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Whatcom County Health Department Joins EnviroStars and Other Washington Cities, Counties and Utilities to Launch “One-Stop” Green Business Program

BELLINGHAM, WA—Whatcom County Health Department (WCHD) and EnviroStars announce the launch of an expanded program that brings together green business initiatives from around the region under one umbrella. The supercharged EnviroStars program will be a central hub for Washington businesses to receive assistance and recognition for saving energy and water, reducing waste and pollution, choosing safer products, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

“As one of the original member jurisdictions, we’re pleased that EnviroStars is expanding statewide because we can accomplish more together,” said Jeff Hegedus, Environmental Health Supervisor with WCHD. “This expanded program will better serve the needs of our region’s businesses, providing them with a single, trusted source they can turn to for all environmental actions.”

Seventeen agencies from around Western Washington have pooled resources to develop and launch the program, which includes a central web portal that allows businesses to find referrals for local sustainability services and incentives, and start on a path to recognition. The program will also help small businesses connect with one another so they can learn from and support their peers.

Consumers will use the EnviroStars directory to find businesses who share their environmental values – from restaurants and grocery stores, to hotels and auto body shops, and everything in between. They can also look for the EnviroStars mark on the storefronts of recognized businesses in their community.

“Choosing local EnviroStars recognized businesses reinforces better business practices—which in turn creates healthier, safer communities and motivates more businesses to ‘work green,’” said Laurel Tomchick, creator of the original EnviroStars program at the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County.

The original EnviroStars program began 20 years ago, giving incentives and recognition to small King County businesses for reducing hazardous waste. The new multi-jurisdiction program is leveraging the successful EnviroStars brand to expand its environmental focus and geographic reach. The new program is also now part of a five-state network of green business programs that have web portals modeled after the California Green Business Program.

Businesses that engage with EnviroStars will benefit by learning to operate more efficiently, strengthening their bottom line, improving employee health, and gaining recognition for environmental leadership.

To learn more or to get started, visit envirostars.org. To contact the WCHD EnviroStars coordinator, email or call Ed Halasz at ehalasz@co.whatcom.wa.us or (360)778-6028.

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