



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6058
April 19, 2022
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6058: Earth Day Proclamation (No. 288)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Proclaim April 22, 2022 as Earth Day in the City of 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:	Salim Nice, Mayor Ross Freeman, Sustainability Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 288
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agenda bill is to proclaim April 22, 2022 as Earth Day in Mercer Island.

BACKGROUND

The Earth Day Proclamation (Exhibit 1) recognizes this annual occasion and seeks to inspire community action to protect our planet and the local environment. Fifty-two 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-2022.

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 2022, *Invest in Our Planet*, is intended to promote both a prosperous and sustainable future, through acting boldly, innovating broadly, and implementing equitably.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

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 today is working on its first **Climate Action Plan** to strategically organize current and future greenhouse gas reduction initiatives. Many other significant projects and policies have been implemented, some of which are summarized on the City's sustainability milestones page: www.mercerisland.gov/sustainability-milestones

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Proclaim April 22, 2022, as Earth Day in the City of Mercer Island and encourage local action in the protection of the environment.