



**Snohomish County**  
County Executive's Office

*For immediate release – Tuesday, August 24, 2004*

**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

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## Reardon's executive order jumpstarts Citizens Cabinet recommendations on economic development

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*Key department will report progress to  
Snohomish County Executive in a month*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today issued an executive order aimed at carrying out recommendations in *A Blueprint for the Economic Future of Snohomish County*.

The recommendations were released late last week in the final report of the Snohomish County Citizens Cabinet on Economic Development, a 19-member commission appointed by Reardon in February. When Cabinet co-chairs Michael Martino and Connie Niva asked the County Executive how he intended to implement specific actions, Reardon said that he was preparing an executive order to incorporate them in County work plans.

The executive order directs Snohomish County's Department of Planning and Development Services to complete a report before October 1 outlining a detailed action plan to implement Cabinet-recommended actions.

"We are moving forward aggressively to implement the recommendations of the Citizens Cabinet," Reardon said. "This report will not be put on a shelf to gather dust. The Citizens Cabinet was clear: The County needs to administer its regulatory services,

programs and activities to encourage business investment and regional economic expansion.”

The Citizens Cabinet called on Snohomish County to speed up permit processing, eliminate unnecessary or redundant approvals and establish predictable regulatory requirements. The executive order calls for:

- Establishing specific timeframes for interdepartmental permit reviews.
- Developing and adopting written, predictable standards and immediately implementing mechanisms to expedite decision-making and condition-setting to meet those standards.
- Eliminating unnecessary or redundant approvals including but not limited to transactions, permits, licenses, and certificates.
- Incorporating the use of technology to improve access to information and services countywide to minimize the need for individual trips to the County.
- Providing a risk assessment of each pending land use action on policies, ordinances and regulations.
- Working aggressively to prevent improper and undesirable County actions that cannot withstand the legal challenges of the Growth Management Act.
- Expanding agricultural land uses that do not permanently remove the resource from productive farm use.
- Increasing agricultural support.
- Updating the Critical Areas Ordinance to reflect best available science and carefully balancing expected growth with environmental impacts.
- Updating the Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Management Plan, and continuing to support salmon recovery.
- Reviewing the staffing levels of all County departments to assure that necessary resources are available to implement these recommendations.
- Developing a Training and Education Program that serves the needs of the citizens, development and consultant community, and County staff.

“We are going to run Snohomish County like a business,” Reardon said.

The County Executive said he will report to the Citizens Cabinet in January, 2005 on his plan to implement their recommendations. He will reconvene the Citizens Cabinet once each quarter to benchmark County progress.

“There are benchmarks and goals included in the final report,” Reardon said. “I am confident we will achieve many of the short-term recommendations by the first quarter of 2005.”

The final Citizens Cabinet report is available on-line at [www.co.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us). It can be accessed by scrolling down to the Featured Contents portion of the website and clicking on the link *Citizens Cabinet Report on Economic Development*.

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