



Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

2010 Q4
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 all major county owned and occupied facilities and implement the recommendations in the resulting 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.

Major Accomplishments

1,200

Gallons of food waste diverted from landfill through composting at County Commissioners Building since August 2010

138,000

Estimated attendance of the 13 Zero-Waste Events held in 2010

49,400

Pounds of waste recycled and composted at Zero-Waste Events in 2010

\$54,907

Avoided energy costs in 2010 for county facilities

7

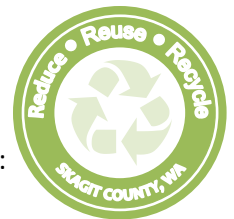
Facility Action Plans developed by SCOG's Resource Conservation Manager in 2010 to save energy at county facilities

Waste Reduction

Event Recycling

Over 2009 and 2010, we developed and implemented our Zero-Waste Events program that lends waste bins and signage and provides technical advice. In 2010, the program:

- Diverted **49,400 pounds of waste** from the landfill by composting and recycling.
- Recognized **13 Zero-Waste Events** in Skagit County; the estimated attendance of these events is 138,000 people.
- Recognized **seven Silver-Level events** that offered recycling.
- Recognized **six Gold-Level events** that offered recycling and composting, including the Skagit County Fair and Anacortes Arts Festival.



Waste Reduction at County Facilities

Since July 2010, we reduced solid waste and increased composting and recycling at Skagit County facilities in the following ways:

- Purchased trial office waste stations and started composting food and paper towels at the Skagit County Commissioners Building.
- Diverted 1,200 gallons of compost from the landfill at Skagit County Commissioners Building since August 2010.
- Purchased office waste stations for five other Skagit County facilities.
- Purchased and installed 12 public area waste and recycling stations in lobbies and foyers at five Skagit County facilities.
- Collaborated with Information Services to approve the use of GreenPrint, a print reduction software program, by departments in the Skagit County Commissioners Building.
- Added an online comment feature to the legal notice section of the Planning Department's website; this update is expected to save paper.

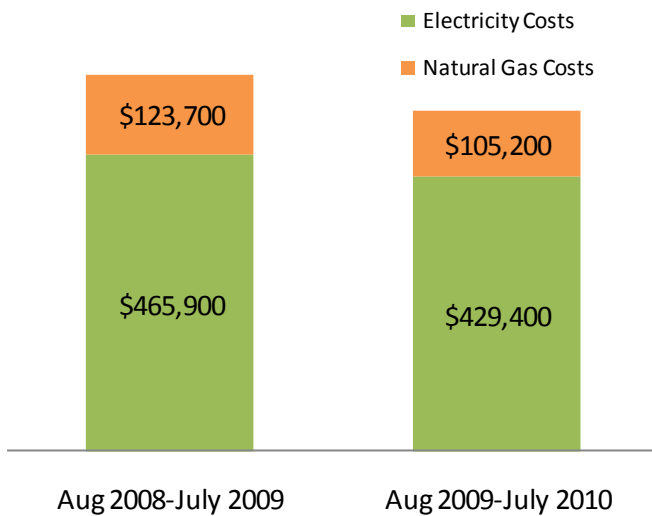
Energy Conservation Outreach

To increase employee knowledge of energy use and increase employee energy conservation practices, we:



- Sent out reminder emails to all employees to shut down computers, printers, and monitors prior to two holiday weekends.
- Sent out energy efficiency emails to Skagit County Office Buildings to show the energy use of these buildings and suggest energy-savings practices.
- Met with 13 Skagit County department heads to review energy conservation practices.

Skagit County Energy Use



- **53% of County facilities decreased electricity use from 2009 to 2010.**
- **63% of County facilities decreased use of natural gas from 2009 to 2010.**
- **\$59,000 in energy costs avoided since 2008.**

Energy costs shown in the chart above are adjusted for changes in weather conditions and utility costs.

Water Conservation

In October 2010, Skagit County completed the installation of the County's rain garden and rain barrel system. The rain garden and rain barrels will reduce the amount of water used for landscaping and decrease runoff at the Skagit County Commissioners Administrative Building.

The rain garden is watered using rain that runs off of the building's roof. The two 50 gallon barrels collect water which is then used to irrigate the Skagit County's Public Works habitat restoration nursery.

Other Conservation Projects

In addition to promoting energy conservation behaviors, we completed the following projects to decrease energy use at Skagit County facilities:

- **Vehicle Fleet Management:** completed a fleet review with a vehicle fleet consultant, purchased an electric car for intercampus mail delivery and electric truck for facilities maintenance. Added zero-energy signage to electric car; electric truck will be signed in 2011Q1.
- **No Idle:** began deployment of "no-idle" signage and other promotional materials provided by NW Clean Air Agency.
- **Transportation Alternatives:** installed five bikes racks for the Fairgrounds, Community Services, Howard Miller Park, and the Skagit Valley Playfields.
- **Performance-Based Contracting:** Contracted with the WA State Department of General Administration (GA) and McKinstry to complete an energy audit of several Skagit County facilities; McKinstry will next recommend building improvements that can be paid for by the projected energy savings over the next 10 years.
- **Small Energy Projects:** purchased three low-energy-use personal heaters for employees to try out as replacements for high energy use space heaters and identified locations to install motion sensors for lighting in those Skagit County facilities not included in the GA and McKinstry contract.
- **SCOG Resource Conservation Manager:** received over 20 utility reports, audited seven facilities, and created Facility Conservation Action Plans for each.



Skagit Conservation District paid for an interpretive display that explains how the rain garden and rain barrels work. Further improvements coming 2011.