

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-05**

**A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO IMPLEMENT AN ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2002, the Bellingham City Council endorsed the Earth Charter Resolution, Resolution No. 2002-44, which was adopted in order to "assure a healthy future for our community and for our Earth"; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of Bellingham citizens is dependent upon the careful stewardship of natural resources and protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham is a highly visible model for the region's citizens, local governments, businesses, and industries; and

WHEREAS, purchasing that results from environmentally sustainable business practices furthers the City of Bellingham's goal of protecting our environment for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham can demonstrate leadership by incorporating environmentally sustainable practices into its purchasing practices that preserve natural resources, conserve energy, eliminate waste and emissions, and lessen overall environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham can reduce the community's exposure to a group of pollutants known as Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic chemicals (PBTs), which pose a risk to public health and the environment by purchasing products that do not result in the potential creation or release of PBTs when alternative, less toxic options are available; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2005 the Bellingham City Council resolved to participate in the Cities For Climate Protection Program, through Resolution No. 2005-08, which stated "the City of Bellingham influences the community's emissions by exercising key power over land use, transportation, construction, waste management and energy management"; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2005, the Bellingham City Council resolved to promote the use of LEED standards in construction and renovation of City buildings and in the construction practices of the private sector, through Resolution No. 2005-21, which requires the use of recycled materials and waste reduction for such projects; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2006, the Bellingham City Council resolved to purchasing 100% renewable energy credits from Puget Sound Energy equal to 100% of electricity used in municipally-owned facilities, through Resolution 2006-28; and

City of Bellingham  
City Attorney  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
360-676-6903

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham can protect the environment locally and globally and reduce its waste stream by purchasing paper products that are made from 100% post consumer waste; and

WHEREAS, nearly a ton of new recycled paper can be made from a ton of recycled stock, compared to the two to three and one half tons of trees required to make a ton of virgin paper; and

WHEREAS, production of recycled paper results in lower solid waste byproducts and uses less energy, water and chemicals than production of virgin paper products; and

WHEREAS, traditional cleaning products may contain chemicals associated with cancer, reproductive disorders, respiratory ailments, eye or skin irritation, and other human health issues, as well as result in air pollution, bioaccumulation of toxic substances in plants and animals, endocrine disruption in wildlife, ozone depletion and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, replacing traditional cleaning supplies with green cleaning products reduces these human health and environmental concerns for City of Bellingham staff and for the local community and environment,

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

The City of Bellingham recognizes the positive impact that it can make on the environment through its purchasing decisions. It is the intent of the City of Bellingham to integrate environmental considerations into every aspect of purchasing. City Council will review this program after a one year period.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:**

All city departments are responsible for:

- A. Purchasing recycled, PBT free and other environmentally preferable products with the maximum amount of post consumer material, so long as the purchase is equal to or less than 120% of the price established by an annual bid.
- B. Specifying energy efficient equipment and appliances, such as Energy Star, whenever practicable.
- C. Requiring contractors and consultants to use recycled, PBT-free and other environmentally preferable products whenever practicable.
- D. Promoting the use of recycled, PBT-free and other environmentally preferable products by publicizing the City of Bellingham's environmental purchasing policy

City of Bellingham  
City Attorney  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
360-676-6903

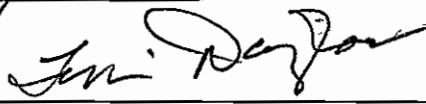
and its implementation, including such actions as posting this resolution on the City of Bellingham's website.

- E. Training appropriate personnel to evaluate opportunities for the purchase of recycled, PBT-free products and other environmentally preferable products when purchasing items for the City of Bellingham or when writing bid specifications, through the use of readily available databases, such as that developed by the Responsible Purchasing Network.
- F. Continuing to specify alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles when appropriate to the application.
- G. Continuing to evaluate all uses of alternative fuels, such as gas with at least 10% ethanol, ultra low sulfur diesel and biodiesel for appropriate applications.
- H. Choosing products that are PBT-free over those that contain PBTs when appropriate to the application.

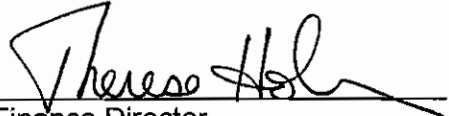
**PASSED** by the Council this 2nd day of April, 2007.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

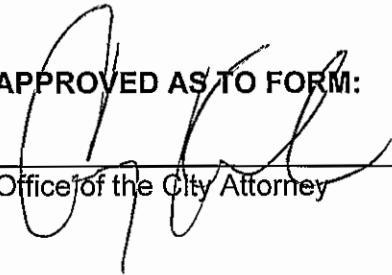
**APPROVED** by me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney

City of Bellingham  
City Attorney  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
360-676-6903



## City Green

### Our Commitment

In April 2007, recognizing the need to reduce the City's environmental impacts in all areas of business, City Council approved the implementation of an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program to maximize the positive impact of its purchasing decisions on the environment. By making a commitment to purchase green, employees are helping to reach our target of reducing the City's greenhouse gas pollution by 64% from 2000 levels by 2012, and by 70% by 2020.

### What is environmentally preferable purchasing?

Environmentally preferable purchasing is choosing to purchase products and services that have little or no negative effect on the environment and human health. In addition to improved environmental performance, many environmentally preferable products perform as well or better than traditional products and can even save money.

Switching to safer cleaning products, for example, can reduce incidents of allergic reactions, asthma, burns, eye damage, major organ damage, and cancer connected with the hazardous chemicals used in many traditional cleaning products.

Buying 100 percent post consumer recycled paper can reduce energy use by 44 percent, decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 37 percent, cut solid waste emissions in half, decrease water use by 50 percent, and practically eliminate the use of wood.

Similarly, energy-efficient vehicles and renewable energy cut greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollutants, while lessening our dependence on imported oil. ([www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org))

### Green Team

To implement the EPP program, representatives from each department have come together to form the City's Green Team. Representatives are working to coordinate green projects, educate one another and to plan green office strategies. This team is central to the implementation of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program. This team will help coordinate several efforts throughout the City to ensure our efforts are efficient, money saving and successful.

### Cost Savings

Through environmentally aware purchases, the City has the ability to protect natural resources and add to the growing demand for high quality products that are environmentally friendly. As the demand grows for environmentally preferable products prices are becoming more competitive and cost effective. Many products purchased by the city are being replaced by environmentally preferable products at minimum to no

additional cost. In addition, implementing EPP strategies can help save money by decreasing operating and disposal costs.

The City is supplying “Green Event” kits to departments for use at workshops, meetings, conferences, special events. These kits contain supplies that are either reusable or compostable.

**Contact Us**

If you have questions about the City’s environmentally preferable purchasing program or other Green City programs, please email [greenmail@cob.org](mailto:greenmail@cob.org).

**Accomplishments**

Climate Action Plan

10 hybrid vehicles

Purchase of Green Power

5% bio-diesel in fleet