



# Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

2011 Q1  
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.

## By the Numbers

**1,200**

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

**138,200**

Estimated attendance of the 14 Zero-Waste Events

**49,400**

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

**\$70,509**

Avoided energy costs in 2010 for county facilities (including Q4)

**7**

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

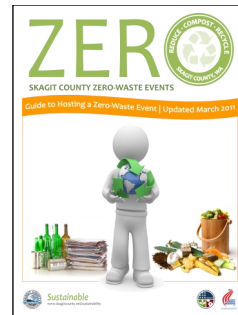
## Waste Reduction



We continued in Q1 to implement and advertise our Zero-Waste Events program, which lends waste bins and signage and provides technical advice.

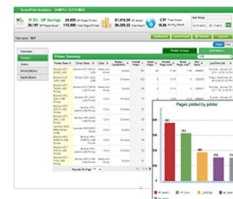
In Q1, we published our **"Guide to Hosting a Zero-Waste Event,"** now available online and on paper for event organizers, and distributed invitation letters to over 100 event organizers and venues. Since its start last year, the ZWE program:

- Diverted 49,400 pounds of waste from the landfill by composting and recycling
- Recognized 14 Zero-Waste Events with an estimated total attendance of 138,000
- Recognized 7 Silver-Level events that offered recycling
- Recognized 7 Gold-Level events that offered recycling and composting, including the Skagit County Fair and Anacortes Arts Festival.



Internally, we are reducing solid waste and increasing recycling and composting at County facilities in the following ways:

- Purchased and deployed employee waste stations (including paper towel and food composting bins) at four buildings.
- Deployed 12 public waste stations at the Courthouse, Admin, and Continental.
- In Q1, we switched from bleached to unbleached paper towels which are now composted in the Continental Building.
- In Q1, we began a trial of GreenPrint, a print reduction software program, in the Continental Building.
- In Q1, the Public Works Solid Waste Division created a new brochure for construction and demolition waste that provides a comprehensive list of recycling locations and tips for green demolition.



## Energy Conservation Projects

**Performance-Based Contracting:** In Q1, McKinstry completed an energy audit of several Skagit County facilities and is finalizing its Energy Services Proposal that recommends improvements that will pay back in 10 years or less.

**Small Energy Projects:** In Q1, applied for rebates to upgrade the fluorescent lighting in the public defender building. Facilities also installed, as an initial test, an 86-watt LED to replace a 250-watt incandescent lamp in the jail, which is performing well while using 2/3 less electricity.

**SCOG Resource Conservation Manager:** since 2009, the SCOG RCM program has sent us more than 20 utility reports, audited seven facilities, and created Facility Action Plans for each. In Q1, Skagit County worked with SCOG and the eight other jurisdictions that fund the RCM program to find additional grant funding to support the program through November 2011. Having invested \$10,000 per year in general fund money, for the 2-year period ending December 2010, Skagit County saved \$70,509 and reduced energy utility use by 13%.

## Other Accomplishments

**New Hire:** In February, our Sustainability Coordinator Katie Hampton took a new job as a management fellow in the Tacoma mayor's office. In March, we hired Kaci Radcliffe as our new Sustainability Coordinator. The full-time grant-funded position ends in 2012.

**Climate Change Partnership:** PDS provided a letter of support for the Swinomish Climate Change Regulatory Enhancement Project to further support regional action towards climate solutions.

**Composting:** Created zero-waste-themed advertising for the County's Master Composter/Recycler program.



**Going Paperless:** Superior Court produced its 2009 and 2010 reports only electronically, eliminating over 2,200 printed pages and 500 mailed copies.

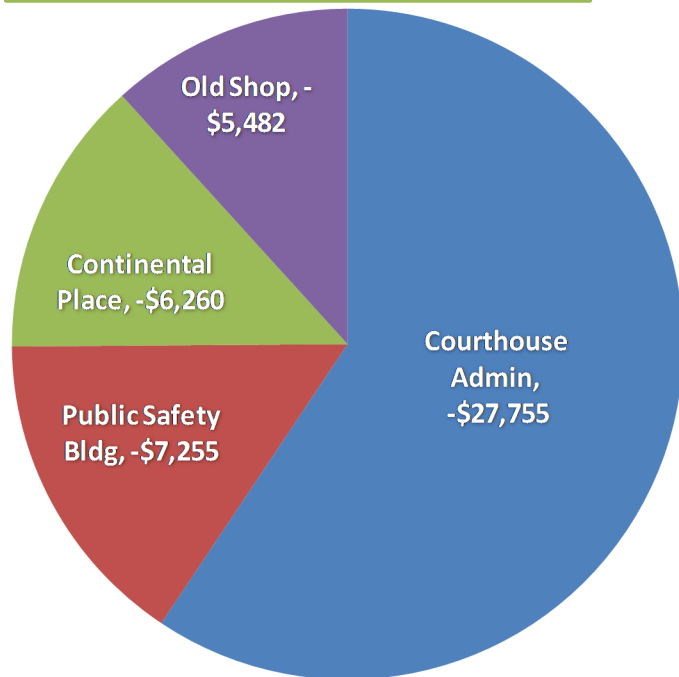
**NW Clean Air Grant:** In Q1 we obtained \$17,450 to update our regional greenhouse gas inventory to more accurately reflect large industrial emission sources.

**WA Department of Commerce Grant:** In Q1 we obtained \$19,000 to fund the SCOG RCM program's exploration of whether and how to continue the program after its 3-year term ends in November.

## Coming Next Quarter

- New outdoor recycling for county parks
- Paperless policy
- Finalize Energy Savings Performance-Based Contract and begin facilities work
- Centralized sustainable purchasing program
- Prosecutor's Office paperless discovery
- Sustainable Skagit Home Recognition Program

## Energy Reduction Top Performers



SCOG RCM program 2010 year-end analysis

## Transportation

**Vehicle Fleet Management:** In Q1, we completed our third-party fleet review and the Board approved a revised vehicle purchasing policy to streamline vehicle purchasing while ensuring high fuel economy standards.

**No Idle:** continued deployment of "no-idle" signage and other promotional materials provided by NW Clean Air Agency. In Q2, we'll finish deploying signs at remaining facilities.



## For More Info

[www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability](http://www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability)

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