

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM'S INTENT TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY BY PROMOTING PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY WITHIN THE BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY, PARTNERING WITH THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND PURCHASING RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists regarding climate change, is clear that there is no longer any credible doubt that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40% decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; and more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable energy supply is critical to the well-being of our society; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Bellingham City Council passed Resolution No. 2002-44, endorsing the Earth Charter which states that it is necessary to "act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, promote the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies [and] internalize the full environmental and social costs of goods and services in the selling price, and enable consumers to identify products that meet the highest social and environmental standards"; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Bellingham City Council passed Resolution 2005-08, resolving to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection program that entails developing an action plan and implementing measures that have the effect of reducing emissions of green house gases; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Bellingham's Mayor signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which states that signatories will "strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and

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communities such as: . . . increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in 'green tags', advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, and recovering landfill methane for energy production; . . . help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution;" and

WHEREAS, Puget Sound Energy's Green Power Program offers electricity consumers the option of buying green power which facilitates the emergence of a successful renewable energy industry; and

WHEREAS, all revenues from PSE's Green Power Program are reinvested in the Green Power Program as required by state law and subject to audit by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, 85% of students at Western Washington University voted to have the University purchase 100% of its electricity through Puget Sound Energy's Green Power program; and

WHEREAS, more than 1300 residents and businesses in Bellingham have opted to purchase green power making Bellingham among the highest participants in the region; and

WHEREAS, facilities operated by the City of Bellingham account for approximately 2.5% of the electricity used in Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, preliminary results of the Bellingham's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory indicate that electricity use accounts for more than 60% of the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from municipal operations; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

SECTION 1. PROMOTE THE PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY.

The City endorses the Bellingham Green Power Community Challenge and encourages Bellingham's residents and businesses to participate in Puget Sound Energy's Green Power Program;

SECTION 2. BECOME AN EPA GREEN POWER PARTNER.

The City Council authorizes the Mayor enter into an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to participate in the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership program;

SECTION 3. PURCHASE GREEN POWER FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES.

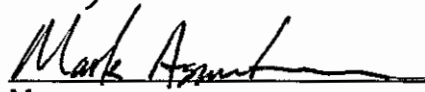
The City shall begin purchasing renewable energy credits from Puget Sound Energy equal to 100% of electricity used in municipally-owned facilities in 2007.

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PASSED by the Council this 24th day of July, 2006,


Council President

APPROVED by me this 31st day of July, 2006.


Mayor

ATTEST: 
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


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