

PRESS RELEASE



County Council

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Dave Somers Meets with National Local Government Leaders to Shape Federal Climate Change Policy

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Snohomish County Councilman Dave Somers (Monroe) joined local government leaders from across the nation Dec. 3-4, 2007 in Washington, D.C. to help chart the course of *Climate Communities*, a new national advocacy coalition composed of cities and counties seeking new federal policies and resources to support community action on climate change.

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“It was heartening to meet with local governments because we are on the front lines of climate change action,” said Somers. “*Climate Communities* will bring together the best minds at the local level to develop federal policy proposals that will enhance our ability to implement new local initiatives that will produce substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.”

On the eve of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee’s approving landmark climate change legislation on Dec. 5, Somers and other participants also met privately with Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the committee’s chairwoman, to express appreciation for her climate change leadership

“Snohomish County is stepping out to both reduce our influence on climate change and to prepare for those impacts we can’t avoid,” said Somers. “The county council has directed the county executive to review all county operations for ways to reduce energy consumption and lower our carbon emissions.”

“Local governments are the first responders to the impacts of climate change,” said Somers, “and the council put money in the 2008 budget to assess the vulnerability of our county roads and infrastructure from the effects of the increasingly frequent and intense storm floods, the likelihood of rising sea levels and other natural disasters.”

“Snohomish County is also assisting in researching the potential to grow canola here for use in producing biodiesel. We have started using biodiesel in our public works fleet. Biodiesel reduces carbon emission by up to 72% over petroleum based diesel,” he said.

“Local governments are flexible enough to offer some of the best opportunities for developing and deploying innovative climate change programs and projects,” said Somers.

Some of the other communities that participated in the *Climate Communities* event included Alameda County, CA; Miami-Dade County, FL; Montgomery County, MD; Prince George’s County, MD; Nassau County, NY; the City of Philadelphia; Arlington County, VA; and King County, WA. The coalition will publicly launch its federal action agenda in early 2008.

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