

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, November 30, 2007

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 **Reardon names Larry Calter to lead  
Department of Information Services**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced Thursday he is appointing Larry Calter as the new Director of the Department of Information Services.

Calter comes to Snohomish County from King County Metro Transit where he was the IT Manager. While at Metro, Calter provided strategic leadership to all aspects of Information Systems and managed \$200 million in capital programs.

“Larry is committed to delivering world-class technology systems that will make County services easier and more accessible to the public,” Reardon said. “His experience developing and implementing innovative solutions will make him a valuable asset to our organization.”

The Department of Information Services builds, supports and operates the County’s technological backbone. The Department provides technology development and support services vital to the efficient operation of Snohomish County government. These services include development of web services, imaging and records management, technical support, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping and development and maintenance of internal technology services.

Calter, who will join Snohomish County on December 3, said on Thursday, “I’m excited to join a team at Snohomish County that is committed to using technology to make services more efficient and customer-friendly.”

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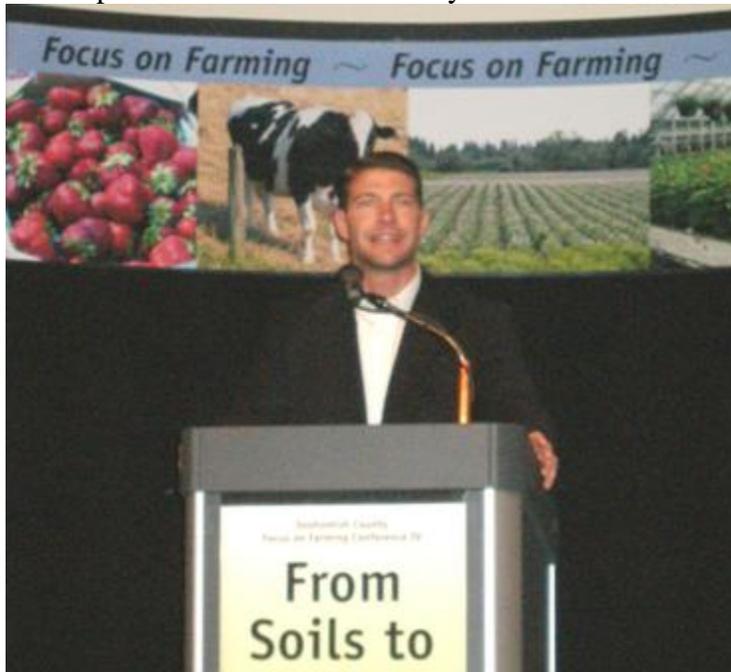
**PUBLIC FORUM:  
UDC Update Project,  
Thursday, December 6**

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 **Focus on Farming Conference draws record turnout**

From Soils to Sales, the fourth annual Snohomish County Focus on Farming conference, was held on Thursday at the Lynnwood Convention Center. The conference, which drew 600 participants, featured nationally recognized agricultural leaders and a broad range of subject-specific breakout sessions, a 35-exhibitor trade show, a plated lunch and a wine and cheese tasting featuring locally grown products.

“Farming is a way of life and a passion for many, but it’s also a business,” said County Executive Aaron Reardon. He thanked farmers for investing in their future by participating in the conference, and the government officials in the audience for their willingness to learn about the issues that farmers face. “At the end of the day, protecting our local farms means increasing opportunities for farmers to pay the bills and put food on their own family’s table.”



*(Executive Reardon speaks to over 600 at the fourth annual Focus on Farming Conference in Lynnwood)*

During the morning session, Congressman Rick Larsen gave an update on the status of the federal farm bill. In addition, Washington State University President Elson Floyd gave an engaging talk about the importance of regional agriculture.  
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Or, [send me an email](#).

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

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

Morning keynote Chad Kruger, who serves as the Director of Outreach for the Climate Friendly Farming™ Project at Washington State University, presented the latest information and a set of strategies that farmers can implement based on climate change and energy issues. He suggests that changing practices now will ensure competitiveness in the future. The Climate Friendly Farming Project is researching agricultural practices and technologies that reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon in soils, and provide renewable, biomass-based substitutes for fossil fuel-based products.

