



## 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 has the City continued to support sustainability efforts by:

- Adding sustainability language to its Comprehensive Plan in 2006 to reflect a deeper understanding of global climate change.
- In 2007, committing to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050, in alignment with King County targets.
- Pursuing various energy efficiency and lighting upgrades, lowered its fuel usage, purchased electric vehicles, and overseen two community-wide solar installation campaigns.
- In 2013, Mercer Island was honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the national Green Power Community of the Year.
- In 2016, requiring that Town Center commercial developments meet at least LEED Gold or Built Green 4-Star sustainable construction standards.
- In 2018, receiving the SolSmart Gold designation from the Department of Energy for facilitating solar adoption and encouraging the addition of 116 solar arrays.
- In 2019, adopting climate action policy language in the annual update to the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, starting in 2020, 100% of government operations are powered by clean renewable energy from a new 38-turbine windfarm in Western Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, Mercer Island continues to be an active supporter and advocate for state and county-level greenhouse gas reduction efforts through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, Earth Day offers an opportunity to recommit to building a flourishing sustainable community for all, both now and in the future;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Benson Wong, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2021 as

## EARTH DAY

in the City of Mercer Island and encourage all residents and businesses to be responsible stewards of our Island, the climate, and our planet.

**APPROVED** this 20th day of April 2021.

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Mayor Benson Wong

