

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-08

A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO PARTICIPATION IN THE FIVE MILESTONES OF THE CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION (CCP) PROGRAM SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL CITIES FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (ICLEI) AND REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH SAID PROGRAM FROM ICLEI AND FROM THE NORTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY.

WHEREAS, scientific consensus has determined that Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, 162 countries including the U.S. pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, at the request of the Administration, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and declared global warming a real problem caused in part by the actions of humankind; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 Third Assessment Report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the 2000 U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) First National Assessment indicate that global warming has begun; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2003 the Governors of Washington, Oregon and California jointly stated that "in the absence of meaningful Federal action we must act individually and regionally to address the sources of global warming"ⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the June 2004 OSU Scientific Consensus Statement on the Likely Impacts of Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest indicates that our region is likely to continue to experience significant temperature increase, changes in the timing and quantity of precipitation, sea level rise and changes in ocean circulationⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, these changes will likely result in decreased summer water availability, changes in our ability to manage flood damage, shifts in hydro power availability, decreased water quality, increasing coastal erosion, declining snowpacks, changes in vegetation zones, longer fire seasons, longer and more intense allergy seasons, and

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the possibility of other negative consequences for marine and forest ecosystems such as more frequent low oxygen "dead zones" and increasing forest vulnerability to insects and disease; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham influences the community's emissions by exercising key powers over land use, transportation, construction, waste management, and energy management; and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the local government, its businesses and its residents; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2002 the Bellingham City Council endorsed the Earth Charter by Resolution, "so that we can assure a healthy future for our community and for our Earth"ⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Bellingham has undertaken many programs, including curbside recycling, energy efficient lighting and street lighting, weatherizing of City buildings and many more which have as a benefit the reduction of greenhouse gasses; and

WHEREAS, the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, sponsored by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, has invited the City of Bellingham to become a partner in the Campaign;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bellingham commits to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and, as a participant, pledges to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change. The City of Bellingham will undertake the Cities for Climate Protection Program 5 milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community, specifically:

- conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdiction;
- establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
- develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target;
- implement the action plan; and
- monitor to review progress; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that The City of Bellingham requests assistance from both the Northwest Clean Air Agency and ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP) as it progresses through the milestones.

PASSED by the Council this 14th day of March, 2005.

Frank Dejer
Council President

APPROVED by me this 17th day of March, 2005.

Mark Asanida
Mayor

ATTEST: Christine Weinberg
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jean Hoisington
Office of the City Attorney

ⁱ http://www.pscleanair.org/news/2003/10_01_gov.shtml

ⁱⁱ http://inr.oregonstate.edu/policy/climate_change_consensus_statement_final.pdf

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