



**King Conservation District**

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**King Conservation District announces 2010 “Rock Award” recipients recognizing leadership in conservation and environmental stewardship**

***Special award honors King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert for conservation leadership***

RENTON—King Conservation District (King CD) has announced recipients for its 2010 “Rock Award” program--spotlighting individuals, programs and municipalities that have demonstrated service and leadership in conservation efforts within the District over the past year. The awards were presented at the King CD’s annual meeting on November 8.

Recipients in the four awards categories include Carnation landowner **Art Groeneweg**, **Auburn City Council member Bill Peloza**, **the Cascade Harvest Coalition** and **the City of Kent**. Winners were selected by members of the King CD board of supervisors with staff recommendations based on criteria for each award.

In addition to the Rock Awards, **King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert** was honored with a special “Conservation Leader” award recognizing her extraordinary support of community members in embracing voluntary stewardship efforts.

“These awards highlight individuals, organizations and municipalities who have shown outstanding initiative and cooperation in stewardship programs and habitat enhancement within our district,” said Bill Knutsen, Chairman of the King CD board of supervisors

Recipients of the King CD 2010 Rock Awards include:

***Conservation Landowner Award: Art Groeneweg (Carnation)***

Art Groeneweg has been recognized as a landowner who has demonstrated leadership and initiative in implementing best management practices on his property. Through his efforts, Groeneweg’s 95-acre dairy farm has earned “Salmon Safe” certification, an eco-label recognizing farms that protects the health of our rivers and streams. He continues to achieve new conservation goals on his property and is currently enrolled in King CD’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program --which will result in habitat restoration of 6.5 acres on Ames Creek.

### ***Service Award: Councilmember Bill Peloz, Auburn City Council***

City of Auburn Councilmember Bill Peloz has cooperated with the District to improve conservation resources and working lands. He was instrumental in bringing key grant requests to King CD, including support for the popular Auburn Farmers Market. An active participant in the Lower Green drainage committee sponsored by the King County Ag Commission and King CD, Peloz has demonstrated leadership in identifying and resolving issues by working with a wide range of stakeholders.

### ***Best Partnering Organization Award: Cascade Harvest Coalition***

Seattle-based Cascade Harvest Coalition has partnered with farmers, community groups, King CD and other agencies on local farm and food initiatives. The organization has been a regional leader in coordinating and promoting farm and food interests with programs such as Puget Sound Fresh, Farm Link and Farm to Table. The Cascade Harvest Coalition and King CD share a common goal to support our region's working farms and sustain a vibrant local food and farm economy.

### ***Local Government Conservation Award: City of Kent***

The City of Kent has been dedicated to the long-term sustainability of its urban forests and has utilized grants from the King CD to perform restoration projects in city parks, removing invasive weeds, planting native trees and shrubs and performing long-term maintenance of those areas. Through these projects, the city has built a strong volunteer base by continually holding events that both educate and acknowledge the volunteers.

### ***Special "Conservation Leader" Award: Councilmember Kathy Lambert, King County Council***

King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert represents District 3 in Northeast King County, an area that encompasses a rich and varied agricultural heritage. Among her many efforts in support of King CD and King County's rural farmers, Councilmember Lambert championed preservation of funding for the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program. She also worked to retain funding for the important work of the Agriculture Commission and the Forestry Commission, both of which help rural landowners maintain agriculture and forestry uses in the face of development pressures. In addition, she is working on development of a universal permit that would allow farmers to do regular maintenance of drainage ditches.

"Councilmember Lambert has been a champion for King CD and vital to our success," said King CD Board Chairman Bill Knutsen. "She understands the work of the District and the importance of getting conservation on the ground in a way that's manageable and affordable for the landowner."

### **[About the King Conservation District:](#)**

The King CD provides conservation information and technical assistance programs available to landowners within the District's boundaries (most of King County) on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis. It provides grants for conservation-focused projects by local cities and organizations and offers a wide range of services and programs, including workshops, education programs, farm planning and consultation on land, water and wildlife management.

Founded in 1949, The King CD is one of 47 conservation districts in the state. It is a natural resources assistance agency authorized by the State of Washington and guided by the Washington State Conservation Commission.

For more information on the King Conservation District, visit [www.kingcd.org](http://www.kingcd.org).

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