

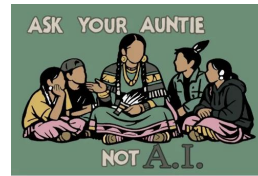


eNews

July 2026

Ask Your Auntie, Not AI

- [Honor the Earth](#)



Want to get involved? Have ideas? [CONTACT Us](#)

Island Conversations

DOWN-TO-EARTH TALK ABOUT WHIDBEY'S FUTURE

September's Conversation, with Whidbey Island Democratic Club, will feature an enlightening discussion of **rising electric rates**. Utilities may be tempted to blame our clean energy laws - the Clean Energy Transformation Act and the Climate Commitment Act - but there is more to the story. **Charlee Thompson**, Policy Associate for Northwest Clean Energy Coalition will tell all!

Note there is no Conversation in August.

What's Really Raising our Electric Rates?

Thursday, September 3, 6 PM

Snacks & Social 5:45 PM

St. Hubert's Church

804 3rd St, Langley



Who Gives a S&%\$? We do!



Port Hadlock shows us what's possible in Freeland! If we can't afford to build a sewer for all of Freeland, we can start with a modular system that serves the core and allows for future expansion. With a sewer in place, we can build the density of housing and services that will create **a thriving Freeland**, and keep us from sprawling over our rural island home. We're thrilled that the newly adopted [Comp Plan](#) includes a goal to study the Freeland sewer and the Island County Commissioners have made this a priority for 2027.

[READ the Post](#)

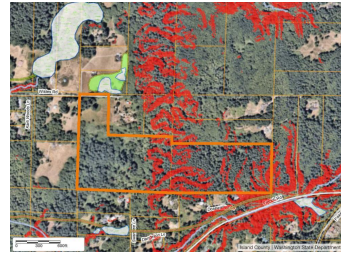
Rain Garden Launched



Volunteers from Whidbey Climate ACTION, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, and the High School's Ecology Club began a demonstration rain garden project at South Whidbey High School. The rain garden will catch water run-off from Maxwellton Road and filter it through layers of soil - where microbes can break down toxins - on its way to the aquifer or surface streams. The collaborators dug up blackberries and tarped the grass to make it easier to dig up in the fall. Native plants will be put in just as the rains start to reduce the need to irrigate. Thanks to:

- **Whidbey Island Garden Tour** for a grant to purchase soil, plants, and signage
- **Organic Farm School** for loaning us a silage tarp
- **Bill Poss** for connecting us to County Public Works
- **SWSD Facilities Director** for designating a site
- **Jumanji Oliana, Rainy Day Flora**, for consultation and advice
- **Seth Raabe, School Farm instructor**, for leading the Ecology Club
- **Lee Chavez, Whidbey Watershed Stewards**, for motivation

Wildes Rd Clear-cut



An **application to log 37 acres** in the **Maxwelton watershed** has been submitted to the state Dept. of Natural Resources ([NW-FPA-26-8637](#), mapped [here](#)). The proposal is in an environmentally and hydrologically sensitive area, with nearby wetlands already compromised and the site containing **steep slopes**. There are risks of silt pollution of the nearby streams and degradation of the **critical aquifer recharge** role of that area. Further, the application appears to have had little expert review as none of these hazards are addressed. The comment period has passed, the DNR decision date is July 31. WCA submitted a comment (see post) and there are **more actions** you can take listed on WEAN's [alert page](#).

READ the Post

News Reel

- **Water Quality Townhall Community Meetings.** Several watersheds, South Holmes Harbor, Maxwelton, and Maple Grove beach, will be the topics of open meetings in August (details in the [newsletter](#)).
- **Vote by August 4th!** A [library levy](#) is on the ballot that will affect the valuable community assets and services of our library: staffing, hours, eBooks, audiobooks, streaming, Storytimes, Bookmobile, computers, laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, printing, and more.
- **USL Climate Work:** Students continue to work with the county to assure a [livable future](#). The county is still balking at declaring a climate emergency, but seems open to climate work in its committees. Join WCA in supporting youth voices!
- **Coupeville Farm to School Dinner:** Support local student food and farming education with a [benefit dinner](#), July 30. See also ways to support South Whidbey School Farms [here](#).
- **ThrivingFest:** 30 Whidbey Island organizations dedicated to the common good have been filmed by Thriving Communities. Enjoy the short films, conversation, and group meals, all free of charge August 13-15 ([details](#) and let them know if you plan attend).

Book Nook

A member reports: Many of us read to better understand and cope with climate change causes and effects. A candidate for us climate bookies is Dr. Kate Marvel's book Human Nature: Nine Ways to Feel About Our Changing Planet. Each chapter addresses an effect of climate change, details the physics behind the change, and explores the author's emotional reaction to the picture being presented. There is a chapter each for wonder, anger, guilt, fear, grief, surprise, pride, hope and love. The hard science conclusions woven with her personal experiences and emotional responses makes a compelling read. Recommended.



The Fund will be open for **applications again in September**. Local non-profits are encouraged to submit a proposal for their community building and climate resilience projects. See [here](#) for last year's awards. **Donate now to fund even more projects this year!**

Thank you for contributing!

[DONATE](#)

Calendar

- Thu, Jul 30, 5:30 PM - Coupeville Farm to School: [Nourish the Future](#)
 - Thu, Aug 13-15 - Thriving Communities: [ThrivingFest](#)
-



ACT NOW!

WEAN protects Whidbey ecosystems and brings the community together for education and action. Checkout their [ACT NOW](#) page, and [podcasts](#).



LISTEN to Youth!

USL uplifts youth voices around climate action, equity, educational reform, intersectionality, and social justice issues.



RECYCLE Your Food Scraps!

Whidbey Compost Collective is now open to individual memberships for food scraps drop-off! Don't send them 400 miles to the dump, return those nutrients to the soils right here. See [website](#) for additional services and commercial offerings.



REPURPOSE Your "Trash"!

If you can't reduce it and it's not recyclable, repurpose it with [rePurpose Whidbey](#). Checkout their membership, accepted materials, and drop-off hours.



PREPARE Yourself!

South Whidbey Prepares helps neighborhoods organize themselves for when disaster strikes and EMS cannot respond. [CONTACT SWP](#) to get prepared.

Whidbey Climate ACTION

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