

Extension 'Cord

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Connecting People, Resources, & Knowledge

"Welcome to the Extension 'Cord, a monthly briefing paper from WSU Snohomish County Extension. Even though we have existed for over 100 years, we have realized that too many people are unaware of the diversity and impact of our programs. Each issue will highlight the purpose, activities and results of one particular program. The 'Cord will showcase the work of our 1,000 volunteers and 25 staff. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our staff for more information."

Curt Moulton, Extension Director



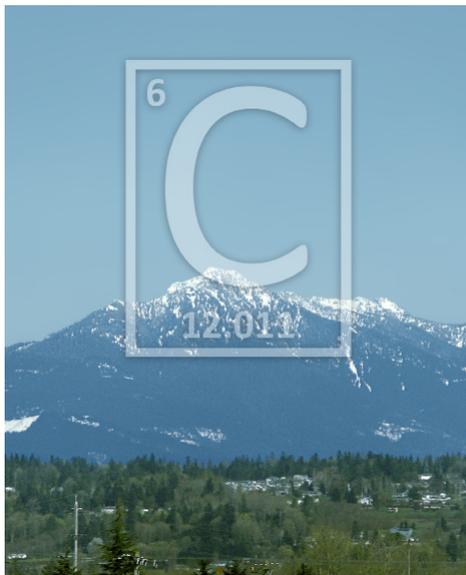
Carbon Masters Program: Engaging the Community to Curb Climate Change

The climate in Washington State is changing as the planet is warming. Scientific documentation shows that increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere surrounding earth are raising global temperatures. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2008), "Atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide are the highest experienced for at least 650,000 years." Similarly, the UW Climate Impacts Group recognized troublesome climate trends in the Pacific Northwest, "Most

of the PNW has warmed steadily in the last 100 years. Precipitation has fluctuated but has generally increased over this time period. Springtime snow water equivalent in the PNW mountains has declined since the mid-20th century, a direct result of regional warming." Washington State's

landscape, agriculture, and natural resources are particularly vulnerable to climate change. County Executive Aaron Reardon's Green Ribbon Climate Task Force calls for implementation of a public education and outreach strategy. As a result, Washington State University Extension—in partnership with the University of Washington—developed a climate change outreach and education program called Carbon Masters™.

The mission of the Carbon Masters(TM) program is to engage and train volunteers, partners, and stakeholders on current climate change research and public policy initiatives that inspire behavior change and engender civic engagement. Snohomish County Carbon Masters™ Trainees exchange 40+ hours of college-level training for a minimum commitment of 50 mission-service hours. The Carbon Masters curriculum is interactive and emphasizes (a) climate change science, (b) energy conservation, (c) community infrastructure, (d) transportation patterns, (e) natural resources, (f) green economy, and (g) social justice. Furthermore, it includes lectures from well regarded experts and field training at alternative energy production sites like Qualco Biogas and Cathcart Biodiesel. Volunteers are trained to work with families, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and local government to develop mitigation strategies and reduce energy use. Like other Extension programs, volunteers give back to the community in exchange



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<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/calendar.htm>



for the training. Carbon Masters™ offers an opportunity for transformative education for participants and leads to behavior change and community engagement.

On March 17, 2010, WSU Snohomish County Extension graduated a diverse cohort of eighteen volunteers. Interns are now pursuing community projects:

Conservation Education/Social Justice: Conservation Education projects will be implemented throughout Snohomish County, with supplies donated by PUD, Home Depot, and Snohomish County. The target goal for the initial month is 100 low-income families in south Everett.

Cool Schools: This team is partnering with Boeing, Cool Moms, Cool Schools, and Tulalip Tribe members to host a Cool Schools Mentor Workshop in April 2010. They expect to train 100 teachers and parents at this workshop, and to continue engaging parents, teachers, and students in Cool Schools activities and behavioral change strategies.

Community Discussion Groups: Carbon Masters Trainees are engaging neighborhoods in developing individual and community strategies that reduce the carbon footprint of the food, transportation, home energy and the family shopping list.

Smart Growth: Snohomish County Smart Growth pursuits include "Safe Cycling Around the Sound," "Walk Your Talk: Pedestrian Friendly Walk & Talks," and "Mixed Land Use: Snohomish County Needs."

Individual Projects:

Interns are pursuing individual projects such as:
Carbon Sequestration & Forestry Literature Review
Writing climate change policy briefs
Porch Light Campaign
Website updates
Public Outreach
Personal Blog
Facebook outreach
Office Support



Carbon Masters™

<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/carbonmasters/>

WSU Extension Mission Statement

Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations, and communities to advance economic wellbeing and quality of life by connecting them to the knowledge base of the university and by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

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