

Nature's Scorecard

SAMPLE SCRIPT: FOR SENDING AN EMAIL

EMAIL YOUR CITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the *[name of your community]* *[City/County Council]*, I am a resident of *[name of your community]* and I want to live in a community that manages stormwater in ways that protect our waterways, our salmon, and our health. That is why I support significant investment in retrofits for *[name of your community]*.

Stormwater retrofits are important in our community because retrofitting hard surfaces to treat polluted stormwater runoff is the most effective way to reduce the toxic effects of stormwater pollution. In so doing we will also improve salmon habitat and reduce urban flooding. Retrofits also reduce costs to the community through expensive gray infrastructure and toxic cleanup years later. Retrofitting our paved and hard surfaces now can help mitigate the effects of climate change, and contribute to restoring damaged habitat critical to salmon, orcas, and other wildlife.

Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the biggest water pollution issues facing our region – it is the number-one source of toxic pollution to Puget Sound and has dire consequences for aquatic life, including salmon and our struggling orca whales. Our communities are already bearing the effects of climate change and rapid growth. Now is the time to invest in green stormwater infrastructure to improve water quality and also make our communities more livable, walkable, and resilient.

If they scored well on Nature's Scorecard...

Thank them for their hard work implementing green stormwater infrastructure principles and practices in your community. Express gratitude for seeing your community receive high marks on Nature's Scorecard, with the expectation that they will work equally hard to retrofit already developed areas.

If they scored poorly on Nature's Scorecard...

Express concern they didn't do as well as other communities during the legally required development code update process, required by their Clean Water Act stormwater discharge permits. Ask how they plan to better incorporate green stormwater infrastructure principles and practices into your development codes in the future, and how they are planning to address existing pollution through targeted retrofit projects.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact info]

STEP 1

Review Nature's Scorecard to see how your local community is performing.

STEP 2

Find the contact information for your city or county council. Each council member should have a distinct email address, but there may be a generic address to send comments to as well.

STEP 3

Use this sample script to draft your email - then send it to your council members.

Hot Tip: Feel free to email each council member individually or choose the council member that you know to align best with your vision for the community.