

# Go Green

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## Sustainability forums set in Snoqualmie

The city of Snoqualmie is gearing up for a monthly Sustainability Speakers Forum. From February through June, regional and local experts will visit the city to talk about sustainability: what it is, how it affects people and how people affect it.

The first of five sessions is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16. Titled "Laying the Foundation: Environmental concerns globally and locally," this first session will address global energy and environmental concerns, sustainability issues and how local residents are part of such trends.

All sessions are free and open to the public. They will take place at Snoqualmie City Hall, 38624 S.E. River St.

Details will be posted at [www.cityofsnoqualmie.wa.us](http://www.cityofsnoqualmie.wa.us). To be notified via e-mail of speakers and topics, write to [info@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us](mailto:info@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us).

## Who is an Earth Hero?

King County wants to honor the students, teachers, staff, school volunteers, programs or entire schools that have contributed to both environmental protection and student environmental education. Nominations for the 2010 Earth Heroes at School are due March 1. Winners will be honored at King County's ninth-annual Earth Heroes at Schools recognition event in April.

Last year, two local Earth Heroes were honored:

- Meg Handy, the librarian at Fall City Elementary School, who obtained grant funds for solar panels for the school and led the effort to restore a school garden.
- John Spiess, a teacher at Twin Falls Middle School in North Bend and adviser for the environmental club, who organized his students to practice waste reduction and recycling strategies.

Nomination forms can be found at [www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/earth-heroes.asp](http://www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/earth-heroes.asp), or by calling Donna Miscolta at (206) 296-4477.

Contact staff writer Allison Espiritu at [aespiritu@valleyrecord.com](mailto:aespiritu@valleyrecord.com) or 425.888.2311



Seth Truscott / Staff Photo

Fall City farmer Cory Huskinson used King Conservation District grants to transform his historic acreage into a greener, busier, better place. He welcomes visitors at a Feb. 20 open house.

# Healthy farm, good neighbor

Farm plan puts Fall City treasure on greener, healthier footing

BY SETH TRUSCOTT  
Editor

For Fall City resident Cory Huskinson, the reason for adopting a King Conservation District Farm Plan is splashing in the creek outside.

When he moved to the neighborhood, salmon were battling choking weeds and barbed wire in Huskinson's neck of Patterson Creek.

"They were fighting," he said. "It was hard for them to spawn with all that blockage in the creek."

Now, "I get a dozen, two dozen, every day," he said, watching a startled salmon swim up the riffle.

With help from the district, Huskinson set a farm plan and used grants to restore his historic farm on sound conservation-minded principles, helping the salmon along with his own livestock.

Originally, all Huskinson wanted was to use as much of his land as possible.

His family had bought the 100-year-old Baxter family barn along with two and a half

acres of land in 2007. Farm development regulations meant he could only keep two horses on the property, but the farm plan allowed him to improve the property to the point where he now keeps three horses, a small herd of miniature donkeys, chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail and a baby calf.

Improved drainage on the site keeps his horses cleaner and healthier.

"Their feet are stronger," he said. "There's less flies and smell. The water is crisper and cleaner. It's helping the environment, from beginning to end."

## What is KCD?

The King Conservation District, or KCD, is a local assistance agency that works to promote the sustainable use of natural resources through responsible stewardship.

Since 1949, the conservation district has helped educate landowners, schools, scientists, consultants and agencies in how to recognize, solve or avoid creating environmental problems.

The district is funded by a \$10 per-parcel assessment fee.

SEE FARM, 14

# Recycling: Did you know?

As King County's recycling program grows, the rules about what can and can't be recycled change from city to city.

It's important for Snoqualmie residents to stay informed about all the items they can now recycle as well as continue to understand the importance of recycling. Allowing glass bottles in the recycling toter, food scraps in the yard waste toter, taking part in the E-Cycle Washington program and improving hazardous waste recycling, the county has facilitated almost all recycling needs. Many changes have resulted in a healthier environment.



PATRICK PIRTLE  
Snoqualmie Recycling Program Intern

Snoqualmie residents can now recycle all their food scraps and compostable materials in their yard waste container. Items such as veg-

etable and fruit trimmings, meats, fish and poultry bones, plate scrapings, egg shells, coffee grounds, paper towels and napkins — even greasy pizza delivery boxes — can all be recycled in your yard waste cart. Composting all organics instead of sending materials to the landfill reduces waste and provides a rich resource to the county. The food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard waste are taken to Cedar Grove Composting where they break down into compost that enriches soil and improves plant health.

Washington state residents can now recycle their TVs, computers, laptops and monitors for free through the E-Cycle Washington program. The nearest E-Cycle Washington drop-off location to Snoqualmie is AtWork! Recycling in Issaquah. Computer systems and monitors contain toxic metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury. Heavy metals can cause damage to living organisms at very low concentrations and tend to accumulate in the food chain. Recycling conserves resources and keeps

## Learn more

- Recycling information: [www.kingcounty.gov/recyclemore](http://www.kingcounty.gov/recyclemore)
- Recycling computers, monitors, laptops and TVs: [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org)
- Fluorescent bulb and tube disposal — [www.takeitback-network.org](http://www.takeitback-network.org)
- Household Hazardous Waste: [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/index.cfm](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/index.cfm)
- Food scrap recycling: [www.recyclefood.com](http://www.recyclefood.com)

toxic materials out of the landfill. Many of the heavy metals can also be recycled and safely reused.

King County's "What Do I Do With" Web site provides recycling options for a wide variety of items to citizens in our region who are unsure of how to dispose of something. There is also the Hazardous Wastemobile, a mobile facility that travels to communities in King County and sets up in parking lots for three days at a time, so that residents can bring and dispose of their household hazardous waste.

## Sustainability Speakers Forum

Hosted by the Snoqualmie Planning Commission

Free educational series about green issues affecting Snoqualmie.

All are welcome to attend the entire series or individual sessions.

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| February 16 | Laying the Foundation   |
| March 15    | How Green is my Valley? Planning a Community for Our Children |
| April 19    | Traveling 'Back to the Future': Urban FORM and Transportation |
| May 17      | The Electric Slide & the Green Side                           |
| June 21     | Green Vision and "If I Had My Druthers"                       |

Sessions will be at 7 p.m. at Snoqualmie City Hall, 38624 SE River Street.

Session descriptions and registration: [cityofsnoqualmie.org](http://cityofsnoqualmie.org) (Special Events)



Contact:  
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