

six reasons

Stop Global Warming

Fact: In 2006 the reduction in electric system load was 11% or enough power for one-third of the residential service area. This reduced carbon dioxide emissions by over 584,400 tons, equivalent to every fourth household taking a car off of the road for a year.



Future: Seattle Climate Action Now is an exciting effort to give everyone in Seattle the tools needed to start making a real difference at home, at work, and on the road. It is bringing people together to take action to protect the climate for all of us and for future generations.

Save Water

Fact: Since 1980, the Seattle population served by Seattle Public Utilities has increased 44% while water use has decreased 23%.



Future: Seattle Public Utilities and regional partners hope to decrease water consumption by 15 million gallons per day by 2030. Programs such as WashWise and the Natural Landscape program provide incentives and assistance to help make this possible.

Promote Health

Fact: The US EPA ranks indoor air pollution among the top five environmental risks. Unhealthy air is found in up to 30% of new and renovated buildings – and we spend an estimated 91% of our time indoors.



Future: LEED and Built Green certification requires buildings to use materials that release fewer and less harmful chemical compounds. As a result we can reduce urban air pollution and improve indoor air quality, reduce asthma triggers, and improve occupant well-being.

Reduce Waste

Fact: A 2005 construction waste generation study conducted by Seattle Public Utilities indicated that 40% of construction and demolition waste is being reused, recycled, or otherwise diverted from the landfill.



Future: Through careful design of new buildings and reuse of existing buildings, Seattle Public Utilities is working to increase the amount of construction and demolition waste diverted from the landfill to 60%. This effort reduces environmental impact of construction and limits disruption of habitats in Seattle.

Fight Sprawl

Fact: According to the Cascadia Scorecard 2006 by the Sightline Institute, residents of low-density residential areas are at increased risk of dying in a car crash as well as incurring chronic diseases associated with obesity.



Future: By concentrating growth downtown and in our urban centers, where infrastructure exists, Seattle is helping to reduce urban sprawl and traffic in the region. Locating housing within walking distance to jobs and public transit also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Restore Nature

Fact: Urban forest benefits include retaining stormwater runoff, cleaning air and water, and absorbing carbon, adding \$30 million in net value to Seattle each year. Unfortunately, the forest canopy cover has been cut from 40% to 18% over the past 35 years.



Future: Through City programs such as the Neighborhood Matching Fund, regulations and private tree planting incentives, Mayor Nickels intends to increase Seattle's urban forest canopy cover to 30% in 30 years.