



PCA Newsletter - February 2019

Corrected Version

NOTE: After we sent out our first newsletter on February 6, we realized we needed to send this corrected version, due to some slip-ups in editing in the “Recent good news” section. Additionally, if you have forwarded the original version, please send this along to those you forwarded it to, explaining it is a replacement. Thanks!

Recent good news

Multiple cities have now completed their budget process and have included climate action and/or sustainability programs. We have heard from multiple sources that People for Climate Action (PCA) groups have been successful in increasing awareness of the [King County-Cities Climate Collaboration \(K4C\)](#) and the need for better climate action plans to meet K4C goals.

PCA groups have formed in nine cities including Bellevue, Bothell, Kenmore, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Sammamish, Seattle, and Woodinville. Several additional cities are now forming groups. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact us at <https://peopleforclimateaction.org/contact-us/>.

Seattle was one of 25 cities awarded a \$2.5 million [American Cities Climate Challenge Grant](#) from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Here's what the Bloomberg website says:

Seattle plans to use this support to improve the energy efficiency of citywide buildings and reduce emissions from the transit sector, and Bloomberg Philanthropies will work the city to achieve the following actions by 2020.

- Expand financing and incentives for building efficiency including the 2030 building pilot that will create the City's most sustainable buildings.
- Make Seattle a model for the creation of green jobs through an innovative pilot with Seattle colleges.
- Provide new programs to incent public transportation, bikes, and walking over single occupancy vehicles.
- Evaluate and advance implementation of strategies based on Seattle Department of Transportation congestion pricing study.

At the county level . . .

King County is updating their county Climate Action Plan which covers the next five years. Council member **Rod Dembowsi** informed constituents that King County is using Cascadia Consulting to analyze greenhouse gas emissions from county government operations. Unfortunately, this will not include a county-wide emissions assessment.

PCA members are arranging another meeting with **Megan Smith**, Director of Climate and Energy Initiatives for King County. In part, we would like to advocate for K4C representatives to meet more often than twice a year.

We are organizing speakers to testify at County Council meetings about the importance of the collaboration between the county and the cities for the creation of effective climate action plans. Please [let us know](#) if you'd like to participate.

What's happening in ...

PCA Bellevue

Over the next 8-9 months Bellevue will be updating their Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) which will allow it to emphasize climate action more strongly. Members have met with **Jennifer Ewing**, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, who heads up the program. We anticipate being actively involved with the upcoming public comment events.

Unfortunately, Emma Johnson, formerly the Resource Conservation Manager and therefore the person responsible for calculating the GHG emissions for Bellevue, is leaving. Her replacement has yet to be hired.

Also in Bellevue, the public hearing for PSE's proposed Energize Eastside project has been scheduled for March 28. Check out [CENSE.org](#), a PCA participant, for more details regarding the hearing and how we can influence the outcome.

PCA Kirkland

On January 15th Kirkland City Council received a report from staff member **David Barnes**, Senior Planner in the Planning and Building Department, about municipal greenhouse gas emissions in Kirkland. PCA Kirkland has met with Mr. Barnes who is updating the Kirkland Sustainability Plan. Although Kirkland has a “Climate Action Plan”, it currently has no actionable steps. It is anticipated that the new sustainability plan will have specific actionable and measurable steps.

Of note, PCA Kirkland is now officially a “city ally” organization which gives them some stature with city staff and council.

Mercer Island Ready for 100

Mercer Island is facing budget challenges. The Mercer Island Ready for 100 members are contemplating how to move forward with climate action given the financial constraints of the city. One example of the difficulty they are facing is illustrated by the inability to have a “sustainability fee” added to the bid from Recology, the firm providing waste disposal for Mercer Island.

On a positive note, Mercer Island has contracted an outside organization to analyze greenhouse gas emissions and climate action planning.

PCA Seattle

PCA Seattle recently had the first stand-alone meeting of their group with a dozen or so people attending. They had previously had brief meetings just before prior to meeting with officials. Members have met with a number of city and county councilmembers, and more meetings are scheduled.

PCA Bothell

The City of Bothell has now hired a part-time sustainability person.

PCA Redmond

City of Redmond has recently budgeted for a full-time sustainability staff. The city is currently defining a detailed job description before beginning a candidate search.

PCA Woodinville

Woodinville is not currently signed onto the K4C but the city council has expressed interest in joining. PCA Woodinville members are actively promoting this step.

Interested in carbon offsets for your personal carbon

footprint?

Check out Forterra's [Evergreen Carbon Capture program](#). Forterra is a Washington-based 501(3)(c) nonprofit that has been working on local environmental issues for years. Money donated for carbon offsets is designated for planting trees in habitat restoration areas. Yes, it is much better to reduce your carbon footprint rather than purchase offsets but while you are working on that you can have a few trees growing that will eventually store all that carbon you are producing now. Forterra asks for \$7.50/ton of CO2. They provide a calculator if you would like an estimate of your production or you can simply plug in the average American's production of around 16 tons/year.

Any questions or comments? Let us know at info@peopleforclimateaction.org.

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](#). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from People for Climate Action, please [click here](#).