

---

**From:** Stan Monks <stanmonks915@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 3, 2020 7:56 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Maria Monks  
**Subject:** Replacement of Document Sent Previously  
**Attachments:** Environment -Courier Article - Global Warming 4.doc

Dear Councillors:

I sent each of you, as an email attachment, a reference article on Climate Change.

I've modified the article to make it more relevant by including additional 2020 weather data.

Please discard my initial - last Friday, July 31st's - attachment and replace it with the current attachment.

Thanks,

Stan Monks  
9057 Gleneagle Dr.  
Blaine, WA 98230  
Tel. (360) 306-5350

## It Was Once Famously Said . . .

It was once famously said that everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it. Now we can.

In the Northwest we've a certain type of climate and weather. But times - and the weather - are a changin'.

Temperatures are rising world-wide due to our affect on greenhouse gases. We're releasing massive amounts of carbon dioxide, methane and nitric oxide into the atmosphere which results in trapping more heat. At the same time trees - that take up carbon dioxide - are being cut down in unprecedented numbers.

The effects of climate change are devastating, widespread and affect us all.

We're seeing weather records being broken. Droughts are becoming longer and more extreme. Tropical storms are becoming more severe due to warmer ocean water temperatures. There's less snowpack in mountain ranges - affecting agriculture. Global weather patterns are changing. This affects everyone worldwide. It affects our whole way of living - our environment, our wellbeing, national and international food production, international relationships, and so on.

In our State the federal Environmental Protection Agency's - EPA's - predictions are dire.

They predict rising sea levels - leading to increased flooding which impacts coastal developments and ecosystems;

They predict declining snow, and consequent lower streamflows and warmer water temperatures that threaten salmon, steelhead and trout. It affects hydroelectric power generation, and irrigation-dependent agriculture.

There'll be increased ocean acidification, which affects commercial fishing, fish hatcheries and shellfish.

Also drought and wildfires are to increase, affecting agriculture, homes, and air pollution. Air pollution affects our health.

Although we, in northwestern Washington, have been protected from extreme weather. Other areas have not been so lucky. In the UK, February, 2020 was the wettest on record while - you've guessed it - just a few months later, May was the driest on record. Globally, May, 2020 tied with May, 2016 as the hottest ever recorded.

These weather patterns will continue and persist. The damage has been done and got worse since the beginning of the industrial age in 1800.

At this late date we can only limit the rate and extent of climate change.

The United Nations and governments worldwide have recognized the problem and are facing the challenge.

The Paris Agreement in 2015 marked an historic event, as 195 world leaders made commitments aimed at combating climate change.

The US set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26% to 28% by 2025. The baseline is 2005, when the US emitted 6,132 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. Other countries have made similar commitments.

What is Washington State doing about climate change?

It's doing quite a bit - as are other state and local governments.

It has set goals of reducing heat-trapping emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035, and 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The Washington Clean Air Rule in 2016 addresses the major sources of greenhouse gases in Washington. The rule requires businesses that are responsible for large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions to cap and reduce their carbon emissions.

A fifth of Washington's greenhouse gases comes from using fossil fuels to generate electricity. In May, 2019 SB 5116 was signed into law. The bill calls for Washington's electricity to be 100% carbon-free by 2045, and requires utilities to phase out coal fired electricity generation by the end of 2025. Washington follows Hawaii, California, New Mexico, and Puerto Rico in committing to 100% clean electricity.

In March, 2020 Governor Inslee signed the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Program into law - joining fifteen other states participating in the ZEV program. Under ZEV, the Evergreen State will deploy hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles (EV) over the next decade. The program also requires each automaker to ensure an increasingly larger percent of the new cars they send to Washington are electric-powered. The state also offers large tax incentives for EV and hybrid car buyers.

Half of Washington's total land area is forested. Trees help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

On March 25, 2020, the Governor signed HB 2528 into law which recognizes the contributions of the state's forests and forest products sector as part of the state's global climate response. The law encourages the planting of trees and encourages healthy forest management - which can mitigate the risk of wildfires.

What can the individual do?

The Washington Department of Health suggests:

- 1.** Start using compact fluorescent or LED light bulbs instead of regular ones. This can eliminate 150 pounds or more of carbon dioxide for each bulb per year.
- 2.** Try alternative sources of transportation, such as walking, biking, carpooling or taking public transit. If possible, choose a fuel-efficient, hybrid or electric car.
- 3.** Turn off your car engine when you're stopped for more than 10 seconds, except when stopped in traffic. Don't idle when waiting in a drive-through line, or waiting to pick someone up. This causes unnecessary pollution.

- 4.** Turn the thermostat down slightly in the winter and up slightly in the summer to reduce power use. This will not only eliminate carbon dioxide emissions, it will lower your energy bill.
- 5.** Plant trees. Planting trees increases absorption of carbon dioxide and increases release of oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees placed in strategic locations can reduce homeowners' energy bills by providing shade and acting as wind breaks.
- 6.** Use the dishwasher and washing machine only when full. Select showerheads with low-flow settings and do laundry in cold or lukewarm water.
- 7.** Recycle all recyclable items, including cardboard, glass, metal, certain plastic containers, and newsprint. Reuse plastic bags where possible. Choose to donate used items to charity instead of throwing them out, and reuse when possible.
- 8.** Unplug appliances when not in use; some require energy even when they're not switched on. When purchasing new appliances, consider ones with power-saving Energy Star ratings.
- 9.** Choose items with less packaging, particularly plastic wrapping. Take reusable bags to grocery stores instead of using plastic or paper bags.

Additionally each person can contact their local and county officials and encourage them to adopt climate change mitigation strategies, such as: all vehicles being electric, encouraging its citizens to recycle, reuse and reduce waste, and adopting, where appropriate, the above suggestions.

Remember, we can together, by our actions, change the weather!

# DRAFT

## Blaine Memorial Tree Program

The purpose of a Blaine Memorial Tree Program is twofold.

First, there is a need to have mementos in remembrance of persons - or pets - that have had a special significance in one's life.

Secondly, tree planting is recommended by the State as a way of reducing our carbon footprint, and having a positive effect on Climate Change.

It's suggested that Blaine create, encourage and support a Memorial Tree Program whereby Blaine citizens can purchase and plant commemorative trees.

### **The Program::**

1. Trees will be available **at cost** from the City. The City can obtain discounts and free shipping. Donors can provide their own trees if they wish. The cost of trees will vary.
2. Donors will select species of tree with the assistance of the City. There are many varieties of trees to choose from that thrive in the Northwest.
3. Trees can also be planted at various locations within the City - their exact position to be determined and agreed to jointly by the donor and the City. A Memorial Grove - with appropriate commemorative benches - should be considered. It can be used by the public as a quiet, stress free, meditative retreat.
4. Appropriate designs of commemorative plaques would be approved by the City and be customized and available from the City **at cost**. Cost will vary dependent on the design.
5. The City will provide planting and maintenance services at **no cost** to the donors.

### **For Reference:**

Washington State Dept. of Health and Climate Change.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/ClimateandHealth/TakeAction/WhatYouCanDo>

City of Bloomfield, Colorado, Memorial Tree Program

<https://www.broomfield.org/2671/Memorial-Tree-Program#:~:text=Memorial%20Tree%20Program%201%20A%20memorial%20tree%20will,benches%2C%20may%20be%20added%20at%20an%20additional%20cost.>

<https://www.arboday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>

<https://outdoorplaques.com/tree-plaques.html>