



Snohomish County
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Snohomish County Receives Governor's Award for Smart Community Accomplishment

**Executive Reardon's Policies on Transfer Development Rights for Farmers
Receives Special Recognition by Governor Chris Gregoire**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon's innovative policies on Transfer Development Rights (TDR) won a Special Recognition Award from Governor Chris Gregoire. At a reception last evening in Tacoma, Governor Gregoire honored Snohomish County government for its work in creating a livable community, one of six statewide winners. The event also marked the 15th anniversary of the state's Growth Management Act.

"I am pleased to recognize the important work our communities and their partners are doing to keep Washington a great place to live," said Governor Gregoire.

In a conversation yesterday prior to the reception, Executive Reardon thanked the Governor for her support of Snohomish County's agricultural and biodiesel programs. He also praised County Councilman John Koster for his work and dedication to the TDR program.

"TDR is an innovative approach that preserves our agricultural lands for the purpose of future food production and economic development," said Executive Reardon. "It also keeps growth in areas where infrastructure is currently available, keeping urban sprawl in check and making service delivery more cost effective and efficient for jurisdictions within the County."

TDR was made possible by policies Executive Reardon recommended in his 2005 Comprehensive Plan update that were later adopted by County Council.

Reardon's TDR policy goals were to balance population growth and economic expansion needs with GMA policies to ensure a legacy of stable and self-sustaining communities throughout Snohomish County. The TDR Program creates development incentives to

achieve planned densities under the Growth Management Act (GMA) within urban growth areas. This innovative program was created under the direction of Executive Reardon with through a collaborative partnership between Snohomish County, the City of Arlington, the agricultural community and development industry within Snohomish County.

The event also honored 20 people who created Washington's Growth Management Act and featured oral histories of their visions and debates. The oral histories reside at www.secstate.wa.gov/oralhistory. A report detailing the history of the Growth Management Act in Washington and highlighting local accomplishments and challenges is available at www.cted.wa.gov/growth.

For more information about the awards visit, www.governor.wa.gov.

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