



## Kitsap Environmental Coalition – Annual Report for 2020

Like so many other groups, KEC hit the pause button in early 2020 for most in-person activities while shifting to virtual meetings and events due to Covid-19.

Over the past year we've continued to build relationships with the Kitsap Public Utilities Department (KPUD) and Kitsap County Department of Community Development, consulting and communicating regularly on issues affecting our local environment, including local impacts of climate change.

KEC's "Forest Practices Team" has been supporting local residents with issues involving an upcoming timber harvest and sale in Eglon and relocation of Kitsap County's North Kitsap Maintenance Facility (to a very ecologically sensitive site near wetlands and the headwaters of Gamble Creek). For more info on these projects, please see our website: [www.kitsapenvironmentalcoalition.org](http://www.kitsapenvironmentalcoalition.org)

KEC members were part of a legislative work group, mandated by legislation sponsored by Senator Christine Rolfes last year, looking at the use of aerial pesticides. Unfortunately, community advocates for alternative practices were far outnumbered by industry representatives and their friends in state agencies, so little progress was made on this front.

A major focus of 2020 has been familiarization with the Washington State Board of Natural Resources. KEC members bring the voice of ordinary people to the table, questioning continued reliance on the sale and logging of forest lands for state revenue and their approval of large-scale logging by the timber industry throughout Washington state in spite of the advancing climate crisis and global deforestation.

We're excited to report that KEC affiliated with 350 WA Network, a budding organization comprised of 12 environmental and climate groups across the state - and growing! 350 WA Network "organizes for widespread systemic change that guarantees a healthy planet for all living beings, working collaboratively to advance socially equitable and scientifically sound solutions to the climate crisis at the scale and speed necessary to mitigate harm." In this relationship KEC becomes part of a broader network united to learn from and support each others' missions through collaboration and shared resources. Educational, organizing, and advocacy tool kits from larger groups like Climate Alliance and Movement for Black Lives are now available to make our overall efforts more effective and truly representative of our communities. \*Note: "350" refers to the parent global organization, 350.org

At the beginning of the year 800 sapling trees were donated to KEC from Kitsap County and plans for a large scale, community planting on Earth Day were put on hold due to the pandemic. In the meantime, they are being well cared for on a member's farm!

In a step backwards Kitsap County resumed using toxic chemicals this summer on county roadsides and properties after replacing industrial pesticides with more sustainable practices in 2019. On the other hand, we learned that, due to our advocacy, Weyerhaeuser abandoned the use of glyphosate this year!

As we head into this fall massive climate fires rage along the west coast, the nation faces unprecedented political uncertainties, our society is in crisis due to longstanding racism and economic injustice, and a global pandemic is yet without a cure. Tough times for sure. KEC thanks all donors, members, and supporters for nurturing Mother Nature and looking out for each other. Onward!