



Issaquah, Port Townsend ban plastic bags

Seattle's bag ban takes effect

The momentum was with us this summer as Environment Washington's citizen outreach staff pounded the pavement, rallying the public support and raising the money we'll need to protect Puget Sound's wildlife by banning disposable plastic bags statewide.

Seattle goes bag-free

As of July 1, Seattle grocery stores no longer distribute plastic bags at checkout counters—a change that will help keep 292 million plastic bags out of the environment each year.

"This is an incredibly exciting day for our resident orcas and all of Puget Sound's wildlife," said Katrina Rosen, Environment Washington's field director. "Way too many of the plastic bags we use end up as litter in the Sound. We don't want to see any more whales beaching with plastic bags in their stomachs."

Issaquah passes bag ban

After dozens of Environment Washington volunteers sent emails, delivered petitions, made phone calls and provided testimony, the Issaquah City Council voted 5-2 in favor of a bag ban in June. Environment Washington Program Associate Robb Krehbiel pointed out to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer that this local ban is part of a larger strategy to ban the bags statewide.

Port Townsend makes 7

With a unanimous vote in early July, Port



▲ Judith Rubin (left) and Courtney Fearon dressed as "bag monsters" to raise awareness of plastic waste at the Port Townsend farmers' market in April.

Townsend became the seventh Washington community to ban plastic bags—and the first on the North Olympic Peninsula.

Environment Washington helped rally bag ban enthusiasm at a special event in April at the Port Townsend farmers' market. Activists, volunteers and staff dressed as bag monsters, "knit" plastic bags into a growing chain, and gave free reusable plastic bags to winners of our homemade carnival game.

A deeper problem

A recent study from the University of Washington found that natural processes like wind, waves and turbulence can push plastic particles down as deep as 100 feet below the surface, meaning that there may be more plastic in the water than previously recorded—yet another reason why the best plan is to keep plastic out of the Sound in the first place.



Election 2012

◀ Don't forget to vote! At this crucial juncture for our environment, it's critical that we elect strong advocates for our air, water and open spaces.



To our members

Politicians in D.C. may be bitterly divided, but Washingtonians agree: Puget Sound, Mount Rainier, the San Juan Islands and all of the beautiful places that make our state so special are vital to our way of life and deserve to be protected.

We've seen what a difference the right leadership can make: Since President Obama took office, the Environmental Protection Agency has implemented smart new standards to cut the carbon pollution that fuels global warming, to keep mercury out of our air and water, and to reduce the amount of soot in the air. Federal fuel efficiency standards will average 54.5 mpg by 2025.

Of course, much work remains to be done. But with election season in full swing, we have a wonderful opportunity to remind our elected officials that we care about the environment—and vote accordingly.

Thanks for being with us,

Katrina Rosen
Field Director

Recent action

Mount Rainier funding under attack

For nearly 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has enabled Washington and other states to protect and expand places like Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. In fact, it was the LWCF that enabled Congress to save the Carbon River Valley from drilling and development this year by extending the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park.

But some members of Congress are trying to kill this successful program. A budget proposed by the House slashed funding for the LWCF to 7 percent of what it's supposed to receive. We'll keep fighting alongside our national federation in Washington, D.C., to make sure the Fund is able to protect open spaces for future generations.

Bringing the climate change message home

This past summer, we spoke face-to-face with thousands of people across the state about the threat global warming poses to our economy and public health. Our data show that 99 percent of Washingtonians live in counties that experienced federally-declared weather disasters between 2006 and 2011, and that global warming loads the dice for more extreme weather events.

To give ourselves the best chance of protecting future generations from the worst consequences of global warming, scientists have said the U.S. and other developed countries need to cut our carbon emissions so that by 2020 we're emitting 25-40 percent less carbon into the air than we were in 1990.

We're building public support to help our state get more energy from the wind and sun, burn less fossil fuel, and get cleaner-running cars on the road.



▲ The Land and Water Conservation Fund helped expand Mount Rainier National Park, but now the Fund is under attack in Congress.



Electric vehicles ready to roll

With the right policies in place, plug-in vehicles can reduce oil dependence in Washington by 3,974,880 gallons per year, according to a report released by Environment Washington. Already, Washington has the second-most electric vehicle charging stations of any state in the nation.

“It’s time to plug in, power up, and protect our planet because plug-in vehicles have arrived here in Washington,” said Dan Kohler, Environment Washington’s regional director.

