



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5838
April 20, 2021
Consent Calendar

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5838: Earth Day Proclamation No. 267	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Mayor Wong proclaims April 22, 2021 as Earth Day in Mercer Island.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
DEPARTMENT:	City Council	
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Deborah Estrada, City Clerk	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a	
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 267	
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a	

SUMMARY

Fifty-one years ago, Earth Day was launched in the USA with 20 million nationwide participants peacefully demonstrating for a healthy and sustainable environment. **April 22nd, 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. See: www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021

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. The theme for 2021, *Restore Our Earth*, is intended to support local communities, especially those areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental impacts and a changing climate.

While Earth Day emphasizes the collective power of many individual actions, there is also an important role for cities to play, given their unique position on the very 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.

The City of Mercer Island began this critical work 15 years ago by adding sustainability language to its Comprehensive Plan to reflect a deeper understanding of global climate change and began to map a plan of action. Many other significant projects and policies have followed, some of which are summarized on the City's sustainability milestones page: www.mercerisland.gov/sustainability-milestones

RECOMMENDATION

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