solutions (PNES) consortium. The County maintains strong partnerships with Snohomish

County Public Utility District (PUD), Puget Sound Energy (PSE), and Cascade Natural Gas in moving towards clean and renewable energy sources, and promoting energy efficiency programs in the community. Efforts have ramped up to reduce GHG emissions from transportation, and Snohomish County is working closely with Community Transit, Everett Transit, Sound Transit, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), and other local and regional transit organizations. The Sustainable Development Task Force of Snohomish County, a local nonprofit organization, continues to be a valuable community asset through their work on environmental education, outreach, policy, and advocacy.

# Looking Ahead

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## 2011 and Beyond

Through collaborative partnerships, Snohomish County has successfully developed a diversity of sustainability initiatives that reduce GHGs, improve air and water quality, protect critical wildlife habitat, conserve natural resources and facilitate green job growth. The County will continue to work with local and regional partners to develop policies and programs that reduce GHG emissions and facilitate ecological, social and fiscal sustainability.

Climate change may present the greatest challenge to our health and well-being in the 21st century, and the time to act is now. Snohomish County and the region have led the call to action and achieved real results, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us in order to reach our goals. Through behavior changes, technological innovation and an unwavering commitment to tackle climate change head on, we all must play an active role in protecting the quality of life that makes Snohomish County unique. This is our opportunity to shape the future so that Snohomish County continues to be a great place to live, work and play for generations to come.

