



## 2023 Accomplishments

As the year comes to a close, the Local 20/20 Steering Council took time to reflect on how we continue to fulfill our mission statement of “Working together toward local sustainability and resilience – integrating ecology, economy and community through action and education.”

Committed to community outreach, in 2023 Local 20/20 participated in the Jefferson County Home Show Expo, the Jefferson County Connectivity Fair, and the Chimacum High School Volunteer Fair. We brought the Alaska Suite Multimedia Climate Concert to Port Townsend, which featured a wonderful combination of jazz music and climate change information. In addition, Local 20/20 had two booths at the NPREP-hosted All County Picnic (see details below). We also sent out 52 Weekly Announcements to over 1400 people, which include any community event, community notices, or resources that are related to local sustainability and resiliency. Local 20/20 and Action Group members also published eleven PT Leader columns on a variety of topics related to our mission.

Local 20/20’s **Neighborhood Preparedness (NPREP)** action group hosted their first post-COVID All County Picnic on August 20 complete with chef Aaron Stark’s corn-on-the-cob. The turnout was strong, and the approximately 700 who came learned about upping their preparedness. Presentations focused on Jefferson County included Wildfire Preparedness and Response, Power Outage Considerations, and Recycling Options. Additionally, NPREP and the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) launched a new "Hub" concept for community preparedness. That soft launch and a following outreach session during the Great Shakeout in October showed NPREP where to place our emphasis as we put on the finishing touches before making a big push with this new program. NPREP trainers have conducted one-on-one trainings for both existing and newly formed neighborhoods. They are currently reviewing and refreshing all their training materials with an eye on offering training to neighborhood leads and the general public. The initial focus will be returning to the basics for individual and household preparedness early in 2024 followed by new Hub training later in the year.

Local 20/20’s **Climate** group 2023 activities included continuing to monitor King Tides, and support local EV work. The group monitors King Tides for their predictive value in tracking sea level rise, and in 2023 monitored two King Tides and took on two interns to help with their programs. This project is a collaboration with the City/County Climate Action Committee (CAC), Jefferson Marine Resource Committee, and WA SeaGrant. The results of their seven years of monitoring have been used to analyze local sea level rise and to inform a grant application. The Climate group also participates in the CAC’s EV Workgroup, including maintaining the [JeffersonCAN.org/electric-vehicles](https://JeffersonCAN.org/electric-vehicles) web pages, and supporting the group’s efforts to build out the EV infrastructure in the county and bring the EV Carshare to town. Climate group also had a booth at the Jefferson County EV Expo, and led the Alaska Suite Climate Concert planning.



**Beyond Waste** continued their supporting and educating businesses, organizations, and individuals on ways to reduce contributions to the waste stream. Styrocyclers joined the Beyond Waste action group in 2023. Since 2021, Styrocyclers have recycled more than 10 tons of polystyrene (EPS) packing materials, with approximately 9250 pounds recycled in 2023, a 19% increase over 2022. In June, Styrocyclers began recycling polyethylene (LDPE), and the merger with Beyond Waste has helped with volunteers and accounting support to cover the costs involved. Beyond Waste members serve on the Jefferson County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste Facilities Task force, advocating for a future municipal food composting capacity and educating members on sound waste practices. Beyond Waste also supports Repair Events around the county, helping folks repair items that might otherwise be thrown away, and other members are involved in compostable materials distribution projects.

Through research, policy advocacy, and education, Local 20/20's **Transportation Lab** action group promotes a local transportation system that minimizes the need for personal motor vehicles. A highlight of 2023 was *Moving in the Right Direction*, a full-day conference in April that attracted a hundred participants, among them national and international experts. Keynote speaker Mike McGinn, Executive Director of America Walks and a former Seattle mayor, presented the financial and mobility benefits of density in downtown Port Townsend. Walkability expert Dan Burden followed up with proposals for street layout and traffic calming. Breakout groups then prioritized transportation policies and practices with the objectives of reducing vehicle miles traveled, increasing transit access and ridership, creating safer cycling opportunities, and modifying parking policies. Other groups called for integrating housing and transportation policies, reevaluating land use planning and density, factoring in climate adaptation into transportation projects, and addressing equity issues.

Local 20/20's **Health & Wellness** action group, also known as Citizens for Healthcare Access, exists to identify barriers to healthcare and advocate for changes. One of the biggest barriers to healthcare identified in 2023 was denial of care by insurance companies, an issue that takes a toll on our citizens and on the staff of our local public hospital. Members attended a briefing sponsored by Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action on Privatization of Medicare and how this push harms rural hospitals, as well as patients who start out healthy, but later develop complex conditions that get denied coverage. The 2023 slate of meetings also focused on the morale and well-being of our local nursing staff and public health department employees and on mental healthcare uses of psychedelics and the efforts to decriminalize use.

We are grateful to you for your donations this year, as your support makes all of this possible. These funds will help us continue to support our mission of "Working together toward local sustainability and resilience – integrating ecology, economy and community through action and education."

Sincerely,  
Local 20/20  
[www.L2020.org](http://www.L2020.org)