

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, February 2, 2007

www.snoco.org

 **Snohomish County awarded \$500,000 for hazardous waste disposal**

The Washington State Department of Ecology has awarded a grant of nearly \$500,000 to the Snohomish County Solid Waste Division of Public Works, the largest Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG) in the state for 2007-2008.

The County will use the CPG funding to greatly expand its existing nationally recognized product stewardship and product “take back” efforts.

“This grant recognizes the leadership role Snohomish County has taken in developing services that increase the sustainability and vitality of our community,” says Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

Snohomish County has been a leader in working with businesses to establish the Take it Back Network, which provides collection locations for recycling products containing hazardous materials. The County will launch a new effort to expand its “take back” programs to improve public recycling and disposal options for environmentally toxic items such as mercury-containing thermostats, compact fluorescent light bulbs, pharmaceuticals, batteries and electronic products.

The grant was awarded in a competitive process based on innovative projects and programs proposed by the County.

[More information](#)

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Olympia Watch

This week, I had the opportunity to testify on behalf of two bills that would promote economic prosperity in Snohomish County, strengthening our ability to invest in our community and in our future leaders.

House Bill 1554, sponsored by Representative Brian Sullivan, provides excise tax relief for aerospace product development businesses. This important extension further completes the mission accomplished in the 2002-03 session when the Washington State Legislature adopted tax incentives for aerospace manufacturers to improve the competitiveness of the aerospace industry in Washington State, paving the way for the upcoming roll-out of the Boeing 787.

By extending these tax incentives for computer equipment and software used primarily in aerospace product development, House Bill 1554 will allow Snohomish County to expand the size of the winner's circle, continuing our unprecedented job growth and increase our competitiveness in the global market.

However, job growth and prosperity are reliant upon the availability of a skilled workforce. While Washington State has one of the most highly-educated populations in the country, there is a net migration of highly-educated workers who earned their degrees outside of the State. It is critically important that the educational tools are available for our students to compete for the specialized jobs in aerospace and life sciences that are flourishing in our community.

I testified in support of Senate Bill 5322, sponsored by Senator Jean Berkey, which calls for the expedited creation and siting of an independent four-year polytechnic university in the Snohomish-Island-Skagit county region. This legislation will allow our future leaders and growing workforce to pursue a higher education here, in Snohomish County.

I encourage you to join me in supporting these two important pieces of legislation.

How are we doing?

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

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:

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

Rebecca Chawgo elected Chairperson of Snohomish County Arts Commission

The Snohomish County Arts Commission has elected Rebecca Chawgo Chairperson of the 14 member cultural board. Under Ms. Chawgo's leadership, the Arts Commission will make recommendations to Executive Reardon concerning the selection and commissioning of public artwork; and manage the installation of 7 newly approved art commissioned for parks throughout the Snohomish County region.

Ms. Chawgo has worked in non-profit arts administration and development for more than ten years. She is the Individual Giving and Information Services Officer at the Seattle Opera. As a fundraising consultant, Chawgo has worked with an extensive array of arts organizations, including the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Children's Theatre of Minneapolis, St. Paul Chamber, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Seattle Symphony. In addition to her role at Snohomish County Arts Commission, Chawgo also serves as a trustee on the Board of Civic Light Opera in Seattle.

The Vice-chair position has been filled by former County Council member, Barbara Cothorn-Hawksford.

More information about [Snohomish County Arts Commission](#)

Did you make a difference in traffic safety in 2006?

The Snohomish County DUI/Traffic Safety Task Force is accepting nominations for their Annual Awards Ceremony that will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Everett PUD Auditorium. If you know of someone who has made a traffic safety achievement in 2006 in Snohomish County, please call (425) 388-7200 to request a nomination form, or go to www.snoco.org and enter the search term "DUI Task Force."

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All nomination forms must be returned by February 14, 2007.

Achievements may have taken place in such fields such as: education, treatment, media, transportation, medicine, corrections, politics, art, community organizations, and may include programs in your community which raised awareness about traffic safety. In the past, a wide range of individuals were recognized and included police officers, school crossing guards, witnesses at crash scenes, senior citizen volunteers, as well as victim panel speakers. If you know of someone who went above and beyond, please help us identify them!

Executive Reardon to give State of the County address

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon invites you to join him on February 20 for the 2007 State of the County address. The Everett Area Chamber of Commerce will host the address at the Everett Holiday Inn, located at 3105 Pine Street. This is an excellent opportunity to get the most current information about issues and topics that may affect you and the direction of the County in 2007. This event is open to the public.

For more information please visit the [Everett Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

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.