



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Adam Weinstein, AICP, Planning and Building Director  
David Barnes, Senior Planner/Sustainability Management

**Date:** March 24, 2022

**Subject:** Earth Month Proclamation 2022

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Mayor proclaim April 2022 as Earth Month.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. On that day, 20 million Americans across the nation demonstrated support for environmental protection. This year marks the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day.

For many years, the City has implemented various policies, regulations, and programs to protect the natural environment. Across departments, service teams such as the Environmental Services Team and, for many years, the Green Team, have worked to protect the environment and encourage community efforts to make the City more sustainable. The Sustainability Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2020 and will build on the City's past work, coordinating sustainability efforts across City Departments and the broader community. The City's best defense against climate change comes from fostering a resilient natural environment, planning thoughtfully, and engaging with the community.

Kirkland has a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, as shown in the City Council's goal for a sustainable environment:

*Protect our natural environment through sustainable goals and practices to meet the needs of community members for a healthy environment and clean energy without compromising the needs of future generations.*

In recent years, the City Council has made important policy decisions related to commitment to environmental stewardship:

#### 2015

- The City Council approved the 2035 Comprehensive Plan that included an updated Environmental Element with policies addressing climate change.
- The 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.
- The City Council adopted the 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan.

2016

- The Council's adopted plastic bag reduction policy went into effect. The Council restricted use of plastic bags to protect our environment.
- The City Council adopted an enhanced multifamily recycling ordinance and allocated additional funding for improving access and increasing overall multifamily recycling.

2018

- The City Council approved the Yard Smart Rain Rewards program which provides free technical and financial assistance to qualified Kirkland property owners who install landscaping projects to manage rainwater on their property. 21 Kirkland homeowners have participated in the program to date.
- The City developed a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report. This is the first report to measure both community-wide and government operations greenhouse gas emissions.

2020

- The City Council adopted a Sustainability Master Plan, a plan to: identify community priorities for environmental, economic, and social sustainability; explore specific actions that the City might undertake to support the identified priorities; and prioritize the action items in a clear implementation plan.

2021

- The City signed a new extended-term [Green Direct contract](#) with Puget Sound Energy that will provide clean, renewable electricity for city operations and reduce carbon emissions.
- The City completed construction of 12 new electric vehicle charging stations for City Building Inspectors at City Hall. This action continues the City's earlier efforts to electrify the City's fleet, and combined with renewably sourced electricity, directly reduces pollution and carbon emissions in Kirkland.

2022

- The City Council adopted a major update of the tree ordinance that balances preservation of trees with development. The benefits of trees include enhancing stormwater management, increasing carbon sequestration, reducing urban heat islands, and fostering a more livable community.
- The City Council adopted code amendments to encourage major development projects to be high performing buildings.
- The City is preparing a prioritization measure for the Active Transportation Plan update intended to make walking and biking safer to encourage non-motorized transportation.
- Staff are revising the voluntary incentivized expedited Priority Green Building Program to include all building types, with a launch of this updated program targeted for Summer 2022.
- The Draft Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging 5-year road map was created and has been released for public comment.

*Other recent environmental highlights:*

- In support of Washington State's new paint recycling program, which launched in spring 2021, the City has hosted multiple paint recycling events. Residents brought about 6,000 gallons of paint to be recycled at paint recycling collection events.
- The City is in the process of renovating David Brink Park to improve access, safety, and fish/shoreline habitat.

- The Willows Road Regional Trail Connection has been installed to bridge the gap between the Eastside Rail Corridor and the Redmond Central Connector, which will eventually provide a seamless non-motorized trail from Renton to Woodinville.
- Staff is working to create an Electric Vehicle (EV) Master Plan for City vehicles and supporting infrastructure.

Included with this staff report is a recommended proclamation to designate April 2022 as Earth Month in the City of Kirkland. David Barnes will be present to receive the proclamation at the Tuesday, April 19 City Council Meeting.

Attachment A: Earth Month Proclamation



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

## Proclaiming Earth Month April 2022 in Kirkland

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland has a longstanding dedication to protecting and enhancing the natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, an adopted City of Kirkland City Council Goal is to protect our natural environment through sustainable goals and practices, and to equitably meet the needs of all community members for a healthy environment and easy access to clean energy, without compromising the needs of future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Earth Month is a reminder that individuals and communities can make a difference to reduce energy use and produce or purchase clean renewable energy so as to mitigate climate change and reduce environmental impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland residents continually show commitment to the environment by reducing energy use, reducing waste, recycling, composting, preventing water pollution, advocating for the environment, utilizing alternative transportation and volunteering to restore natural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous City programs across departments work to protect the environment, ranging from the Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan; special recycling events and waste reduction efforts; protection of the City creeks, wetlands and lakes; the Green Kirkland Partnership's natural parkland restoration events, and more; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland is implementing the Sustainability Master Plan, adopted in 2020, to help coordinate all sustainability efforts by working on actions and goals that will protect, mitigate and enhance the environment to ensure that current and future generations of the Kirkland community are able to meet their needs without compromise; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland will continue to work toward solutions to climate change and seek city-wide decarbonization strategies, such as reducing both operational and embodied carbon in the built environment and modes of transportation, to protect the environment for all future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as Earth Month in Kirkland, Washington, and call upon all community members to take action to reduce their impact on the environment.

Signed this 19th day of April, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Penny Sweet, Mayor