



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor aims to make Seattle “Green Building Capital”

Task Force will create roadmap for Seattle’s green building future

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels announced today the creation of the Green Building Task Force, an advisory panel that will provide recommendations to make homes and businesses more energy efficient and climate-friendly.

Earlier this year, in his annual State of the City address, Nickels pledged that Seattle would become America’s “Green Building Capital” by improving energy efficiency in commercial and residential sectors by a minimum of 20 percent. The 50-member task force will advise the city on how to achieve this goal, which will save Seattle residents and businesses money on their energy bills and create new jobs in the green economy.

“I am very pleased to have some of Seattle’s best and brightest joining me to create the roadmap for Seattle’s green building future,” said Nickels. “Seattle is very fortunate to have a 30-year history of energy conservation, but with the challenge of climate disruption, there is a lot more we can do to make Seattle the nation’s energy efficiency leader.”

Over the next six months, the task force will provide feedback to the city on a range of policies and programs that could later influence executive orders, legislation and departmental actions.

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“Climate change is one of the most important challenges of our time – and no climate protection solution will be complete without a commitment to building energy efficiency. Seattle has the people and businesses with the creativity and capacity to tackle this problem,” said Ash Awad, vice president of Energy Services for McKinstry and a Green Building Task Force member.

The task force will hold its first meeting on Thursday, July 24, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Central Library in downtown Seattle.

Following the first meeting, the group will form two committees, one focused on increasing energy efficiency in existing buildings, and the other focused on increasing energy efficiency in new buildings. The committees will consider a range of policy options, including financing programs, efficiency incentives, and regulatory mandates.

The task force includes members from Seattle’s real estate, building operations, environmental, business, affordable housing, and labor communities. For a complete list of task force members, and additional information about the task force’s scope and schedule, go to: <http://www.seattle.gov/environment/GBtaskforce.htm>.

Visit the mayor’s Web site at www.seattle.gov/mayor. Get the mayor’s inside view on efforts to promote transportation, public safety, economic opportunity and healthy communities by signing up for The Nickels Newsletter at www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter_signup.htm

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