

**Mayor's column for
The Enterprise
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A few years ago I joined a group called the "Big City Mayors." It is a lobbying group designed to convene several times a year to discuss similar issues and then take our case to the state legislators. Mayor Nickels of Seattle was the force behind the group, and we have expanded our issues from local ones to global ones.

Of particular importance has been the issue of global warming . . . and should be called global WARNING! The problem is real and we should be worried about it; if not for our sakes, for our children and our grandchildren.

When I first thought about the subject, I asked myself, "What can I do?" I believed that the causes originated in large cities and there wasn't much we could do in little old Edmonds. However, it became apparent to me that the pollutants that cause global warming come mostly from our energy fuels . . . gasoline, coal, diesel, and natural gas.

So as I wondered what we in the City can do to lessen the effects of global warming, I thought I would share with you the top ten things that individuals can do to make an impact, since there are 40,000 of you and only 250 of us who work at the City. These ideas came from the City of Seattle website.

- 1.) Drive less. Walk, bike, take a bus, carpool, and combine errands.
- 2.) Drive smart. Keep your car tuned and tires properly inflated. And keep your freeway speed at 60 mph!
- 3.) Drive a fuel-efficient car. A good guideline is 32 miles per gallon. If you drive a car that uses diesel, use more bio-diesel and you will reduce your emissions.
- 4.) Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Nearly every product on the market requires energy to produce, distribute, and to manage the resulting waste. Choose pre-owned products and products with recycled content.
- 5.) Use an electric or push lawnmower.
- 6.) Use less hot water. The second largest user of energy in a home is the hot-water tank. A lower thermostat setting, shorter shower times, and washing clothes in cold water are all energy-saving suggestions.
- 7.) Be a STAR! Buy products with the ENERGY STAR label. This is an EPA rating system that's given to only the most energy-efficient products.
- 8.) Turn down, turn off, and unplug. Thermostats turned down, lights turned off, and unplug unused appliances.
- 9.) Befriend your utility. Snohomish County P.U.D. has lots of energy-saving ideas.
- 10.) Shout it out. Follow the nine steps above and tell others about it.

There's no doubt that we're the problem and the solution. Statistics show that cities account for 78 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Since the majority of us choose to live in cities, we have the responsibility to reduce emissions as best we can.

If you have ideas about how to help or are interested in serving on a committee to work on this issue, please contact my office (425.771.0247).