

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, March 21, 2008

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

 **Tax help available for vulnerable populations**

Snohomish County is urging local stakeholders such as charities, churches, employers, local governments and other social-service providers to reach out to residents who may be eligible for the 2008 Federal Economic Stimulus Payment but don't know it.

Many low-income families and senior citizens don't earn enough to typically file federal tax returns, or they receive non-taxable assistance including Social Security and Veterans Affairs' benefits. Yet, they still may be eligible to receive a payment under the approved federal plan.

According to the IRS, individuals who qualify may receive as much as \$600 (\$1,200 if married and filing jointly). Snohomish County residents who pay no income tax but have a total of \$3,000 in combined income, Social Security benefits and/or veterans' payments may receive a payment of \$300 (\$600 if married filing jointly).

Finally, individuals eligible for payments may also receive an additional amount of \$300 for each child qualifying for the federal child tax credit.

To receive the federally approved economic stimulus payment from the IRS, however, people in these populations must file a tax return.

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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).

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The IRS has created a Web page (www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=179735,00.html) containing a one-page flier, envelope stuffers, informational booklets, logos and more that can be copied or distributed by local employers, churches, charities and other nonprofits.

In addition, through the assistance of the Snohomish County Financial Asset Development Coalition, the United Way of Snohomish County is offering free tax preparation and electronic-filing services to low-income individuals and families.

[More](#)

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### **Climate-change committee to begin meetings**

The inaugural meeting of the Snohomish County Green Ribbon Climate Task Force is scheduled for Monday, March 24.

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 and reducing community-wide greenhouse-gas emissions 20 percent below year 2000 levels by the year 2020.

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

Members of the group represent organizations and local governments including the Everett Clinic, Puget Sound Energy, Community Transit, Climate Solutions, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the Port of Everett, Washington Trucking Association, Built Green, 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.

*(Continued)*

#### **Contact me:**

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

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

Meetings will be from 1 to 4 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the East Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett.

All meetings of the task force are open to the public. For more information, visit [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search “Green Ribbon Climate Task Force.”



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 **Salary Commission to meet Monday, March 24**

The Snohomish County Citizens’ Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials will hold its second meeting on Monday, March 24 to review the salary schedule for elected officials for 2009 and 2010.

The commission is an independent group that meets every two years to set the salaries of elected officials in Snohomish County. Elected officials whose salaries are determined by the commission are the members of the county council, the executive, assessor, auditor, clerk, prosecuting attorney, sheriff and treasurer.

By law, salary recommendations must be made by May 1 for the next two-year period. A 2006 amendment to the county charter eliminated the need for council and executive approval of the salary changes.

The commission is made up of ten members, nominated by the county executive and confirmed by the county council.

All meetings of the salary commission begin at 6 p.m. and will be held in the 6th Floor Executive Board Room, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett. The meetings are open to the public.

Remaining scheduled meeting dates are March 24, 31 and April 7.

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 **County to collect mercury at free April event**

To reduce the amount of potential mercury exposure in Snohomish County, the Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Station at 3434 McDougall Ave., Everett, will accept free of charge bulk mercury and mercury-containing devices between April 23-26.

The facility will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. those days and will collect bulk mercury, fever thermometers, thermostats, mercury switches and devices containing bulk mercury. Businesses, schools and residents with such products are encouraged to bring them in for proper disposal.

To ensure safe transportation of this hazardous material:

- seal jars tightly;
- put items in sealable plastic bags;
- carefully transport to the hazardous-waste collection facility.

Mercury vaporizes when warm, creating toxic fumes. It is very important to rid homes and businesses of the substance. Do not touch the mercury.

For more information about this collection event, contact Hazardous Waste Facility Manager Jim Gustafson at 425-388-6053 or [James.Gustafson@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:James.Gustafson@co.snohomish.wa.us).

To learn how to recognize mercury containing products or potential health risks associated with them, visit the Washington State Department of Health's mercury Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/mercury](http://www.doh.wa.gov/mercury), or the Washington State Department of Ecology's Web site at [www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/index.html).

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***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.***