



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: James Lopez, Assistant City Manager
Green Team

Date: March 26, 2019

Subject: Earth Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor and City Council proclaim April 2019 as Earth Month in Kirkland, Washington.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The City of Kirkland has a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship and proclaims April as Earth Month to recognize this dedication.

For over 20 years, the City has implemented various policies, regulations, and programs to protect the natural environment. Across departments, a number of City programs work to protect the environment and encourage community participation in living more sustainably. The Green Team, an interdepartmental team, assists in the coordination of the City's actions around the environment. In recent years, Kirkland City Council has made important policy decisions related to commitment to environmental stewardship:

- In 2014, City Council authorized the Mayor to adopt and sign the King County Cities Climate collaboration Joint Letter of Commitment.
- In 2015, City Council approved the 2035 Comprehensive Plan that included an updated Environmental Element with Goal E5 and policies addressing climate change.
- Also in 2015, City Council adopted the Transportation Master Plan, which recognizes the role transportation plays in meeting the goals of the environmental element in the Comprehensive Plan.
- In 2016 the Council's adopted plastic bag reduction policy went into effect. The Kirkland City Council decided to restrict use of plastic bags to protect our environment.
- In 2016, the City adopted an enhanced multifamily recycling ordinance and allocated additional funding for improving access and increasing overall multifamily recycling.

EARTH MONTH ACTIVITIES

To celebrate Earth Month in April, Kirkland is holding a number of classes, recycling events, workshops, and community service events. The range of activities shows the variety of ways to engage with the environment and offers the community different opportunities to learn more and make a difference.

During Earth Month, the City is offering several events and programs for the community. These include:

- Month of April: Green Home Challenge email course, employee environmental education outreach
- April 6th: Styrofest
- April 10th: City of Kirkland employee electronics event
- April 10th: Tour of Waste Management's Cascade Recycling Center
- April 16th: Internal Leave No Trace lunch workshop
- April 16th: Zero Waste Workshop
- April 20th: Green Kirkland Partnership event at Edith Moulton Park
- April 27th: King County Repair Café event



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming Earth Month April 2019 in Kirkland

WHEREAS, since its incorporation as a City, Kirkland has dedicated itself to protecting and enhancing air quality, water quality and the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, one of the adopted Kirkland City Council Goals is to protect and enhance our natural environment for current residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Month reminds us that communities and individuals can make a positive impact to mitigate climate change, reduce environmental impacts and improve natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland residents and businesses continually show commitment to the environment by reducing waste, recycling, composting, preventing water pollution, and volunteering to restore natural areas; and

WHEREAS, numerous City programs across departments work to protect the environment, ranging from the 2003 Natural Resource Management Plan, special recycling events and waste reduction efforts, protection of the City creeks, wetlands and lakes, urban forestry management, the Green Kirkland Partnership's natural parkland restoration events, and more; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland is active in regional environmental efforts like EnviroStars Green Business Program, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council, and the King County Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C) to reduce environmental impacts and improve sustainable behavior; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Kirkland City Council authorized the Mayor to sign a Joint Letter of Commitments which aligns Kirkland's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions with King County and other K4C signatory cities, and the City is making progress on its operational reductions and is working in collaboration to achieve community-wide reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland will partner on climate change solutions and continue leadership on strategies to protect the environment today and for future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as Earth Month in Kirkland, Washington, and call upon residents and businesses to take action to reduce their impact on the environment and to improve our natural resources and quality of life.

Signed this 2nd day of April, 2019

Penny Sweet, Mayor