

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, April 25, 2008

www.snoco.org

 **County's climate task force meets April 28**

Snohomish County's Green Ribbon Climate Task Force will meet again Monday, April 28.

Appointed by County Executive Aaron Reardon, the task force is a group of community members and leaders, whose purpose is to develop a plan for adapting to climate change in part by reducing local greenhouse-gas emissions 20 percent below year 2000 levels by 2020.

This month, the committee will be reviewing Snohomish County's emissions inventory and highlighting several of the county's green initiatives. The meeting will be from 1 to 4 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the East Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett.

Members of the group represent organizations and local governments including Built Green, the Everett Clinic, Puget Sound Energy, Community Transit, Climate Solutions, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the Port of Everett, Washington Trucking Association, Comcast, Sno/Sky Agricultural Alliance, Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Cedar Grove Composting, the Snohomish County PUD, Johns Monroe Mitsunaga PLLC, the Tulalip Tribes, the city of Everett and the city of Edmonds

Also serving from the Snohomish County Council are Dave Somers and Mike Cooper.

The group typically will meet the fourth Monday of each month throughout 2008.

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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](http://www.snoco.org/SnoStat).

All meetings of the task force are open to the public. For more information, visit www.snoco.org and search "Green Ribbon Climate Task Force."

 **Safe Kids in Snohomish County Week**
April 26-May 4

Safe Kids in Snohomish County Week begins Saturday, April 26. The national annual awareness week is celebrating its 20th year during 2008. Founded in 1987 by the Children's National Medical Center, Safe Kids is composed of more than 450 coalitions in 16 countries, bringing together educators, volunteers, governments, health and safety experts, businesses and foundations to protect and educate families.

Safe Kids week will culminate with a Night of Awareness from 5-7 p.m. Friday, May 2, at Providence Women's & Children's Pavilion, 900 Pacific Ave., Everett, as well as an all day family event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 3 at the Everett Mall, 1402 Southeast Everett Mall Way. The family event is free and will feature activities and prizes for the whole family, in addition to information about motor-vehicle, fire, water, pedestrian, wheeled-sports safety and more.

Executive Reardon is scheduled to attend both events.

A comprehensive national report by Safe Kids USA shows the following:

- Only 58 percent of parents with children 14 and under report their child being involved in a serious accident or getting seriously injured as a major concern – a seven percentage-point drop since 1987.
- There is little change from 1987 to 2007 in the amount done by parents to ensure their child's safety – due to reasons varying from parents actually feeling the chance of their child being seriously injured is slim (especially fathers); to reporting that taking all the necessary steps are a hassle; to 20 percent of low-income families (household income levels under \$25,000) saying many safety devices such as fire extinguishers and bike helmets cost too much.

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Contact me:

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

Some disturbing information also was identified:

- 31 percent of households with children 14 and under do not consistently ensure their children ride in the back seat of a car all the time;
- 24 percent do not consistently supervise their children around water all the time;
- 18 percent do not always ensure their children (under 10 years of age) are with an adult when crossing the street.

Here are some tips for parents to reduce accidents:

- Properly secure children under age 13 in a back seat every time they ride in a car.
- Keep children in the right type of car or booster seat until adult lap and shoulder belts fit them correctly.
- Make sure your children wear a helmet and other protective gear every time they bike, skate, skateboard or ride a scooter.
- Teach your children to cross streets at corners and look left, right and left again before crossing. Make sure children younger than 10 always cross the street with an adult.
- Always keep your eyes on your children when they are playing in or near water.
- Always make sure children wear life jackets when riding on boats or playing in or near open bodies of water.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide detectors on every level of your home and outside of every sleeping area. Change the batteries once a year, and test them monthly.
- Do not place blankets, pillows or other soft items in a baby's crib. Keep small items such as toy parts, coins, buttons and beads away from children under age three.

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- Keep poisonous items, such as medicines and cleaners, locked away and out of reach of children.

For more safety information or for a copy of the report “Trends in Unintentional Childhood Injury Mortality and Parental Views on Child Safety, please visit www.usa.safekids.org.

For more information about Safe Kids Snohomish County, please visit www.snosafekids.org

To read Executive Reardon’s proclamation declaring April 26 – May 3 Safe Kids week in Snohomish County [click here](#).

County expands program for vulnerable preschoolers

Snohomish County will expand a free preschool program geared toward helping children of low-income families succeed in public school.

An additional \$1.1 million in state funding will allow 160 more children to participate in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), bringing total participation to nearly 1,000 students countywide. The program also offers advice and assistance to the children’s parents by connecting them with various family resources.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon discussed the program expansion Thursday with members of the ECEAP Policy and Advisory Council during the group’s annual recognition dinner.

“The earlier we ready children and families for school, the more successful they will be, which overall benefits them as individuals but also this community,” Reardon said. “These are the workers, leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow, so we have a responsibility to be sure they’re prepared.”

ECEAP specifically is designed to help children – ages three to five – prepare for success in the public school system and to assist families with their child’s development.

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Children's services include educational experiences such as language skills, self-help activities, social skills, self-esteem building, field trips and preparation for kindergarten. Children also receive vision, hearing, medical and dental screenings as well as nutritious meals. Services are provided in school districts, nonprofit agencies, community colleges and within local tribes.

Family support includes parent education, information about local assistance resources, family activities and help with decision-making.

"The benefit of the program is the multitude of services that are offered," said Cindy Hart, the county's interim Human Services director. "Not only do the children receive something, but we're also able to work with the parents."

The increased funding will be combined with the current operating grant from the state of \$5.3 million.

The additional money will allow the county to expand programs housed at Everett Community College, Everett School District, Lake Stevens School District, Marysville School District and Volunteers of America in Everett. Volunteers of America also will begin a new program in Sultan, replacing the Head Start services that were removed from the community a few years ago.

With this new expansion and an increase approved in 2007, the ECEAP program has grown by 283 children – a nearly 42 percent increase overall.

For more information on the program, go to snoco.org and search "ECEAP," or call Joe Varano at 425-388-7251.



County honored for volunteer service

Volunteer Recognition Week, nationally observed April 27 – May 3, is about inspiring, acknowledging and encouraging people to engage in their community. It's about showing how we strive to meet our challenges, not as isolated individuals, but as members of a true team that works together.

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With this in mind, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon accepted a symbolic check Wednesday from Vicki Howell, regional chief of operations for Catholic Community Services, and a number of the nonprofit's volunteers.

This check represents the value of 165,373 volunteer service hours at \$18.77 per hour. During 2007, Catholic Community Services' 1,318 dedicated volunteers provided these services to individuals in the community.



Pictured from left to right are Martha Mee, Vicki Howell, Larry Wewel, Everett Irwin, Geraldine Atwater, Marissa Obedoza, Herb Williams and Executive Reardon.

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

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.