



# Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

## 2012 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 (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 audits of county facilities and implement Facility Action Plans.
- Avoid unnecessary utility and fuel costs.
- Minimize waste of consumable materials.
- Publicize results of this conservation effort to staff and the public.



### Waste Reduction

**Zero-Waste Events:** Continued to implement the ZWE program. 2011 year-end totals:

- Recognized **23** Zero-Waste Events, with a total attendance of **298,777** people.
- Diverted **47.5** tons of waste from the landfill through composting and recycling. The greenhouse gas emissions from this diversion equates to the annual emissions of **27** cars or **12** homes.



**Recycling:** Completed and was awarded grant to purchase more recycling bins for local schools.

**GreenPrint:** Print-reduction software installed on 120 computers in the Continental Building. An upgrade is planned for 2012 Q3. In 2012 Q1, GreenPrint helped save:

- **4,877** pages from being printed, which is a **3.5%** savings.
- **\$553** in printing costs and **3,500** lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>.

### By the Numbers

**94,977**

Pounds of waste diverted at 2011 Zero-Waste Events

**\$1,563**

saved using GreenPrint since May 2011

**18,936**

Pages saved by using GreenPrint since May 2011

**\$51,800**

Saved in annual utility costs from ESPC program

**750,000**

Pages to be saved with E-Discovery program

**47,175**

Pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> pledged to be reduced with employee Cool Climate Team

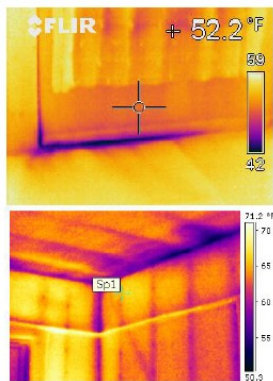
**32**

Home energy assessments completed in 2012 Q1

**276,000**

Kilowatt-hours found as potential savings in 2012 Q1

### Resource Conservation Manager Program



**Facilities:** Completed two days of facility walkthroughs with WSU Extension Energy Program staff. Collected baseline data on air quality and lighting, and received training on tools, reporting, and building system basics.

**Utility Accounting:** Completed application for three-year PSE renewal grant and uploaded PSE utility database.

**Education/Outreach:**

- Discussed Shared RCM funding model with Sustainability Coordinator of Island County.
- Began networking calls with Government RCM group.
- Attended lighting expo with the Facilities staff to explore lighting options and upgrades.
- Attended Dept. of Energy's EECBG Regional Exchange Call on "State and Local Government Partnership Success Stories."

## Energy Efficiency

### Energy Savings Performance Contracting:

- McKinstry and its sub-contractors completed weatherization work and began implementing lighting, plumbing, mechanical/electrical work.
- Staff sent emails to buildings and departments to provide notification and answer questions about the scope of work and needed coordination.
- Once completed, the upgrades will produce over **\$51,800** of annual utility savings. The project is considered “net-zero” as it the entire project will pay for itself in **14** years.



**Small Energy Projects:** The E-Discovery project was completed, which will enable the Sheriff, Prosecutor, and Public Defender to share documents electronically, saving **750,000** pages of paper per year.

**Vehicles:** Sent Electric Vehicle survey to County staff. **10%** indicated they are likely to buy an EV in the next 2-3 years and **10%** agreed they'd be more likely to buy an EV if charging stations were provided. Staff will pursue installation of EV charging stations.

## Skagit Community Energy Challenge

The Skagit Community Energy Challenge (SCEC) launched in 2012.

### Summary of 2012 Q2 Results:

- **48** participants signed up for the program
- Completed **32** assessments (Goal: 80 assessments)
- Identified **276,000** kWh potential savings
- Completed **15** follow-up appointments
- Finalized water and wildlife checklists.
- Completed draft of waste reduction checklist.

### Outreach:

- Held SCEC Open House, which hosted several program partners, had **12** attendees, **7** of which signed up for the program.
- Completed press release and Skagit Valley Herald article to advertise for Open House.

### Partners:

- Met with Master Gardeners to build volunteer network and finalize volunteer handbook.
- Met with PSE, Skagit PUD, Waste Management, and the Skagit Conservation District.



## Climate Change

### Climate Action Plan:

- Completed 2011 Implementation Update providing information on progress of each CAP policy and sent update to CAST members.
- Completed draft of GHG Inventory Update, which will be added to the CAP.

**Climate Stewards:** Skagit County staff joined the Skagit Cool Community Campaign. The employee team met for 6-weeks and agreed to pledge to reduce their carbon footprint by at least 5,000lbs.

- The Skagit County employee team pledged a reduction of **47,175lbs** of CO<sub>2</sub>

## Other Accomplishments

- Sent sustainability update emails to County staff.
- Provided updates to Sustainable Skagit website and facebook pages.
- Answered questions regarding efficient appliances, office equipment, and energy-saving behaviors.
- Met with Facilities staff to discuss green purchasing options for paper towels and soap dispensers.

## Upcoming

- Stream-lining of ZWE program
- Hiring of RCM assistants and added training
- Completing implementation for ESPC
- Continuation of SCEC
- Hiring of green purchasing intern

## For More Info

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