



# Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

2011 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.

## Waste Reduction

**Zero-Waste Events:** Continued to implement and advertise the Zero-Waste Events program. In Q4, the ZWE program:

- Diverted **6,435** pounds of waste from the landfill by using composting and recycling at the events.
- Recognized **4** Zero-Waste Events with a total attendance of **1,950** people.

Successful events included Anacortes Oktoberfest and the Skagit Runners Fun Fowl Run, which is the first zero-waste running event in the County.

**GreenPrint:** The print-reduction software was installed on 120 computers in the Continental Building. In Q4, GreenPrint helped save:

- **5,553** pages from being printed, which is an overall **5.3%** savings.
- **\$1,008** in printing costs.
- **4,000** lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>.



## By the Numbers

**287,000**

Attendance at Zero-Waste Events since 2010

**144,400**

Pounds of waste diverted at Zero-Waste Events since 2010

**10,100**

Pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> saved using GreenPrint since May

**14,032**

Pages saved by using GreenPrint since May

## Resource Conservation Program

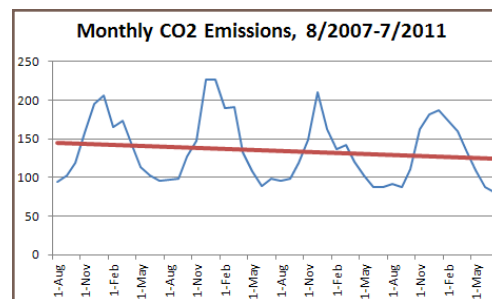
**Resource Accounting:** For 2011, Skagit County had a **5.9%** reduction in electricity, which equated to **\$38,700** in savings. Fifteen County facilities had over a **10%** reduction in electricity use.

Overall, the three-year program saw a decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and saved **227** tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in three years.

**Facilities:** Collaborated with Facilities staff and Cascade Natural Gas to review the feasibility of a natural gas heat pump pilot program. Attend PSE Lighting Expo with Facilities Manager to review lighting technologies and incentives.

**Program Transition:** Acquired approval for Skagit County to host a new RCM program. The SCOG RCM program ended in November and SCOG RCM Ric Boge retired. The Port of Skagit and Skagit PUD agreed to join the new RCM program. RCM duties were transferred to the Sustainability Coordinator.

**Training:** Attend PSE RCM trainings on solid waste and recycling, energy accounting, and energy auditing. Attended Department of Energy webinars regarding Portfolio Manager, the energy accounting software used to benchmark and certify Energy Star buildings.



## Energy Efficiency

**Energy Savings Performance Contracting:** Had project kick-off meeting and began weekly planning meetings with McKinstry. Implementation to begin in January 2012 and end by July 2012. Program will begin with weatherization upgrades and then move into lighting, mechanical/electrical, retro-commissioning, and water conservation.

**Small Energy Projects:** Completed purchase of software and scanners for the electronic discovery (E-Discovery) program, which will enable the Sheriff, Prosecutor, and Public Defender to share criminal case documents electronically, saving paper and transportation miles. The program will save about **750,000** pages of paper per year and result in additional savings from avoiding additional transportation and electricity to run photocopiers.

**Electric Vehicles:** Met with distributor of EV charging stations to review feasibility of installing stations at County Facilities. Attended the Lead the Charge II workshop which focused on the technology and implementation of EV's in Northwest Washington.

## Climate Change

**CAP:** Signed contract and began inventory update for the Climate Action Plan. Update to be completed in Q2 2012.



**Climate Stewards:** Collaborated to re-launch the Skagit Cool Community Campaign, which will include a Cool Climate Café in February 2012.

## Other Accomplishments

**Communication:** Sent regular computer shut-down reminders and sustainability update emails to County staff. Sustainability Coordinator was featured in e-newsletter for Conduit, a regional energy efficiency collaboration tool. Completed KSVR radio interviews about eco-friendly holidays and the County's electric truck.

**EECBG:** Reallocated staff time to ensure that both the Administrator and Coordinator are funded until the end of the grant in November 2012.

**Paperless:** Collaborated on upgrades to the County code website to improve format for mobile browsers and highlight and define terms to provide better paperless access.

**Grants:** Assisted Planning staff in submitting a sustainable cities grant. Submitted application to Skagit Valley Co-op to further fund zero-waste events. Attended roundtable discussion with NWCAA to discuss assessment criteria and metrics for upcoming GHG mitigation grant.

**14.06.045 Lot certification.**  
(1) Lot certification shall be the administrative review process completed to determine whether a lot is legally created and therefore eligible for conveyance and whether or not the lot will be eligible for development permits, as follows:  
Lot: contiguous quantity of land in possession of, owned by or recorded as the property of a person. A lot shall also include any individually numbered or separately designated parcels of property in an approved subdivision or development.  
(a) Conveyance. The lot was legally created by a purchaser who has met the requirements of RCW 58.17.210 and RCW 58.17.210 individually without violating the provisions of Chapter 58.17 RCW. Parcels not meeting the definition of lot of record may not be able to be conveyed without violating Chapter 58.17 RCW and will not be considered for development purposes.

## Skagit Community Energy Challenge

**Officially launched the Skagit Community Energy Challenge!**



In Q4, accomplished the following:

- Collaborated with the Whatcom CEC to finish flyers and tri-fold program documents.
- Published the program website ([www.skagitcounty.net/SCEC](http://www.skagitcounty.net/SCEC)) and added a FAQs page.
- Completed the water conservation checklist and a draft of the waste conservation and wildlife habitat checklists.
- Signed contracts with the home energy analysts.
- Compiled rebates and incentives to provide at follow-up appointment.
- Started planning to hold a public open house in Q1 2012.

**Assessments:** Had **17** participants sign up for the program and analysts completed **five** home energy and water assessments. Staff attended two home energy assessments and collected feedback from participants.

**Partnerships:** Met with staff from PSE, CNG, and City of Anacortes. Collected incentive packages from Skagit PUD and Waste Management. Started coordination with Skagit County Master Gardener and Master Compost/Recycler volunteers.

## Upcoming Projects

- Skagit Community Energy Challenge
- GHG Inventory Update for CAP
- Energy Savings Performance Contracting
- New shared RCM program

## For More Info

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

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