



*Opening doors to a better life*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Kitsap County and Commission promote low-interest loans for environmental sustainability projects

With the launch of Kitsap County's Green Community Initiative, local communities will have greater access to low-interest financing tools for green projects.

Through this partnership between Kitsap County and the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, projects that conserve energy or water, generate alternative energy or cut greenhouse gas emissions may be eligible for financing through federal energy bonds.

Kitsap County's role is to promote the program locally and set criteria for energy conservation and other environment benefits. "The Green Community Initiative will help make community conservation projects more affordable through low-cost financing," said Commissioner Charlotte Garrido. "This program encourages local entities to implement conservation projects that boost our local economy and enhance the sustainability of Kitsap County. We have completed several internal conservation projects in recent years that delivered significant resource and cost savings, and are excited to be able to help local organizations do the same."

The county will screen applications to ensure that the project outcomes meet the criteria; the Housing Finance Commission will then facilitate the bond financing for approved projects.

"We're glad to work with Kitsap County's government to attract private investment that helps accomplish public conservation goals," said Avi Jacobson, senior energy coordinator for the Commission.

The Commission supports energy efficiency and conservation through several innovative financing programs, including the Sustainable Energy Trust. It has a Green Community partnership with King County as well.

It has also taken a lead role in gathering Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds into one statewide pool of almost \$70 million in bond authority—greatly increasing its flexibility and availability for the use of local communities. Roughly half the authority has been issued or reserved.

By making use of this resource and the Commission's expertise, Kitsap County will enhance environmental sustainability and protection, and further the economic growth, built environment, and environmental goals outlined in the Kitsap County Strategic Plan.

For more information, visit [www.kitsapgreen.org/greeninit.htm](http://www.kitsapgreen.org/greeninit.htm).

The [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](http://www.wshfc.org) is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team, dedicated to increasing housing access and affordability, and to expanding the availability of quality community services for the people of Washington. The commission, which receives no regular state funding for its operations, works with lenders, investors, developers, nonprofit organizations, first-time homebuyers, beginning farmers and ranchers and energy companies to bring private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals in Washington.

