



PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Executive Director: Ryan Mello Board Chair: Jeanette Dorner
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Legislative District: 2, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31 Congressional District: 6, 8, 9, 10

Other accomplishments:



Secured two grants to help Harvest Pierce County launch an effort to begin reaching non-English speaking communities.



Received \$8 million for farmland conservation in Pierce County through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.



Continued to build support from the community with over 2,100 volunteers helping our work last year.

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

SAVING ENERGY ON FARMS STATEWIDE



USDA Rural Energy Program managers look over Tahoma Farm's solar installation, a product of a Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) grant.

Resource challenge

Farming or operating a rural business is challenging enough, but the impacts of climate change are making it more difficult. In the past year, Pierce County had both a record wet winter and a record dry summer, forcing farmers to deal with drainage challenges and drought in the same growing season. While we can't control the weather, we can control our impact on it through the practices we employ and, in the process, help farmers reduce their monthly energy bills.

Project summary and results

Pierce Conservation District helps address these challenges through our Climate Resiliency Strategic Initiative. We help farmers and rural business owners make their operations more energy efficient and help them install renewable energy to lower their monthly costs. These efforts reduce the carbon footprint of our cooperators and make them more economically viable. The district kicked off this effort through a USDA Renewable Energy Development Assistance grant in the summer of 2016 in partnership with Spark Northwest. In spring 2017, in partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission and USDA, the district expanded the program statewide.



Participants on an SCC tour see the solar array installed at Early Bird Farm with support from a REAP grant.

Key partners: USDA Renewable Energy for America Program; Washington State Conservation Commission; Spark Northwest

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Farmland conservation: Begin implementing our Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant to conserve over 1,000 acres of prime farmland over the next five years.
- ▶ Depave Puget Sound: Through a National Estuary Program grant, conduct two major Depave projects and continue to promote the program regionally.
- ▶ South Prairie Creek Preserve: Plant 37 acres in fall of 2017 to restore prime salmon habitat.