



# BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

**AB 6448**  
**April 16, 2024**  
**Consent Agenda**

## AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6448: Earth Day Proclamation (No. 326)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Proclaim April 22, 2024 as Earth Day in the City of Mercer Island.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Alanna DeRogatis, Sustainability Program Analyst
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 326
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	4. Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agenda bill is to proclaim April 22, 2024 as Earth Day in Mercer Island.

## BACKGROUND

The Earth Day Proclamation (Exhibit 1) recognizes this annual occasion and aims to inspire community action to protect our planet and the local environment.

Fifty-three years ago, Earth Day was launched in the USA with 20 million nationwide participants peacefully demonstrating for a healthy and sustainable environment. April 22, 1970, is considered by many as the beginning of the modern environmental movement, and it sparked landmark legislation to protect air, water, and endangered species. It also catalyzed the creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and laid the groundwork for other environmental legislation.

Five decades later, [Earth Day](#) has evolved into a global movement, and more than one billion people around the planet take part in local events to voice their concerns or take action. The movement focuses on elevating science, promoting action and volunteerism on behalf of the environment, and expanding environmental education.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The theme for 2024, *Planet vs. Plastics*, is focused on demanding a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. While Earth Day emphasizes the collective power of many individual actions, and the impact of private sector innovation, there is also an important role for cities to play, given their unique position on the frontlines of climate change. Cities around the world are leading the way by developing innovative plans – through legislation, policies, strategies, pilot projects, outreach, and education campaigns – to drive climate action and build resilience through the civic process.

## NEXT STEPS

The City of Mercer Island began this critical work over 15 years ago by adding sustainability language to its Comprehensive Plan and adopting its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) in April 2023 ([AB 6246](#)). Progress on the implementation of the CAP and the upcoming City actions were presented to City Council in the Sustainability Workplan Update in March 2024 ([AB 6434](#)).

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Proclaim April 20, 2024, as Earth Day in the City of Mercer Island, to encourage community action in the protection of the environment.