

Meeting Recap: Transportation & Sustainability Advocacy (Resources :Sustainability – Lake Washington PTSA Council 2.8)

City of Redmond Transportation Programs

Mary L'Heureux and Jayme Jonas from the City of Redmond's Transportation Planning department presented several resources available to our families:

- **Redmond SchoolPool:** A program focused on encouraging shared commutes to school, with ongoing efforts for fall payments and spring planning.
- **RedLink Free Rideshare:** An on-demand service serving Downtown Redmond, parts of Education Hill, and Southeast Redmond. Riders must be at least 16 years old to ride alone.
- **Neighborhood Pop-ups:** Opportunities to purchase Youth ORCA cards at the Redmond Senior and Community Center on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.
- **Community Van:** A flexible service for trips within two hours of Redmond, accommodating up to 12 passengers with advanced scheduling.

No Idling Campaign

Susan Vossler, city of Kirkland volunteer and founding member of LWPTSA Sustainability Committee shared a presentation on the health and environmental importance of reducing vehicle idling around schools.

- **Health Impact:** Children are particularly susceptible to pollutants like benzene and nitrogen dioxide because they breathe faster than adults and are still developing. Concentrated pollutants can trigger asthma attacks and increase school absences.
- **Economic & Mechanical Factors:** An idling car can waste up to half a gallon of fuel per hour. Furthermore, the "10-second rule" states that restarting an engine uses less fuel than idling for more than ten seconds.
- **Engagement Tactics:** The committee discussed using signage, student campaigns, and parent pledges to create "Idle-Free Zones" at our schools.

Sustainability Ambassadors

LWSD graduate Eva and Peter Donaldson, Director of Learning at Sustainability Ambassadors group, provided an update on the Sustainability Ambassadors program. The program focuses on empowering students to lead community-wide environmental

initiatives, which aligns with our broader roadmap of milestones to enhance livability and foster a more connected, sustainable community.

Safe Route to School Initiative

Is a comprehensive guide designed to help schools and neighborhoods plan "Walk, Bike, & Roll" events that resonate with their specific community needs. It serves as a versatile tool for the community by offering the following:

- **Inclusive Participation Models:** The site provides strategies for students who live too far to walk or roll, such as "remote drop-offs" where bus riders and car-driven students can gather to walk the final half mile together.
- **Infrastructure Advocacy:** It offers guides for conducting "walk audits," which allow community members to identify and document specific safety needs, like missing sidewalks or dangerous crossings, to present to local officials.
- **Community Building:** By organizing "Walking School Buses" or "Bike Buses," the tool helps neighbors connect and collaborate on shared goals like increasing physical activity and improving local road safety.
- **Planning Resources:** The website provides downloadable promotional materials and media toolkits to help local organizers expand their outreach and build broader support for sustainable transit. For more information visit:<https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/plan/event-ideas/>

Action Items:

- **LWSD has released a new Sustainability Action plan :**
lwsd.community.highbond.com/document/f0336476-3ca4-4af8-896f-d2c96bdf2ed1/. You're encouraged to review it and submit your comments to the School Board at boardmembers@lwsd.org
- **April 22nd is Earth Day**, please share your school's sustainability celebrations with LWSD's Associate Director of Sustainability and Resource Conservation, Hannah Ljunggren at hljunggren@lwsd.org or send me an email with details to be featured at LWPTSA council's social media.
- **On April 24**, the LWPTSA Sustainability Fair will bring together students and the community for an evening of learning. Volunteers are needed for the event—please consider signing up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848ABA82EAAFF2-63350045-sustainability#/>

- **May 5, last Sustainability Committee Meeting.** Join us for a Zoom session from 10:00 am to 11:30 am to reflect on the current school year and begin planning for the next. Registration is now open—come share your insights and help us shape the year ahead! **Meeting Registration - Zoom**
- **May is National Clean Air Month:** Look for Idle-Free Schools Toolkit for a Healthy School Environment | US EPA to run an effective anti-idle campaign at school. More resources available at King County Green School Program.
- **May 6 is National Bike to School Day:** Celebrate National Bike to School Day on May 6 by registering your event! By officially signing up your school's "Walk, Bike, & Roll" activities on the National Center for Safe Routes to School website, you can expand your community outreach and join a nationwide movement of students moving toward a healthier future.

Grants Available:

- The Washington State Department of Transportation has launched the WE-Bike program, offering rebates of \$300 to \$1,200 toward the purchase of a qualifying e-bike for Washington residents aged 16 and older. Applications are being accepted now through March 2027, with random selection rounds occurring on the second Monday of each month to help lower the cost of sustainable transportation. You can check your eligibility and apply online at https://ebikerebate.wsdot-sites.com/?fbclid=IwY2xjawQ5c25leHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFSQW9NRTJSOUREUk9NZEo4c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHn_uN1mSF3HvttjJ_gVaa4RsP67Ezos7WJ-TRvjbxFhGEth9nzbRiWzAGO21_aem_dXPFFpTnEmGB0bTpduXL0g
- Air Sensor Lending Program by Puget Sound Clean Air Agency: Air Quality Sensors | Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, WA
- Ruby Bridge Walk to School Day mini grants (Usually opens in Aug). Last year's grant application details can be accessed at: 2025 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Application | Safe Routes Partnership
- Waste Not Washington (Opens Aug 1) The Waste Not Washington School Awards (School Awards) promote sustainability by rewarding schools that build and expand

waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting programs and lessons. Waste
Not Washington School Awards - Washington State Department of Ecology