

Steward

CITY OF ISSAQUAH RESOURCE CONSERVATION OFFICE • WINTER 2007

stew-ard\stü-ərd\: one entrusted with conserving and protecting our natural resources for future generations.

Mayor Ava Frisinger, signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement earlier this year. As a part of the Agreement, Issaquah is committed to set reduction targets and create a climate change action plan.

The City currently promotes alternative transportation choices and sustainable building practices, has started to incorporate hybrid vehicles into its fleet and for many years has supported tree planting and restoration projects.

The historic Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement was signed in response to Seattle Mayor Greg Nickel's call for local action - at the city level - to reduce global warming.

The challenge was in response to the federal government's failure to take action on the Kyoto Protocol on global climate change, which took effect in 2005 in 141 countries. The Protocol would reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases in an effort to slow global warming below 1990 levels.

As of October, 319 mayors representing over 51.4 million Americans have accepted the challenge.



Vanpools and hybrid cars are a growing part of the City's efforts to reduce impacts from transportation.

Climate Change

Climate change has had a constant presence in the media with nearly daily news articles and Al Gore's recent movie, "An Inconvenient Truth." Climate change refers to the weather fluctuations and temperature increases being currently experienced and anticipated in the future, which are associated with global warming and influenced by human activities.

Controversy over the reality of global warming has quieted over the years as evidence has grown and the scientific community has come to build a strong consensus around the issue. In California, the gubernatorial candidates are not arguing if global warming is a problem, but rather which one of them

will do more to combat it.

Locally, climate experts predict a shift in weather patterns and changing precipitation. These changes could potentially create further conflicts over water resource allocation (affecting salmon, drinking water and agriculture), changing forest conditions, increased landslides and coastal erosion as well as diminished snow pack among other effects.

On a global level, the changes are already being felt as permafrost thaws, ice sheets melt and sea levels force Pacific island nations to evacuate their low-lying islands. Many of these shifts seem distant and unrelated to issues here in the Northwest, but scientists are beginning to see how events are interconnected. Climate change knows no boundaries and the effects leave no part of the earth untouched.

There are many things individuals can do on a local level to help slow climate change. Combustion of fossil fuels and emissions from cars and trucks are by far the largest sources of impact on the atmosphere. At the same time there are a variety of alternatives available. Using transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking or riding your bike are all ways to reduce your personal transportation impact.

Some more things you can do: check with your utility about their green power program or Green Tags; improve the energy efficiency in your home; recycle more; reduce your overall consumption and learn about your carbon footprint. See below for more resources.

Stay tuned for a winter Climate Change forum with local experts from the UW's Climate Impacts Group and the Northwest Biodiesel Network. As individuals and as a community we can make a significant, positive change.

Resources & Information



Climate Solutions

(climatesolutions.org): Top 15 Things You Can Do & Climate Change Information

Climate Impacts Group

(cse.washington.edu/cig): NW Climate Change Information from UW scientists

Carbon Fund (carbonfund.org): personal carbon calculators and more

Seattle (seattle.gov/climate/SeaCAP_you_can.pdf): good tips on simple things you can do

Opportunities offered by City of Issaquah Resource Conservation Office and its partners.
RCO works to conserve and protect Issaquah's natural resources for a sustainable community.

DECEMBER

Happy Holidays!

JANUARY

Winter Tree Pruning 101

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Pickering Barn classroom and adjacent orchard

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Back by popular demand, Alan Haywood, the City Arborist will present a pruning class and demonstration. Register by January 10th with Jennifer Kaufman at (425) 837-3442 or jenniferk@ci.issaquah.wa.us.

FEBRUARY

Climate Change/Transportation Forum

Tentatively Feb 8th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

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Preparing for Climate Change in the Pacific NW with Lara Whitely Binder of Climate Impacts Group. Biodiesel & Transportation with Aaron Kahn of the Northwest Biodiesel Network. Discussion about how transportation choices affect climate change, what bio-diesel is and how it is used.

NW Flower and Garden Show

WA State Convention Center, 7th and Pike

Wed – Sat 9-9, Sun 9-6

14-18

Celebrate the arrival of Spring. Five days of gardening fun, live music and food and wine that will entertain the whole family. Find inspiration for your garden, discover unique flowers and arrangement ideas, attend seminars, enjoy activities for kids. Separate admission fee; see website for details:
<http://www.gardenshow.com/nw/>

2007 Nominations for Ruth Kees Award

Environmental Award for a Sustainable Community are due **February 15**. The award honors the legacy of Ruth Kees by recognizing those who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to protecting and conserving Issaquah's natural resources. For more info and a nomination form, visit www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/rco or call (425) 837-3400.

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OTHER NOTICES

Inclement Weather

If weather conditions prevent safe collection from your home, a double load will be collected at no extra charge on your next regular collection day. Check www.wmnorthwest.com/weatherboard.html (Waste Management customers) or www.rabanco.com (Allied/Rabanco customers).

Holiday Schedules

Garbage and recycling are collected on all holidays except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. If your collection day falls on or after these holidays, collection will be one day later that week.

Holiday Tree Curbside Collection

Set out trees on your waste collection day. Trunks and limbs must be cut to 4 feet or less with no flocking and all trimmings removed.

Native Plant Salvage

Several plant salvage events in the Issaquah Highlands, between December and March. Help rescue native plants from future construction sites for use in restoration sites throughout the county. Check the website for details (www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/rco).

Waste Free Holidays

The 11th year of King County's acclaimed program, offering 15% - 50% discounts on "experience gifts" including gift certificates, memberships, tickets for concerts, plays and sporting events, museum visits, meals, spa treatments and more. See www.waste-freeholidays.com for more details. November 15th - December 31st.

Free Food Recycling Starter Kit

Recycle your food waste (including old fruitcake and holiday leftovers) in your yard waste cart!

While supplies last, single family residents within the Issaquah city limits can receive a free kitchen food waste recycling starter kit with a supply of compostable bags. For more details, visit www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/rco or call (425) 837-3400.