National speakers included lunchtime keynote Dr. Fred Kirschenmann from Iowa State University's Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture; Charles Kuperus, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture; Dave Rob, General Manager, Tuscarora Organic Growers and Susan McCoy, Garden Media Group, both from Pennsylvania; and California's Julia Wiley, owner of Marquita Farm, one of the oldest Community Supported Agriculture programs in the U.S. From Canada, Greg Wilkes and Jack Habina told the success story of the Calgary Farmers Market, and Vancouver Island's Michael Doehnel talked about small-scale grain production.

A \$45,000 check was presented to County Executive Reardon by the USDA's Jon DeVaney and Congressman Rick Larsen. The grant will cover a feasibility study and business plan for an agricultural business organization, a project that was recommended by the Snohomish County Agriculture Economic Development Action Team (SAEDAT). The organization would serve a broad-range of agricultural activities, from improving agency-wide communication to training, marketing, and business development.



*(U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen and USDA Washington State Director John DeVaney present Executive Reardon with a \$45,000 check)*

Chef Russell Lowell, of Russell's Restaurant & Bar in Bothell and RDL Catering, created the main course – a Northern Italian lasagna made from all local ingredients – grass-fed Ninety Farms beef, Lopez Island Farms sausage, Samish Bay cheese, egg noodle pasta from Cucina Fresca (made from local eggs), and vegetables. Chocolatier Autumn Martin, from Seattle's award-winning Theo Chocolate, created a special creamy confection using fresh local mint that conference participants found at their lunchtime place settings.

“Our farms are a key component of Snohomish County's quality of life and the successful diversification of our economy,” said Reardon. “By combining our local commitment and the expertise of national leaders, the fourth annual Focus on Farming Conference took one more step to invigorate and sustain our farm economy.”

*The Focus on Farming Conference, launched by Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in 2004, is a project of Snohomish County's Office of Economic Development. Presenters and key sponsors include King County, Washington State University Snohomish County Extension, Northwest Agriculture Business Center, and Flower World, Inc.*

## **Reardon announces team for second term as County Executive**

On Wednesday, Executive Aaron Reardon announced several top advisors will remain in key positions in his administration as he prepares to begin his second term.

"It is an exciting time to serve the citizens of Snohomish County," Executive Reardon said. "What we as a county and region have accomplished in the past four years has truly shaped our future. I am pleased to present my administrative team as we transition into a second term."

Deputy Executive Mark Soine, and Executive Directors Peter Camp and Deanna Dawson will continue to serve in their current capacity. A new addition to the Executive's team will be Christopher Schwarzen, who has been appointed to serve as Executive Analyst.

Soine will be responsible for managing special projects, policy initiatives and be an integral part of moving Executive Reardon's vision for Snohomish County forward. Camp will focus on infrastructure development, planning and transportation issues. Dawson will continue to oversee law and justice issues, and human services with an emphasis on affordable housing.

Christopher Schwarzen will join the team in mid-December. In his new role, Schwarzen will coordinate public information and outreach on matters of public policy. He will be responsible for countywide and policy information to be effectively communicated and accessible to the public.

"Christopher's skills and experience will ensure we are communicating with all our constituencies in Snohomish County," Executive Reardon said.

Schwarzen comes to the position with 12 years experience as a journalist focusing on federal, state and county government and public policy, including public health and environmental issues. He has spent the last five years as a reporter for The Seattle Times.

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 **PUBLIC FORUM: UDC Update Project,  
Thursday, December 6**

Please join County staff for an overview and discussion of code development topics at a public forum on Thursday. The agenda will include an overview on NPDES, discussion on land use and zoning classifications, and regulations governing Urban Centers.

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 6, 2007

**TIME:** 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Snohomish County Campus  
Administration Building East, Meeting Room 1  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett

Please visit the UDC Update Project home page to learn more and stay informed: [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) then search “UDC.”

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***You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.***