



Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

2011 Q3
REPORT

Program Goals

The Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative's program goals are derived from Skagit County's Climate Action Plan, approved by the Board of County Commissioners in March 2010 as Resolution R20100095:

- Reduce energy use to 15% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Reduce garbage collection to 10% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Reduce utility costs to 10% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Promote conservation with all staff.
- Conduct resource audits of county facilities and implement recommendations in Facility Action Plans.
- Avoid unnecessary utility and fuel costs.
- Minimize waste of consumable materials.
- Publicize results of this conservation effort to both staff and the public.

By the Numbers

3,500

Pounds of CO2 saved using GreenPrint in Q3

4,857

Pages saved by using GreenPrint in Q3

143,000

Attendance at the Zero-Waste Events in Q3

73,000

Pounds of waste diverted at Q3's Zero-Waste Events

+\$7,000

Saved during the Energy Stewardship Challenge

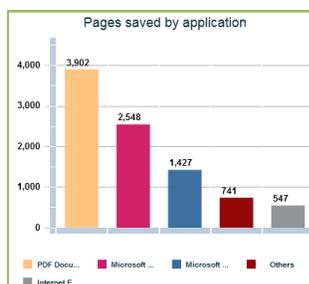
Waste Reduction

Zero-Waste Events: In Q3 we continued to implement and advertise our Zero-Waste Events program. Since starting the program in 2010, the ZWE program has:

- Diverted **138,000 lbs** of waste from the landfill by composting and recycling.
- Recognized **32** Zero-Waste Events with a total attendance of **285,000** people.

Successful zero-waste events included the Skagit County fair, Swinomish Canoe Journey, and the Anacortes Art Festival.

The program will be expanding into schools and businesses, with La Conner Elementary and the College Way Starbucks both joining the ZWE effort.



GreenPrint: GreenPrint was installed on 120 computers in the Continental Building. Since launching the software in May, we have saved:

- **8,479** pages from being printed, which is an overall **5%** savings
- **\$511** in printing costs
- **6,100** lbs of CO2

RCM Program

Energy Stewardship Challenge: Skagit County competed with five other jurisdictions to reduce gross energy use by 5% from May-August, compared to the same time period in 2010. The County had a **3%** reduction in energy use and a **5.6%** reduction in electricity. The Courthouse Complex, Transfer Station, and Public Safety Building together saved over **\$7,000**, while the Clear Lake Compactor, Howard Miller Steelhead Park Shop, and Concrete Road Shop all had individual energy reductions of more than **30%**.

Communication: Sustainability Coordinator attended several RCM cross-training events including a regional networking conference. RCM spoke about calculating and communicating energy savings at nationally-broadcasted webinar for the Department of Energy.

Program Transition: Continued to investigate possibility of Skagit County hosting a new RCM program. Current RCM talked to SCOG RCM program partners to gauge level of interest and support. The Port of Skagit and Skagit PUD have both shown interest in a new RCM program for 2012-2014.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Savings Performance Contracting: The final scope of work was approved and contracts are expected to be signed in Q4. Work should begin in 2012 and be completed by the summer of 2012. Scope of work includes weatherization, lighting upgrades, mechanical and electrical repairs and upgrades, and water conservation. McKinstry will be the lead performance contractor for the program.

Small Energy Projects: Participated in PSE's Rock the Bulb campaign to help residents trade out incandescent bulbs for more efficient CFL lights.

Added a third rain barrel to the collection system behind the Continental building. Will complete system in spring of 2012.

Renewable Energy: Collaborated with several agencies on submission of a renewable energy grant. The grant would provide funding for a renewable energy study to identify the location, type, and feasibility of renewable energy systems in Skagit County.

Participated in a multi-agency renewable energy tour which included a visit to PSE's Wild Horse wind farm and a community solar array project in Ellensburg.

Climate

ICLEI: Attended ICLEI leadership calls to further collaborate on activities to reduce and mitigate operational and regional impact on climate change.

CAP: Selected contractor to complete update to greenhouse gas inventory used in the Climate Action Plan. The update will include large regional emitters and be completed by March 2012.

Skagit Community Energy Challenge

The Skagit Community Energy Challenge is set to launch in December. Outreach materials and a website were drafted and will be published in Q4.

In partnership with the Whatcom CEC, two analysts have been reviewed and selected to complete the home energy assessments and reports.

Began outreach efforts to community groups, including a presentation to the Mount Vernon Kiwanis club.

Program partners now include:

- Sustainable Connections
- The Opportunity Council
- Puget Sound Energy
- Cascade Natural Gas
- Skagit PUD
- City of Anacortes
- Skagit County Community Action Agency
- Skagit County Housing Authority



Other Accomplishments

Rain Garden: Worked with the Skagit County Master Gardeners and Public Works staff to certify the David Brookings Rain Garden as a National Wildlife Habitat. Continuing to work with the Master Gardeners on a long-term maintenance program.

Communication: Spoke about program communication techniques at nationally-broadcasted webinar for the Department of Energy. Sent computer shut-down reminders and sustainability update emails to County staff. Updated the EECBG section on sustainability website to better summarize the individual programs.

EECBG grant: Successfully completed all elements for state auditor and met with Department of Energy representative to review progress of the EECBG. Received praise for organization and program successes.

Paperless: Records Department assisted the Health Department with filing food handlers permits electronically instead of on paper. Sustainability began work to acquire approval for the Electronic Discovery project, which will allow the Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney's Offices to transmit documents electronically.

Upcoming Projects

- Skagit Community Energy Challenge
- GHG Inventory Update for CAP
- E-Discovery
- McKinstry/ESPC

For More Info

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