

*"All business communities are stronger and more cohesive when members are pulling in the same direction. The SCP provides a forum for communication and sharing of ideas among diverse, yet similarly focused, businesses and individuals."*

– Scott R. Locke, Manager, Energy Services  
University Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

## climate action

DECEMBER 2008

# PROGRESS REPORT

### What does membership in SCP involve?

When businesses join the partnership, they sign an agreement to take actions to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and help support efforts in the broader community to reduce emissions. In exchange, partners receive a host of benefits, including a carbon footprint calculator, high-quality technical assistance, networking and mentorship opportunities, facilitated access to utility assistance programs, and forums and workshops with advice from experts.

### Businesses making a difference for Seattle's climate future

As concern about climate change grows, many local businesses are stepping forward to help reduce Seattle's carbon footprint. The **Seattle Climate Partnership (SCP)** is a business-driven effort to change the future.

SCP is helping businesses **save energy and resources and cut costs** – through changes in operations, transportation, waste disposal and materials. Companies have found that reducing their carbon footprint can also inspire employee loyalty, strengthen their brand and improve their record of corporate responsibility.

The Climate Partnership is a voluntary agreement among Seattle-area employers to take action to **reduce their greenhouse gas emissions**. Since the Climate Partnership was founded in 2006, the number of partners has grown from 12 to over 100, and continues to grow. Partners range from large businesses such as Starbucks, REI and Group Health Cooperative to small companies with only a handful of employees.

In 2005 Mayor Greg Nickels challenged the Seattle community to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets. The Mayor's Green Ribbon Commission recommended forming the Seattle Climate Partnership to work with the business community on the carbon reduction effort. SCP is one of many programs under the umbrella of Seattle Climate Action Now (CAN). Seattle CAN provides a range of tools to help the Seattle community take practical steps to reduce global warming.

*"As a health care organization, we believe there is a direct connection between supporting healthy communities and being good stewards of the environment. Although we have for years worked on recycling, hazardous waste and energy efficiency, the issue of global warming has brought new focus, depth and urgency to these efforts."*

– Scott Plack, Group Health

Ridolfi Inc. employees were encouraged to bike to work during the May 2006 "Grin and Bike It" contest. Ten employees completed a total of 87.5 roundtrips to work, adding up to 1,162 miles.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY RIDOLFI



## Seattle Climate Partnership Accomplishments: 2006-2008

- Built and revised the leading carbon inventory tool for Seattle area businesses
- Developed a comprehensive resource guide for partners getting started
- Developing guidebooks on climate actions for seven separate industry sectors
- Together with Seattle City Light, made presentations to hundreds of businesses as part of the Business Climate Challenge series
- Held five workshops on climate change for businesses, including specific workshops for law offices and property managers
- Developed one comprehensive case study and started a second for Seattle businesses that will be models for their industries: HomeStreet Bank and Ivar's Restaurants
- Partnered with other local groups, such as the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and neighborhood chambers of commerce, to reach their members
- Began work with the Episcopal Diocese on a comprehensive carbon reduction program for their churches and congregations
- Began work with the Interfaith Power & Light program of Earth Ministry to reach the Seattle area faith-based community
- Shared resources with numerous other cities and agencies embarking on similar programs

PV array at REI's Boulder, CO, store as part of its commitment to renewable energy.



## Carbon footprint calculator is key resource for members

Reducing a carbon footprint is fundamentally about using energy and resources wisely. The Partnership developed a carbon footprint calculator to help businesses identify the actions that will save the most energy, resources and dollars. It focuses on four areas that account for the largest share of a typical business's carbon dioxide emissions:

- Facility/operations energy use
- Travel (business and employee commuting)
- Waste and recycling
- Materials use

The tool converts activity data (miles driven, tons of recycling generated) into emissions data (metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>). Based on partner feedback, the tool is currently being updated to both be easier to use and cover more areas of concern.

In its carbon footprint study, **HomeStreet Bank** was surprised to learn how much paper they were using. The bank has reduced the amount of paper they use by over 30 percent in just two years. The savings have offset the cost of moving from 30 percent recycled paper to 100 percent recycled paper. Paper savings of that magnitude also produce savings in wear and tear on printers, electricity use and labor.

HomeStreet also found that employee commuting accounts for a large percentage of the bank's carbon production. They created a more robust Commuter Assistance Program, including a Zipcar corporate membership and a guaranteed ride home program for employees who use transit.

