

RESOLUTION 30144

A RESOLUTION proclaiming the City of Seattle's actions supporting and honoring Earth Day 2000.

WHEREAS, the thirtieth anniversary of Earth Day will be celebrated worldwide during April 2000; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1970, Earth Day has inspired major environmental initiatives in the United States including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, as well as a national grassroots environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day 2000 is mobilizing citizens, businesses and governments throughout the world to address climate change and to transition the world's economy toward energy efficiency solutions built on clean, safe and renewable resources; and

WHEREAS, cities play a significant role in environmental protection and enhancement through their departmental operations, their regulatory authority, their service delivery to citizens and businesses, and their ability to influence and participate in the policy choices of local, state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has long been recognized as a national leader in promoting, supporting and financing a variety of environmental programs that have produced substantial and meaningful improvements in the region's environmental quality including reductions in greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Paul Schell proclaimed in his 2000 State of the City address that programs respecting and protecting the environment are one of his top four priorities for the next two years; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day 2000 presents the ideal opportunity for the City and its citizens to celebrate the City's many environmental accomplishments and to renew and expand Seattle's commitment to the environment by establishing new initiatives to address the region's most pressing environmental challenges including climate change; Now Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1: The Seattle City Council recognizes and commends the many environmental accomplishments achieved by the City, with the support and participation of its citizens and businesses, including, but not limited to:

1. Over 20 years of conservation leadership exhibited by City Light in delivering energy conservation programs and services designed to acquire cost effective energy savings to meet the utility's energy requirements and to improve energy efficiency measures and practices in

customer homes, businesses, and industries. From 1991 (the Kyoto protocol baseline year) through 1998, City Light's energy conservation programs have saved 1.8 million megawatt-hours. Savings in 1998 alone were 400,000 megawatt-hours, enough to power one out of eight Seattle homes. Over the 1991-1998 period, energy savings from conservation programs resulted in 1.5 billion pounds of avoided carbon-dioxide emissions to date. Many of these energy savings and avoided emissions will continue to accrue from conservation measures with lifetimes extending well into the future. These energy savings and their environmental benefits were acquired at a cost of \$167 million to City Light and an additional \$53 million on the part of participating customers. To acquire these greenhouse gas impacts in the transportation sector, it would have been necessary to garage 19,000 vehicles in every year from 1991 through 1999.

2. City Light's transformation from a "power first" electric utility two decades ago to today's "fish first" philosophy, i.e. protect and restore the salmon runs on the Skagit River. Recognizing that hydroproject operations contributed to declining salmon runs, City Light altered flows on the Skagit River to support the survival needs of salmon. The Skagit now supports the largest and healthiest runs of pink and chum salmon in the Northwest. The chum runs in turn support the largest overwintering population of bald eagles in the contiguous United States. The chinook run in the upper Skagit remains stable even while runs have declined elsewhere in Puget Sound.

3. Over ten years of national and international leadership in environmentally sound solid waste management. Since 1987, Seattle has led the world in reducing, reusing and recycling. Over \$12 million has been saved by recycling instead of sending material to landfills since Seattle's recycling program began. In 1999 alone, an estimated 350,000 tons of waste were either recycled or composted instead of landfilled, thereby conserving energy and avoiding tons of greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing solid waste.

4. The seventy percent of City employees who work in the central business district and help reduce traffic congestion by participating in the City's commute trip reduction program and commute by bus, bike, vanpool, walking or other alternative to a single occupancy vehicle.

5. The Seattle Millennium Project, culminating on Earth Day 2000, which restored salmon habitat on four miles of the city's largest urban creeks. The work on Longfellow, Taylor, Pipers and Thornton Creeks also improved drainage runoff and reduces potential flooding damage.

6. The nearly 100,000 acres of forests and wetlands that have been permanently preserved by the City in the Skagit and Cedar River watersheds, protecting critical habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife.

7. The regional water conservation program which, since 1989, has saved over 50 billion gallons of water, which translates to 30 million gallons a day less than demand would have been without conservation. Not only has this savings been cost effective for Seattle's customers, but it has kept additional water in Cedar and Tolt Rivers to meet the needs of salmon and other instream needs.

8. The City's increased use of the 145 compressed natural gas vehicles (CNG) in its fleet. CNG vehicle emissions are substantially less than gasoline vehicles, including about 25 percent less carbon dioxide, the primary source of greenhouse gases.
9. The Seattle Parks and Recreation restoration of wetlands at Pritchard Beach, Carkeek, Golden Gardens, and Matthews Beach parks and acquisition of 600 acres of precious green spaces through land purchases, transfers and donations.
10. The overwhelming support by Seattle voters in 1996 for the Sound Transit high capacity regional transit system including light rail in the City of Seattle, the partnership between the City and Sound Transit to implement the light rail system and neighborhood based planning and zoning changes around each station to promote transit-oriented development coupled with the City's pledged financial support of \$43 million to complete the light rail system.
11. The City's commitment to implementing the core strategies of the Growth Management Act, by encouraging the development of compact, walkable urban communities linked by transit that will accommodate 50,000 to 60,000 new households by 2014. Our success in this endeavor will prevent sprawl, conserve habitat, protect watersheds, and preserve our farmlands, forests, and wilderness areas.

Section 2. The City of Seattle supports the Earth Day 2000 initiative to focus attention on one of the world's most urgent environmental challenges: reducing greenhouse gases to help mitigate global warming through increased energy efficiency and non-carbon based energy sources. The City of Seattle will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its own operations and through community actions by:

1. Establishing a long-range goal of meeting the electric energy needs of Seattle with no net greenhouse gas emissions. City Light's power resource portfolio is composed primarily of resources that produce little or no greenhouse gas emissions. Immediately, City Light will meet growing demand with no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions by:
 - a) Using cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable resources to meet as much load growth as possible
 - b) Mitigating or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions associated with any fossil fuels used to meet load growth.
2. Planting 20,000 trees by Earth Day 2000 and an additional 20,000 by 2003, sequestering tons of carbon dioxide over the life of the trees.
3. Supporting state and federal policy initiatives like Climate Wise that enhance energy efficiency, encourage renewable resource development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Constructing all new and renovated City facilities greater than 5000 square feet of occupied space to be certified "green" by meeting the US Green Building Council's "silver" standard for sustainable buildings. Meeting this policy will maximize energy and water use efficiency and reduce the use of non-sustainable resources in City facilities.

5. Reducing vehicle emissions by transitioning the City fleet to a greater use of alternative fuel vehicles; by 2002 approximately 10 percent of the City's cars and light duty trucks will be alternative fueled vehicles and by 2005, approximately 20 percent.

6. Hosting the region's Earth Day 2000 event at Seattle Center, celebrating the theme of "Clean Energy Now" with a series of informational booths, activities, music and vendors.

Section 3. The City of Seattle also supports the opportunity Earth Day creates for inspiring individuals and groups to take action on other critical environmental challenges. In recognition of Earth Day 2000, the City of Seattle commits to:

1. Eliminating the use of the most hazardous insecticides and herbicides in City owned landscapes by June 2000 and reducing the remaining use of pesticides by an additional 30 percent by 2002.

2. Improving salmon habitat through continued restoration of Seattle's major creek systems and continuing the trend of reducing per capita water use by one percent a year for the next ten years.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Seattle this tenth day of April 2000, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this tenth day of April 2000.

President of the City Council
Margaret Pageler

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:
Paul Schell, Mayor

Filed by me this third day of April 2000.
City Clerk