

San Juan Islands Conservation District

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Board Chair: Ron Zee



State Legislative District #40
Congressional District #2

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Energy resiliency

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Energy is a product of natural resources, so how we derive and consume it will have long-term impacts on the health and viability of forests and agriculture, rivers and wetlands, fish and wildlife, and ultimately humans and society. The San Juan Islands Conservation District (SJICD) is working collaboratively with our electric utility and community to develop and implement a comprehensive energy plan to reduce our energy use and increase reliance on local renewable energy sources.



Making solar cookies at the Energy Fair. Photo: Margie Doyle

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Actions taken:

- Facilitated three well-attended community Energy Fairs on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands.
- Completed a Youth Corps Energy Detective project.
- Launched a Community Solar for Our Schools program to increase local renewable energy generation in schools and educate kids about renewable energy production.

Actions in process:

- Developing a Community Energy Challenge.
- Designing 2015 Energy Fairs and Energy Summer Camp.
- Facilitating Energy Leadership Team to develop a comprehensive, county-wide energy plan that encompasses municipal buildings and operations, school facilities, and residential energy use.



KEY PARTNERS: Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO), Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Islands Energy

Left: A collaborative partnership: SJICD, OPALCO, and Islands Energy. Photo: Margie Doyle

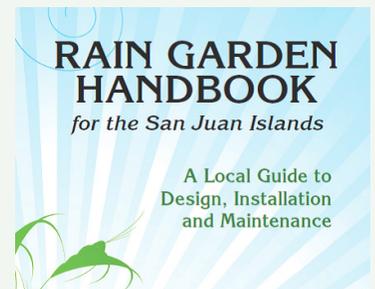
Other Accomplishments



The Watershed Stewardship program provides outreach and technical assistance for the community to help keep our waters clean and healthy.



Working with our partners, we are implementing best management farming practices on a 200 acre farm to create a working model for neighboring farmers.



The Rain Garden Handbook for the San Juans provides local information and works in conjunction with the Western Washington Rain Garden Handbook.

More Work to Do!

- Developing and implementing a restoration plan for False Bay Watershed.
- Augmenting farm planning to include energy efficiency and solar energy.
- Completing and initiating our county-wide energy savings plan.