



City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day was organized on April 22, 1970 to increase awareness of our planet's fragile ecosystems and educate people on responsible environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, that same year, Mercer Island voters approved \$5 million in park acquisitions and improvements to preserve healthy habitats; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980's, the City enacted development ordinances to protect the environment and preserve the wooded character of the Island; and

WHEREAS, the new millennium heralded a far greater understanding of the perils of global climate change and the urgency of local action; and

WHEREAS, the City has pursued various energy efficiency and lighting upgrades at its major facilities, lowered its fuel usage, purchased electric vehicles, and installed EV charging stations; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Mercer Island was honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the national Green Power Community of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City received SolSmart Gold designation from the Department of Energy for meeting stringent solar installation criteria and acknowledging the community's 116 solar arrays; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, all of the electricity needs for City operations will be met by clean windpower from a new wind farm in Western Washington; and

WHEREAS, Mercer Island has become an increasingly active supporter and advocate for state and county-level collaborative greenhouse gas reduction efforts and legislation; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day offers an opportunity to recommit to building a flourishing sustainable community for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Debbie Bertlin, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2018 as

EARTH DAY

in the City of Mercer Island and I encourage all residents and businesses to become responsible stewards of our Island and our planet. Please learn more by joining us at the annual *Leap for Green Sustainability Fair*, on Saturday, April 14, from 10:00am-2:00pm, at the Community and Event Center.

APPROVED this 3rd day of April 2018

Mayor Debbie Bertlin



Proclamation No. 218