



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Van Sheth, Management Analyst
Erin Devoto, Public Works Deputy Director
Kathy Brown, Public Works Director
James Lopez, Director of Human Resources & Performance Management

Date: March 9, 2016

Subject: EARTH HOUR PROCLAMATION - 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim March 19, 2016, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Earth Hour in Kirkland, Washington.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The City of Kirkland's annual proclamation of Earth Hour is consistent with the long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. For over 20 years, the City has implemented various policies, regulations, and programs to protect its natural environment. An interdepartmental team, the Green Team, was formed to coordinate all of the City's actions for managing Kirkland's natural environment. As early as 2003, City Council adopted the Kirkland Natural Resource Management Plan, which comprehensively summarizes best resource management practices and principles, Kirkland's natural resource management objectives, and recommended implementation strategies.

In recent years, Kirkland's City Council has made the following policy decisions to support Kirkland's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship:

- On December 8, 2015, City Council approved the 2035 Comprehensive Plan that included an updated Environmental Element with Goal E5 and policies addressing climate change.
- On November 17, 2015, City Council adopted The Transportation Master Plan. It recognized the role transportation plays in meeting the goals of the environmental elements outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.
- In 2014, City Council approved Resolution R-5077 authorized the Mayor to adopt and sign the King County-Cities Climate collaboration Joint Letter of Commitment; Climate Change Actions in King County.

Previous to these efforts, City Council made the following policy decisions:

- Adoption of the City's Climate Protection Action Plan via Resolution R-4760 in 2009 committing to the long-range goal of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.
- Adoption of the greenhouse gases reduction targets via Resolution R-4659 in 2007.
- Authorized the City of Kirkland to sign the *U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement*, committing to help reverse global warming by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2005.

During Earth Hour, hundreds of millions of people, organizations, corporations and governments worldwide will come together to celebrate a worldwide commitment to ongoing change for the betterment of the one thing that unites us all – the planet. They will make a statement about their concern for climate change by doing something quite simple - turning off their lights for one hour. Earth Hour symbolizes that by working together, each of us can have a positive impact in the fight against climate change, protecting our future and that of future generations. Locally, Earth Hour will occur on March 19th at 8:30pm.

Please direct any questions to James Lopez at x3214.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming "Earth Hour" on March 19, 2016, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, this hour has been designated worldwide by World Wildlife Fund as "Earth Hour" in which millions of people around the world will come together to call for action on climate change by turning off their lights for one hour; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour is a reminder that communities, including the City of Kirkland, can make a positive impact to alleviate climate change; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland is joining cities and states across the country to raise awareness and demonstrate our nation's commitment to fighting climate change by supporting "Earth Hour;" and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the local government, its businesses, and its residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Kirkland City Council adopted Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and a long term action plan was developed that will lead to the targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for municipal operations and the community through capital investment, operational changes, program development and public outreach; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Kirkland City Council adopted the City's Climate Protection Action Plan committing to the long-range goal of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland will continue to work toward solutions to climate change and seek adaptation strategies to prepare its future and that of future generations for the impacts of a warming planet;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amy Walen, the Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim March 19, 2016 from 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. as "Earth Hour" in Kirkland, Washington and call upon all residents and businesses to turn off their lights for one hour and join the City in pledging their support to climate protection.

Signed this 15th day of March, 2016

Amy Walen, Mayor