SCP's tool gave **Seattle Public Schools** a way to tackle carbon footprinting for its complex system of central operations and 100 schools. The tool is helping the district to break out energy use among departments and develop a plan for each department to reduce its energy use.

## Stories from partners

### *Reducing carbon footprint saves both energy and dollars*

**NBBJ** is translating its experience in reducing its footprint to its architectural design practice. In its first year of occupancy, the NBBJ-designed mixed-use development, which houses the company's Seattle office, reduced its energy consumption by 49 percent relative to the regional baseline.

Margaret Montgomery, NBBJ principal, said, "We have found the support structure and tools available to partners a great help in moving our carbon measurement — and therefore reduction — into



action. It has been revealing to see where our largest impact areas are, and to be able to focus our reduction actions in those most important areas."

**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center** has been aggressively retrofitting its buildings to save energy because its utility costs are high: a laboratory research facility uses 10 times the amount of energy per square foot as an office building. Utility incentives have been important to make some changes affordable.

The investment has paid off. Fred Hutchinson is saving money and has greatly reduced emissions. Reducing boiler fuel consumption has saved 1,787 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, and reducing electricity consumption has saved 9,801 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Most conservation measures also save maintenance dollars as new technology replaces older equipment.

**Mithun**, a founding member of the Partnership, increased its company size by 25 percent but only increased its carbon footprint by about 6 percent. The company has saved energy through a range of strategies, including web-based conferencing, converting all computer equipment to flat screens, and switching from foam core products to recyclable presentation boards. Mithun is also advising its clients of carbon reduction strategies in their building projects.

**Group Health Cooperative**, another founding member, reduced its water use and is currently saving over one million gallons of water a month. It reduced electricity consumption by 1.1 percent in 2005 and 4.3 percent in 2006, which reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 85 tons in 2005 and 321 tons in 2006. All confidential waste gets shredded and recycled. GHC has recycled 2.6 million pounds of paper, saving 17,314 trees in one year's time.

**The Port of Seattle** has taken multiple steps to save money and reduce carbon emissions. Since 2001 the Port has reduced the electricity consumption of its headquarters building by 42 percent. Among the actions at Sea-Tac Airport:

- Established a ramp control tower to handle aircraft during taxiing on the ramp. This has decreased taxiing time by up to 5 percent, reducing fuel use by 27-100 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per minute.

- Installed a fuel hydrant system which has replaced most of the jet fuel tanker trucks, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1,000 tons a year.
- Opened the first public compressed natural gas (CNG) station in Washington, dispensing over one million gallons of CNG to Port and private vehicles a year. CNG emits 25 percent less CO<sub>2</sub> than gasoline.

### **Customers see benefits in climate actions**

**Hotel Monaco** joined the Seattle Climate Partnership because it was “a way to maintain our image as a company that cares. We are already seen as pet friendly, gay friendly, eco-friendly and now climate-friendly,” said senior sales manager Molly Ray.

A survey found that 20–25 percent of guests stay at the Hotel Monaco because of its green reputation. The company added recycling bins to guest rooms, which increased their recycling rate to 85 percent, much higher than the industry standard. The hotel also changed light bulbs in guest rooms and installed aerators on faucets and showers.

**BNBuilders, Inc.** has seen a market shift. “More and more owners are demanding general contractors who are not only proficient in LEED but who are making a commitment to sustainability,” said Roger Capestany-Gonzales, BNB’s director of green operations. BNB recognizes the business benefits of “staying ahead of the curve in the eyes of architects and owners.” SCP’s tools helped BNB identify actions such as converting to a hybrid fleet and instituting an aggressive recycling policy, which have also saved its clients money.

**CB Richard Ellis** found that a more efficient building provides higher value to the owner and returns savings to property managers. With some of the lowest operating expenses in town, they are passing savings to tenants. In one of CBRE’s buildings, changes in the HVAC system saved 325,500 kWh and \$16,468 in electricity rates.

**Seattle Northwest Securities** launched a new software program allowing the company to “share” documents with clients over the web, allowing them to conduct more meetings over the phone and eliminating the need for travel to client sites. “So far, our clients love it,” said senior associate Ann Grodnik. “It’s easy and efficient and saves the company money. We will be tracking how many trips we avoid thanks to this software over the coming year.”

