



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dave Ramsay, City Manager

**From:** Marie Stake, Communications Program Manager

**Date:** April 21, 2008

**Subject:** Draft Response Letter to Sarah Andeen RE: Environmental Commission

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize Mayor James Lauinger to sign a letter as presented or modified responding to Ms. Sarah Andeen.

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 1, Ms. Sarah Andeen emailed the City requesting that the City Council consider establishing an environmental advisory board. The draft response letter specifically addresses the six issues Ms. Andeen raises and encourages her to attend the July 1 Green Team Update.

**From:** Sarah Andeen [mailto:andeens@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 01, 2008 3:29 PM  
**To:** KirklandCouncil  
**Subject:** Environmental Commission/Board Proposal

Hello,

I know that Kirkland has a good reputation for being a green city and it is something that the Council has a strong interest in promoting and developing. In order to facilitate this goal it might be useful if Kirkland were to establish a new Board or Commission to study environmental impact issues and make recommendations on how Kirkland can improve its environmental impact. These issues effect many of the boards and commissions already in place (planning, parks, transportation), but since the environment is tangential to each of these they do not often see the larger picture. There are also many little areas in which a board looking at ways in which Kirkland could become a greener city could offer suggestions. For example:

- City lighting - what are the most effective bulbs
- Carbon emissions - how can the city improve its footprint - i.e. no more use of leaf blowers, getting Segways for parking monitors
- Transportation flow - ways to partner and encourage carpooling and use of buses, bikes and walking
- Development - develop standards and incentives to encourage density development and greener buildings
- Business- create incentives for businesses to operate in environmentally friendly ways
- Special events - participate in events such as the recent lights out campaign that Seattle participated in but Kirkland did not

For a good example of a city that has such a commission you can check out San Francisco's Commission at [http://www.sfenvironment.org/our\\_policies/overview.html?ssi=10](http://www.sfenvironment.org/our_policies/overview.html?ssi=10)

If there is interest in such an endeavor I would be happy to do additional research to see what other cities are doing as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Andeen

May 6, 2008

Sarah Andeen  
220 1st St #504  
Kirkland, WA 98033

Dear Ms. Andeen,

Thank you for contacting the Kirkland City Council regarding the proposal to create an environmental citizen advisory board. Your April 1, 2008 email identifies many issues the City of Kirkland is currently addressing to preserve, protect and sustain our natural resources. We are also striving to encourage the community to take an active role in supporting these initiatives.

Last fall, the Council gave consideration to creating a volunteer board or commission whose charter would be to advise the City Council on environmental matters. Because of the associated costs for staffing and resources needed to support such a board, the City Council directed staff to develop community involvement strategies that will educate and engage interested community members in environmental stewardship. The City Council recognizes there are community members, such as you, who have the desire and expertise to help the City in our efforts.

The City has an interdepartmental "Green Team" that coordinates the citywide efforts on environmental stewardship. The Green Team is tentatively scheduled to give an update on the City's efforts to the City Council on July 1, 2008. We anticipate hearing more about the community engagement ideas that need to be planned as to involve interested citizens and businesses in a meaningful way.

The City's Natural Resource Management Plan is our blueprint for policies, programs and development standards that support this City's commitment to environmental stewardship. Below are some highlights of the "green" programs the City is currently managing to reduce our environmental impact and to educate the community. The "Kirkland Green" website, [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/kirklandgreen](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/kirklandgreen), contains a great deal of information about these programs and policies.

- *Lighting retrofit upgrade:* The upgrade is being performed at all city facilities with the installation of more efficient bulbs and ballasts
- *Climate protection:* The City Council has signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and adopted greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2012, 2020 and 2050. A Climate Protection Action Plan is under development and expected to be presented to the City Council in 2009. The City's fleet currently includes 14 hybrid (gas/electric)

passenger vehicles, 1 biodiesel (B99) passenger vehicle, 1 all-electric vehicle (work truck), 1 propane forklift, and 3 Honda Metropolitan scooters.

- *Commute Trip Reduction (CTR):* The City's CTR ordinance requires employers of 100 or more employees who arrive between 6 and 9 a.m. to develop and implement a program to encourage their employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled and single occupant vehicle trips.
- *Sustainable development:* The City is finding success with its Green Building Program that offers a priority permit processing incentive designed to encourage sustainable building in the construction of new single family residential development.
- *Green Business Program:* This program recognizes Kirkland businesses for a multitude of environmental efforts conducted within the Kirkland business community. Through an on-line application, a business completes a survey that establishes its eligibility as a "green" business. To recognize its achievements, a business receives a core program decal and supplemental decals (upon qualification for any of the seven categories), is listed on the City's website and is recognized by the City Council.
- *Community events:* The City has been active in promoting its programs at local events and at educational series. Last year, the City assisted the Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce in coordinating Sustainable September, a month-long "green" learning event. We are committed to support this event again in 2008. Additionally, we have an ongoing volunteer program, Green Kirkland Partnership that is helping to restore urban forests in our parks.

As you do, the City Council and staff place a high value on a healthy environment. You are encouraged to attend the July 1 City Council meeting or contact Paul Stewart, Deputy Director, Planning & Community Development, at 425-587-3227 or [pstewart@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:pstewart@ci.kirkland.wa.us) should you have further questions. Thank you for your ideas and interests in keeping Kirkland healthy today and in the future.

Sincerely,  
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

James L. Lauinger  
Mayor

cc: Paul Stewart, Planning & Community Development  
Jenny Schroder, Parks & Community Services