



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive Office**  
**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

## **Media Advisory– February 02, 2007**

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### **Recycling and hazardous material disposal get major boost from DOE**

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*Snohomish County awarded the largest Coordinated  
Prevention Grant in the state for 2007-2008*

The Washington State Department of Ecology has awarded a grant of nearly \$500,000 to the Snohomish County Solid Waste Division of Public Works, the largest Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG) in the state for 2007-2008.

The County will use the CPG funding to greatly expand its existing nationally recognized product stewardship and product “take back” efforts.

“This grant recognizes the leadership role Snohomish County has taken in developing services that increase the sustainability and vitality of our community,” says Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

Snohomish County has been a leader in working with businesses to establish the Take it Back Network, which provides collection locations for recycling products containing hazardous materials. The County will launch a new effort to expand its “take back” programs to improve public recycling and disposal options for environmentally toxic items such as mercury-containing thermostats, compact fluorescent light bulbs, pharmaceuticals, batteries and electronic products.

Product stewardship involves working with manufacturers to design, produce, recycle and dispose of products in a manner that promotes the most efficient use of resources and as little toxicity as possible.

Services getting a boost from the grant will also include organic disposal, school conservation efforts and educational materials.

Snohomish County has promoted composting of green waste since 1990 and is home to a number of model compost facilities. These grants will help the County move into the next frontier of organics management - composting food waste from businesses and schools.

The County has long provided assistance to schools to establish school recycling programs and reduce school waste and use of toxic substances, as well as providing educational materials for use in classrooms. Grant funding for the Conservation Schools program will expand this assistance into other areas of resource and energy conservation and help establish a framework for coordination across the state.

The grant was awarded in a competitive process based on innovative projects and programs proposed by the County.

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