Many residents of **The Kenney** retirement community grew up in the Depression era, when recycling and reuse were second nature, so they are

*“SCP creates a network for companies striving to assess and reduce their carbon footprints. SCP has helped us not to ‘reinvent the wheel,’ but rather to learn from the experience of other businesses in Seattle.”*

– Jackie White, Environmental Steward, Seattle Art Museum

excited to help in efforts to save money and energy through recycling and composting. “It’s also bottom line,” said Amy Lee Derenthal, The Kenney’s director of development. “As the price of utilities goes up, the cost for them to live here goes up.” The Kenney is looking at a range of energy-saving options as it plans to redevelop its community.

**The Port of Seattle** is the first cruise port in the country to provide plug-in power for cruise ships. When ships are at berth, they run off Seattle City Light’s electricity grid rather than running their own motors. This helps reduce both the carbon footprint and particulate emissions.

### **Employees are engaged and enthusiastic**

**GGLO Architects** used employee involvement to begin developing its environmental action plan. Blank posters were displayed inviting staff to share their ‘Eco-Peeves’ and ‘Eco-Dreams,’ followed by an office-wide workshop to identify key topics. GGLO has made changes in areas ranging from paper use to catering, light bulbs to bathroom faucets. It offers transit subsidies, showers and bike storage to get employees out of their cars. GGLO also modified its HVAC system to increase both efficiency and staff comfort.

**Ivar’s Seafood Restaurants** returns money saved through sustainability initiatives to employees and store managers through performance-based bonuses. A chef at Ivar’s Salmon House initiated one of the company’s first composting programs. Company president Bob Donegan said employee communication is vital “so you know what you’re doing wrong or what needs to be done (next).”

**BNB** is developing an employee manual on how to “green” their job sites. “Just as we have a culture of safety at BNB that permeates every jobsite, we endeavor to develop the same program on the jobsites for sustainability,” said Roger Capestany-Gonzalez. He has seen a gradual shift in employee mindset. “People in the field are sometimes most enthusiastic about composting, recycling and lessening impacts on the environment.”

Many businesses have established a “green team” to guide sustainability efforts and solicit employee suggestions. “Start small and engage your leadership and employees early,” said Jackie White, **Seattle Art Museum**. “We have a whole list of things we’re pursuing that have come from employees,” said Burr Stewart, **Port of Seattle**.

At **The Kenney’s** strategic planning meeting, going green was the number one priority. The company formed a “go green” committee with members from the leadership team, staff and board of directors. The Kenney plans to add residents and perhaps neighbors to the committee.

### **Partners are beginning to change the marketplace**

Climate partners are having an impact on their vendors. At **GGLO**, vendors come in almost every week to show products such as windows, flooring materials and roofing membranes. They used to bring 30 box lunches. To reduce waste, GGLO set up a catering policy that specified that vendors must use family-style catering, including no boxed lunches and compostable plates and utensils. “We have had no problem implementing this at all,” said landscape designer Wilma Stordahl.

**Ivar’s** dropped vendors who would not or could not commit to sustainable practices and moved on to new vendors that shared the company’s commitment to reducing climate impacts. Ivar’s president Bob Donegan said, “If manufacturers don’t think there is a market for sustainable products out there, they’re wrong. There is.”

**Ecohaus Inc.** works closely with vendors to make sure products meet their criteria. For example, one company’s countertops turned out to have a semi-toxic finish with unhealthy emissions. The store delayed sales of the product so it could work with the company to change the finish.

**Sea-Tac Airport** is working with local hoteliers to consolidate the separate hotel shuttle vans into a small number of consolidated shuttle routes. An anticipated 35 percent reduction of trips from close-in hotels means 130,000 fewer vehicle trips to the airport a year, saving over 1,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.



## The future of the Seattle Climate Partnership

The Partnership continues to upgrade and improve its tools and resources to help Seattle businesses reduce their carbon footprint and save money and resources. Current and planned projects include:

- Update and refine the carbon footprint calculator
- Enhance web resources
- Organize more networking opportunities
- Add technical assistance staff
- Present more workshops and forums with expert speakers
- Create modules to train companies and communities on how to develop “green teams” and carbon reduction programs
- Emphasize collaborative work with the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, neighborhood Chambers and the SCALLOPS Sustainability organization
- Create a “Green Seal” recognition program for partners that have made progress towards their carbon reduction goals

“The Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce has long recognized the importance of sustainable business practices,” said Steve Leahy, CEO of the Chamber, “and controlling greenhouse gas emissions to protect the future of our environment. Like many of our leading Chamber businesses, we’re proud to be a member of the Seattle Climate Partnership. The Chamber looks forward to continuing to help the Partnership grow and become even more effective in the years ahead.”