1.4 million electric cars by 2025

According to our report, “Charging Forward,” 16,671 drivers in Washington could purchase their first plug-in vehicle within the next three years. Overall, these vehicles would reduce Washington’s global warming pollution by 28,176 metric tons per year. If the plug-in vehicles are powered by clean sources of electricity, these savings would rise to 69,838 metric tons per year.

“For decades, owning a car has meant consuming oil. Today, drivers finally have a choice,” said Kohler. “Thanks in part to smart policies from the Obama administration, every major automobile manufacturer is offering a new plug-in vehicle powered primarily by electricity.”

At the federal level, ambitious new fuel efficiency standards—54.5 mpg by 2025—represent the biggest step this country has taken to break our addiction to oil. The Obama administration has also made investments in critical technologies, such as advanced batteries and high-powered charging stations.

Here in Washington, our state’s Clean Cars program has helped make high-tech electric vehicles more readily available to consumers. This year, we’re advocating for new rules that would help Washington build more than 1.4 million electric vehicles by 2025.

New tech fuels progress

“Carbon emissions from the transportation sector account for almost 50 percent of our overall carbon emissions in the state, so electric vehicles are a smart choice for Washington,” said state Sen. David Frockt. “Their use helps us fulfill our climate goals by reducing carbon emissions, particularly when combined with our state grid that is phasing out coal and emphasizing hydro and other renewable energy sources.”

The Environment Washington report shows that technological breakthroughs have helped move plug-in vehicles into the fast lane, from advanced batteries that have dropped in price by more than 80 percent, to super-fast charging stations that have reduced charge times by more than 90 percent. The report called for policies that will promote further advances in technology and infrastructure.

“Electric vehicles offer all Americans hope for a cleaner, healthier future. But to make this promise a reality, continued public investment will be necessary to ensure that these vehicles are as convenient and as affordable as cars powered by oil,” concluded Kohler.



research

Charging Forward

Read the full report online at:
EnvironmentWashingtonCenter.org



Brian Holsclaw

Green Future Fund

A new way to honor supporters

Environment Washington is proud to announce the establishment of our Green Future Fund.

The Green Future Fund will honor a special group of our donors: those who are ensuring a greener future by remembering Environment Washington or our sister group, Environment Washington Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts.

These legacy donors are helping to ensure that Environment Washington will continue to flourish—protecting the places we love and the values we share—for years to come. “We appreciate all of our supporters,” said Environment Washington’s Katrina Rosen. “But I feel a special gratitude toward those members who have the vision and generosity to plan a gift that will protect our state’s environment beyond their own lifetimes.”

Establishing a legacy gift also offer donors a few advantages. Some supporters wish they could give more, but can’t right now. Including Environment Washington in your estate plan costs nothing today, while ensuring support for our mission in the future. Legacy gifts may also offer tax benefits. (Your professional advisor can help you determine any tax advantage.)

As a Green Future Fund donor, with your permission, we’ll recognize your gift in our annual report and other publications, helping to inspire other members to make their own legacy gifts. Of course, you may also choose to give anonymously. Either way, any specific details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

If you’d like to become a member of the Green Future Fund, or if you just have questions, contact our planned giving coordinator, Marilyn Tesauro, at 1-800-841-7299 or email her at PlannedGiving@EnvironmentWashington.org

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Fall Report

VOLUME 6 | NO. 2 | 2012

Environment Washington

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Washington. We focus exclusively on protecting Washington's air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Saving the San Juan Islands

More than 2,000 Environment Washington supporters—including Dave Matthews of the eponymous Grammy-winning rock band—have joined us in calling on President Obama to create a new national monument in the San Juan Islands.

From Iceberg Point to Chadwick Hill, the San Juans offer amazing opportunities to get closer to nature, and are home to the largest population of Bald Eagles in the continental United States. Unfortunately, 1,000 acres of key habitat, including special places on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez islands, are vulnerable to drilling and development.

Under the Antiquities Act, President Obama can save these lands with a stroke of his pen by declaring them a national monument. We can convince him to do it by demonstrating massive public support—and we're off to a very promising start.



Patrick McNally Creative Commons

1,000 acres of new wilderness

◀ You can help save the San Juan Islands from irresponsible development.

Visit www.EnvironmentWashington.org to send your message to President Obama.