

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 30, 2010

www.snoco.org

 **Happy new year!**

Friends,

Looking ahead to 2011, it's important that you know we will continue providing the necessary services our residents deserve and demand. Our 2011 budget protects public safety and provides assistance to the most vulnerable while rebuilding our reserves by the end of next year. All of this is being achieved without a tax increase.

In 2008, as we watched our economy quickly sink, we decided then that we needed to change spending habits. Others chose to wait for the economy to rebound on its own.

We've made changes by cutting spending, limiting new hires and making sure priorities are funded first, which has allowed us to work through this tough economy and move forward. We have focused on core services, working together on behalf of the people we serve.

Unprecedented teamwork on the part of each department, office and elected official has allowed us to continue to partner constructively on the issues at hand, and as a result, we're beginning to see renewed interest in job creation, home purchases and consumer spending.

I look forward to working for you next year. Please feel free to contact my office at 425-388-3460 or county.executive@snoco.org at any time.

Happy New Year!

Aaron

 **Burn ban called for Snohomish County**

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And please be sure to [visit me on the Web!](#)

How are we doing?

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

Due to stagnant weather conditions and elevated air pollution levels, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has issued a Stage 1 burn ban for Snohomish County until further notice.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency issues temporary bans on indoor and outdoor burning when the weather trends toward stagnant conditions, such as air inversions, which trap fine particle pollution emitted from chimneys, cars, trucks and other activities.

Air quality can deteriorate quickly, which is why taking action to curb burning can help keep air healthy. Clean Air Agency staff will continue to monitor the situation to determine when the burn ban can be lifted.

During a **Stage 1 burn ban**:

- No burning is allowed in fireplaces or uncertified wood stoves or inserts, unless this is your only adequate source of heat. Residents should rely instead on their home's other, cleaner sources of heat (such as a furnace or electric baseboard heaters) until the ban is cancelled.
- No visible smoke is allowed from **any** wood stove or fireplace, certified or not, beyond a 20-minute start-up period – even if it is the only adequate source of heat.
- No outdoor fires are allowed. This includes recreational fires such as bonfires, campfires and the use of fire pits and chimineas.

Burn ban violations are subject to a \$1,000 penalty.

The Washington State Department of Health recommends that people who are sensitive to air pollution limit time spent outdoors. Air pollution can trigger asthma attacks, cause difficulty breathing, and make lung and heart problems worse.

Answers to frequently asked questions about burn bans can be found at www.pscleanair.org/airq/burnban/faqs.aspx. Contact the Snohomish County Burn Ban Information line at 425-388-3508 for updated information or www.pscleanair.org/airq/aqi.aspx# for conditions and forecasts.

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S #407
Everett, WA 98201

Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

Or, [send me an email](#).

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 12

The community is invited to celebrate the life and values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 10th annual celebration bearing his name. While most events are free of charge, some require an RSVP and have a suggested donation price.

Snohomish County is a sponsor of the King events, along with the city of Everett, YMCA of Snohomish County and United Way of Snohomish County.

Diversity Breakfast

7 to 8:30 a.m.

Holiday Inn, 3105 Pine St., Everett

Doors open at 7 a.m. An RSVP is required for breakfast and can be made at 425-374-5570 or events@uwsc.org.

Suggested donation: \$10 individuals, \$100 table sponsorships.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rally & March

10:30 a.m. to noon

Snohomish County Plaza, 3000 Wall St., Everett

FREE

Community Celebration

Noon to 1 p.m.

Edward D. Hansen Conference Center, 2000 Hewitt Ave., Everett

FREE

For more information, contact Amy Ockerlander at 425-388-3460 or amy.ockerlander@snoco.org.

Report flood damage to county DEM

Snohomish County is still collecting damages associated with December flooding.

If you or someone you know suffered damage to a personal residence or business, please submit a damage assessment report to the county's Department of Emergency Management as soon as possible.

Damage assessments are used to determine and justify the need for possible state and/or federal assistance.

Residents and business owners can file reports by calling 425-388-5060 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Individuals filing reports need to provide an address where the damage occurred, the amount and type of damage, primary and secondary insurance information as well as deductible amounts.

All damages should be documented with photographs if possible. Damages also should be reported to private insurance providers.

Reporting to the county does not assure federal assistance, however it is a step in requesting federal assistance.

Tips for Christmas tree recycling

When the decorations come down, what do you do with the tree?

Snohomish County's Solid Waste Management Division offers these suggestions:

- Sign up for tree pick-up service from a local youth organization or take your tree to a community drop off site (donations requested). Check your local newspaper or look for community notices.
- If you have curbside yard debris collection service from your garbage collector, check with them for instructions on when, where and how to leave your tree for pick up.
- Take your tree to a local compost facility (prices and hours vary). Check your phone directory for compost facilities and call ahead for information.
- Chip your own tree and use it for compost or mulch in your yard.
- As a last resort, take your tree to one of the County's Recycling

and Transfer Stations: Airport Road in Everett, Arlington or Mountlake Terrace. Charge is \$5 per tree (effective Dec. 26 – March 31).

Questions? Call the Snohomish County Solid Waste Division at (425) 388-3425.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.