



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6253  
April 25, 2023  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6253: Earth Day Proclamation (No. 305)	<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, 2023 as Earth Day in the City of Mercer Island.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council		
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ross Freeman, Sustainability Analyst		
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Craig Reynolds	Jake Jacobson	Ted Weinberg
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 305		
<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, 2023 as Earth Day in Mercer Island and to celebrate the return of the *City's Leap for Green Earth Day Fair*.

**BACKGROUND**

The Earth Day Proclamation (Exhibit 1) recognizes this annual occasion, seeks to inspire community action to protect our planet and the local environment, and celebrates the return of the *City's Leap for Green Earth Day Fair* after a four-year hiatus.

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 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-2023](http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023).

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 2023, *Invest in Our Planet*, is a continuation of last year's theme, focused on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and the more than 1 billion citizens who participate annually to do their part to promote both a prosperous and sustainable future. 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 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.

## NEXT STEPS

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 has just adopted its first **Climate Action Plan** to strategically organize current and future greenhouse gas reduction initiatives for City operations and the entire community (see [AB 6246](#)). Many other significant projects and policies have been implemented in recent years, some of which are summarized on the City's sustainability milestones page: [www.mercerisland.gov/sustainability-milestones](http://www.mercerisland.gov/sustainability-milestones).

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Proclaim April 22, 2023, as Earth Day in the City of Mercer Island, encourage local action in the protection of the environment, and celebrate the return of the City's Leap for Green Earth Day Fair.