



**King County**

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# Proclamation

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**WHEREAS**, Earth Hour, organized by the World Wildlife Fund, is an initiative that calls on individuals, governments and businesses around the world to turn off their lights for one hour on Saturday, March 28, 2009 between 8:30 and 9:30 pm; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of Earth Hour is to express that individual action on a mass scale can help change our planet for the better; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change impacts in the Pacific Northwest are expected to increase flood and erosion hazards, affect water supplies for drinking water, salmon, hydropower and irrigation, increase wildfire risks, exacerbate public health risks from respiratory problems due to increased smog and temperatures, and negatively affect the diversity and abundance of wildlife and their habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, the King County Climate Plan and Climate Report and the 2008 King County Comprehensive Plan include goals to reduce King County's greenhouse gas emissions and to collaborate with local governments in the region to reduce overall emissions to eighty percent below 2007 levels by the year 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, led by the World Wildlife Fund, more than 50 million people in 370 cities around the world took part in Earth Hour in 2008, with lights going out at Sydney's Opera House, Rome's Coliseum, the Empire State Building and the Golden Gate Bridge; and

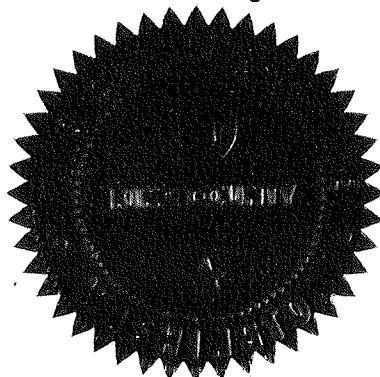
**WHEREAS**, in the United States, cities large and small have said they will participate, including San Juan County and the cities of Edmonds and Seattle, with more signing on daily. They will join international cities such as Auckland, Beijing, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Las Vegas, Lisbon, London, Manila, Mexico City, Moscow, New York, Oslo, Paris, Rome, Singapore, Toronto, and Warsaw; and

**WHEREAS**, King County government will strive to turn off all non-essential lighting during Earth Hour;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ron Sims, Executive of Martin Luther King Jr. County, do hereby proclaim the hour between 8:30 and 9:30 pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009 to be

## **Earth Hour**

I encourage all county residents to make a global statement of concern about climate change and to demonstrate commitment to finding solutions.



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Ron Sims  
King County Executive