



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: David Barnes, Senior Planner
Environmental Services Team
Adam Weinstein, Planning & Building Director

Date: April 6, 2021

Subject: 2021 Earth Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor and City Council proclaim April 2021 as Earth Month in Kirkland, Washington.

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 51st anniversary of Earth Day.

For over 20 years, the City has implemented various policies, regulations, and programs to protect the natural environment. Across departments, service teams such as the Environmental Service Team and for many years, the Green Team, have worked to protect the environment and encourage community participation in living more sustainably. The Sustainability Master Plan was adopted by 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.

The City of Kirkland has a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, as shown in the Council's Goal for the Environment "to protect and enhance our natural environment for current residents and future generations." In recent years, Kirkland City Council has made important policy decisions related to commitment to environmental stewardship:

2015

- City Council approved the 2035 Comprehensive Plan that included an updated Environmental Element with Goal E5 and policies addressing climate change.
- 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.
- 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 Kirkland City Council decided to restrict use of plastic bags to protect our environment.
- The City 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.
- 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

- As an early implementation step of the Sustainability Master Plan, 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 will complete construction of 12 new electric vehicle charging stations for City Building Inspectors at City Hall. This action will continue efforts to electrify the City's fleet, and directly reduce pollution and carbon emissions in Kirkland.

2021 EARTH MONTH ACTIVITIES

To recognize its commitment to protecting the environment, Kirkland proclaims and celebrates Earth Month in April by holding several recycling 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 the community [several events and programs](#) including:

- Month of April: Green Home Challenge
- Five Green Kirkland Partnership volunteer events
- April 3 – Confidential Shredding Event
- April 14 – Recycling 101 Webinar
- April 22 – Alaska Suite five-piece chamber jazz ensemble
- April 28 – Virtual Recycling Center Tour

Included with this staff report is a recommended proclamation to designate April 2021 as Earth Month in the City of Kirkland. Members of the City's Environmental Services Team will be present to receive the proclamation at the Tuesday, April 20 City Council Meeting.

Attachment A: Earth Month Proclamation



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming April 2021 as Earth Month in Kirkland

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Kirkland residents continually show commitment to the environment by reducing waste, recycling, composting, preventing water pollution, advocating for the environment, utilizing alternative transportation and volunteering to restore natural areas and information about participating in these programs and other environmental efforts may be found on our website; 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 EnviroStars Green Business Program, 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 has adopted a city-wide Sustainability Master Plan to help coordinate all efforts and implement new 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; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland will continue to work toward solutions to climate change and seek strategies to protect the environment for all future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as Earth Month in Kirkland, Washington, and call upon all community members to take action to reduce their impact on the environment.

Signed this 20th day of April, 2021

Penny Sweet, Mayor