### INDUSTRY GUIDEBOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR:

- General Office
- Hospitals
- Hotels
- Industrial
- Retail
- Property Management
- Restaurants

*“We need to find a way to power our economy without toasting the planet. My Green Ribbon Commission recommended the establishment of a government and business partnership—the Seattle Climate Partnership—to help employers reduce their carbon footprints. These guidebooks are a tool to help businesses and institutions accomplish our common goals”*

— Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels



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## Seattle Climate Partnership Roster “100 Partners Strong and Growing”

### Founding Partners

City of Seattle  
Garvey Schubert Barer  
Group Health Cooperative  
King County  
LaFarge NA  
Mithun  
Port of Seattle  
REI  
Shoreline Community College  
Starbucks  
University of Washington  
Urban Visions

### Climate Partners (as of November 2008)

Bassetti Architects  
Belt Collins Northwest, LLC  
The Big Print  
Blue Marble Energy  
BNBuilders  
Broadway Café  
Cartridge World Seattle  
Cascadia Consulting Group  
Cascadia Community College  
Cascadia Region Green Building Council  
CB Richard Ellis  
Cedar Grove Composting  
Celilo Group Media  
CH2M Hill – Bellevue  
Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center  
Climate Solutions  
CleanScapes  
Cognito Communications LLC  
Daniels Development  
Drugstore.com  
ecohaus, inc.  
ECOSS—Environmental Coalition of South Seattle  
egg

Emerald Services, Inc.  
Entercom Communications  
Entrix, Inc.  
EnviroIssues  
Episcopal Diocese of Olympia  
Evergreen Construction  
FCm Travel Solutions  
Flack & Kurtz  
Frause  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
GeoEngineers, Inc.  
GGLO  
Grays Harbor Ocean Energy Company  
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce  
Green Benefits, LLC  
The Green Car Company  
Greenworks Realty  
HomeStreet Bank  
Hotel Monaco Seattle  
Hotel Vintage Park  
Imperium Renewables  
Ivar’s Seafood Restaurants, Kidd Valley  
The Kenney  
K&L Gates LLP, Seattle  
Laird Plastics  
Landau Associates  
MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions  
Macrina Bakery  
Mahlum Architects  
Marten Law Group PLLC  
Merriman Berkman Next  
Midori, Inc.  
Miller/Hull Partnership  
Modern Dwelling, LLC  
The Nature Conservancy of Washington  
NBBJ  
Nickerson Street Saloon  
North Seattle Community College

Northwest BioFuels Association  
Pagliacci Pizza  
Paladino and Company  
Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Parsons Public Relations  
Perkins + Will  
Rainier Industries, Ltd.  
Red Cup Espresso  
Richlite  
Ridolfi, Inc.  
Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.  
Rushing  
Seattle Art Museum  
Seattle Center  
Seattle Central Community College  
Seattle Executive Inn  
Seattle Housing Authority  
Seattle Institute of Oriental Medicine (SIOM)  
Seattle Northwest Securities  
Seattle Public Schools  
Seattle University  
ShoreBank Pacific  
Skanska USA Building  
Soundspeed Scooters  
Sound Transit  
South Seattle Community College  
Spring Mountain Chinese Medicine  
Sustainable Business Consulting  
Total Reclaim, Inc.  
TransGroup Worldwide Logistics  
University Mechanical Contractors, Inc.  
University Presbyterian Church  
Verdiem Corporation  
Verity Credit Union  
Vienna Mae Coffee  
Vulcan, Inc.  
Waterstone Brands  
West Seattle Chamber of Commerce  
Woodland Park Zoo  
X-Bar

## How can I join the Seattle Climate Partnership?

See the current list of partners and download the Partnership Agreement at [www.seattleclimatepartnership.org](http://www.seattleclimatepartnership.org)

Or contact Charlie Cunniff, [charlie.cunniff@seattle.gov](mailto:charlie.cunniff@seattle.gov) or 206.386.9748  
Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment



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