

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Adiel McKnight, Deputy Clerk of the Board
DATE: April 21, 2025
SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION re: Proclaiming April 22, 2025 as International Earth Day

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The first Earth Day was enacted 55 years ago, in 1970, and engaged over twenty million Americans to advocate for a cleaner environment and as an international call to positive action for all citizens to join a global effort to protect the environment. Jefferson County, Washington is blessed with a wealth of wild and productive forests, fields, mountains and shorelines stewarded by indigenous people since time immemorial and to this day provide residents and visitors alike with healthy food, irreplaceable habitat and species, sustainable natural resources, and many scenic recreational opportunities.

In 2007, Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend committed to creating a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050, jointly creating a Climate Action Committee (CAC) to recommend actions for climate change mitigation and adaption, and raise awareness of how a changing climate affects our region.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to Jefferson County.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Proclamation re: Proclaiming April 22, 2025 as International Earth Day

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

4/18/25
Date

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day was enacted 55 years ago, in 1970, and engaged over twenty million Americans to advocate for a cleaner environment and as an international call to positive action for all citizens to join a global effort to protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, gender, income, religion or geography, have a moral right to a healthy environment. Earth Day is celebrated annually to recommit to the goals of a healthy environment as foundational to peaceful, just and sustainable societies; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, Washington is blessed with a wealth of wild and productive forests, fields, mountains and shorelines - stewarded by indigenous people since time immemorial - and to this day provide residents and visitors alike with healthy food, irreplaceable habitat and species, sustainable natural resources, and many scenic recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend committed to: creating a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 1990 levels, jointly creating a Climate Action Committee (CAC) to recommend actions for climate change mitigation and adaption, and raise awareness of how a changing climate affects our region; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Climate Action Committee is in alignment with the focus of International Earth Day 2025 observation and celebration around the world; and

WHEREAS, jointly, Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend set new goals, which are; and

Reduce Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to;

1. 58.7% below 2018 levels by 2030 (absolute)
2. 95% below 2018 levels by 2050 (absolute); and

Increase Sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions to:

1. 20% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.64 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ (MMTCO₂)/year, up to 2.0 MMTCO₂ by 2030
2. And by an additional 20% increase to 2.3 MMTCO₂/year, totaling a 40% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline by 2050; and

WHEREAS, local governments can be leaders in building a healthy society by addressing issues such as energy and resource conservation, transportation, sustainable land use planning, waste prevention, and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the importance of Earth Day as a reminder that in Jefferson County, truly Earth Day is Every Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT in recognition of our communities' deeply held care for and collective responsibility to preserve and protect our environment, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaims April 22, 2025 as

International Earth Day

and encourage all residents to commit to lowering their carbon footprint and engaging in efforts to protect and heal the planet we call home.

APPROVED this 21st day of April, 2025

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair

Greg Brotherton, Member

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC,
Clerk of the Board

Heather Dudley-Nollette, Member