



# Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

2011 Q2  
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

**6,700**

Pounds of CO2 saved from GreenPrint in Q2

**9,414**

Pages saved by using GreenPrint in Q2

**\$103,500**

Avoided energy costs for County facilities since beginning RCM program

**6,000**

Square feet of building retrofitted with energy efficient lighting in Q2

**229.2**

Tons of CO2 saved from RCM program's conservation measures

**12,700**

Attendance at the 8 Zero-Waste Events in Quarter 2

**19,520**

Pounds of waste recycled and composted at Zero-Waste Events in Q2

## Waste Reduction

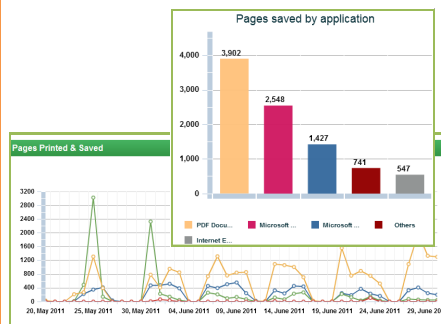
We continued in Q2 to implement and advertise our Zero-Waste Events program, which lends waste bins and signage and provides technical advice. Since its start last year, the ZWE program has:



- Diverted 68,650lbs of waste from the landfill by composting and recycling.
- Recognized 22 Zero-Waste Events with a total attendance of 150,900 people.

We also provided additional recycling bins to the Parks Dept. for deployment in County parks and recreational areas.

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



In Q2, we deployed 120 copies of GreenPrint, a print reduction software program, in the Continental Building. Since deployment we saved:

- 9,414 pages from being printed, which is an overall 15% savings
- \$550 in printing costs
- 6,700 lbs of CO2

## Transportation

**Vehicle Fleet Management:** Completed educational signage for the electric truck.



**No Idle:** Deployed 25 "no-idle" signs at eight County facility parking lots.



### Bike Parking



**Bikes/Motorcycles:** To promote non-vehicular transportation, we installed a bike parking sign in front of the Commissioner's building. We also installed designated motorcycle parking signs on the Continental Building side parking lot.

We sent reminder emails about National Bike and Ride to Work Days to encourage participation in non-vehicular transit.

## Energy Conservation Projects

**Energy Savings Performance Contracting:** In Q2, the County finalized the ESPC Scope of Work with McKinstry. The contract will go to the Board for approval in Q3. Work should begin in fall with completion expected in Q1.

**Small Energy Projects:** Facilities upgraded lighting to high-efficiency fluorescents in the Public Defender Building. Sustainability staff assisted coordinating a Puget Sound Energy rebate to pay for the upgrades.

**PlugLoad Pledge:** Skagit County signed up for the "PlugLoad Pledge," a Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance led project to get governments, businesses, and utilities throughout the Northwest to promise to reduce energy use and procure energy-efficient electronics.

**SCOG Resource Conservation Manager:** The RCM sent over 35 emails with facility information and energy use updates to the County. The RCM also worked with Parks and Facility staff to identify high-use areas and address potential savings.

## Climate

**Climate Stewards:** In Q2, the Climate Stewards program was completed. Since January, the program accomplished:

- A 25-hour training for 12 volunteers
- Recruited 36 volunteers
- 68 people attended the Volunteer Summit
- 104 people attended the Youth Earth Summit

**Climate Action Plan:** Staff updated CAST members on sustainability activities, worked with ICLEI on a national climate action study, attended a regional climate change workshop, and submitted multiple grant applications to extend various programs.

## Other Accomplishments

**E-discovery project:** Submitted grant amendment to fund e-discovery project with Sheriff, Prosecutor, and Public Defender, estimated to save 750,000 pages of paper and 10,920 vehicle miles traveled per year.

**Skagit Sustainable Home Program:** Confirmed partnerships with Opportunity Council and Sustainable Connections including discussion of a tri-county program in 2013. The program, now called the Skagit Clean Energy Challenge, will launch a pilot in the fall with 80 home energy assessments planned by end of 2012.

**Communication:** Sent computer shut-down reminder emails and four sustainability update emails. Increased Facebook page interactions by 365% and averaged 150 views per post. Updated Sustainability website to include program updates, grant expenditures, facility plans, the RCM Earth Day Challenge, and PlugLoad Pledge. Also, made over 12 new contacts with non-profit agencies, small businesses, and community groups.

## Upcoming Projects

- Skagit Clean Energy Challenge
- GHG Inventory Update for CAP
- E-Discovery
- McKinstry/ESPC
- ZWE and Recycling Expansion

## For More Info

**On the Web** — [www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability](http://www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability)

**"Like" us on Facebook** — [www.facebook.com/SustainableSkagit](http://www.facebook.com/SustainableSkagit)

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