



**CITY OF SNOQUALMIE**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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## City of Snoqualmie

### News Release

For immediate release: January 22, 2010

### Getting Greener: Sustainability in Snoqualmie

**Snoqualmie, WA** – Ideas about green communities and climate change are everywhere – from ads on TV to the recent international treaty talks at the Copenhagen Climate Conference. But what is happening in our backyard - right here in Snoqualmie?

The City of Snoqualmie has long been engaged on how to become “greener,” working for the past two years with University of Washington student teams and faculty on sustainability issues.

“Acting alone, individual efforts can seem meaningless. Yet Snoqualmie has joined 1,016 U.S. cities in making commitments to plan and operate using more environmentally sustainable practices,” said Mayor Matt Larson. “These cities now represent nearly one third of the U.S. population. Our coordinated and cumulative efforts do matter and can make a significant impact.”

In 2009, the Mayor’s Sustainability Advisory Team was formed to develop the *Snoqualmie Sustainability Strategy*, which was formally adopted by the Snoqualmie City Council on January 11, 2010. The document is posted on the city’s website in the Sustainable Snoqualmie section.

The strategy gives a detailed snapshot of the city’s current sustainability programs and identifies potential actions for increasing efforts within 12 topic areas, including flooding, land use, mobility, green infrastructure, health and economy, among others.

Over the next year, the advisory team will continue implementing recommended actions as outlined in the strategy building upon 2009 successes, such as the completion and opening of the new energy-efficient city hall; partnering with King County on a recycling pilot program; continuing acquisition of floodway lands for open space; developing urban forestry program funding; working on the Evergreen Fleet Initiative to reduce emissions of city vehicles; and working to right-size the internal motor pool for a greener fleet.

At this time, the UW students and the advisory team are working toward developing a partnership with PSE to support a Community Resource Energy manager. The manager would help find ways for to reduce energy use at city facilities and explore alternative energy options. The city is researching various funding sources to add open space and will soon join the “Tree City, USA” program. As the city’s *Comprehensive Plan* is updated, there will

be a focus on sustainability, setting the stage for the next 20 years of growth and resource protection in Snoqualmie.

### **Sustainability Speakers Forum**

The city is gearing up for a monthly Sustainability Speakers Forum. During the months of February through June, regional and local experts will be in town to talk about sustainability: what it is, how it affects us, and how we affect it.

The first of five sessions will be Tuesday, February 16, 7-9 p.m. All sessions are free and open to the public. They will take place at Snoqualmie City Hall, 38624 SE River Street. Details will be posted to the city website at [www.cityofsnoqualmie.wa.us](http://www.cityofsnoqualmie.wa.us). To be notified via email of speakers and topics, please write to [info@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us](mailto:info@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us).

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