

Welcome! As a new member of the City of Bellingham team, we would like to introduce you to some of the sustainable policies and resources that are available to you.

Our goal is to make your transition to the city as smooth as possible.

**Green Power Purchasing** - In 2006, the Bellingham City Council approved the purchase of 100% of the city's electricity from renewable sources (such as wind, solar and biomass), through Puget Sound Energy's Green Power program. Buying 100% green power is the most significant step the City of Bellingham can take to protect the climate, eliminating more than 65 percent of the global warming pollution caused by municipal operations. In April 2007, Bellingham was designated the top Green Power Community in the nation by the Environmental Protection Agency. Bellingham qualified for this recognition by purchasing 76 million kilowatt hours of green power, which accounts for 11% of our community's total electricity load or enough electricity to light more than 6,300 homes.

**Good-On-One-Side (G.O.O.S.) notepads** – Green Government Team members from all city departments are collecting used office paper that has only been printed on one side and turning it into notepads for city staff to use. The pads come in ¼ and ½ page sizes. FedEx Kinkos has agreed to cut and pad the notepads for a discounted city price. For more information, contact Kym Fedale at 7970.

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)** program – In April 2007, the Bellingham City Council passed Resolution 2007-05, 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. The EPP requires the purchase of environmentally preferable materials by all city departments, as long as the price of the environmentally preferable product is 120% or less than the price of the conventional product. Environmentally friendly products include those that have one or more of the following attributes: a maximum amount of post-consumer recycled material, Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxin (PBT)-free, energy efficient and products that are recyclable at the end of their lifecycle.

**The City's Climate Action Plan** – In May 2007, the city adopted a climate action plan to reduce municipal and community green house gas emissions. The plan includes three phases of actions, as well as recommended emissions reduction levels. The recommended emissions reduction levels were set to reduce the city's municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 64% from 2000 levels by 2012 and by 70% by 2020. By buying green power, the city government has already achieved pollution reductions equal to 83% of the 2012 goal. For more information or to read the full report, please visit the city's website at [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org).

**Green Event Kits** – Green Kits are available for staff to check out for any city event, and can include compostable or reusable event supplies, such as cups, plates, napkins and utensils, and include FoodPlus! totes delivered to your event site. For more information, please contact Kym Fedale at 7970.

**SmartTrips and Commute Trip Reduction** – Whatcom Smart Trips encourages anyone making trips in Whatcom County to try alternatives to driving alone and rewards those who are already using alternatives. It applies to all trips, including the trip to work, errands, school, or leisure activities. Initiated in 1997, in compliance with the State CTR law, the city’s Commute Trip Reduction program provides education and incentives to encourage employees to use alternatives to drive-alone commuting. In addition to our employee CTR program, the City collaborates with Whatcom Council of Governments and Whatcom Transit Authority to promote the use of alternative modes of transportation citywide. For more information please contact Kim Brown at 7950.

**Toward Zero Waste campaign** – In July 2008, the city joined the Toward Zero Waste Community Challenge, committing to reduce the city’s municipal garbage by 50% by the end of 2008. In order to achieve this goal, the city is relying on the help of all of its employees, as well as implementing various waste-reduction programs, such as the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program, and the use of Green Event kits. For more information please contact Kym Fedale at 7970.

**Buy Green database** includes information on a wide range of topics, from hosting a green event, to purchasing environmentally preferable office supplies. For more information, please contact Kym Fedale at 7970.

**The Resource Conservation program** - The Resource Conservation Management Assistant (RCMA) provides coordination and leadership for effective and efficient management of all utility resources, including electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater, refuse, and recycling. If individuals have questions about the way resources are currently being used in municipal facilities, or suggestions regarding more efficient operation, please contact the RCMA. The RCMA will provide periodic correspondence to all staff regarding overall resource consumption and reduction measures, as well as educational tips targeting individual behavioral changes that will make a substantial difference on our overall energy footprint. For more information, please contact Ben Rupert at 7973.

**Free bus passes for city and county employees** – The city and Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) offer a free bus pass to any city employee who commits to riding the bus to work at least once per week. The goal is to increase bus ridership from the current level of 4% to 10% of employees. Increased bus ridership will help the city achieve a reduction in drive-alone trips to work. For more information, please contact Kim Brown at 7950.

## **Green Teams**

**Green Government Team (GGT)** – The city’s Green Government Team is a group of city employees representing each department that meets 6 times a year. Representatives work together to increase staff knowledge and awareness about daily actions and choices they can take to reduce the city’s environmental impact, support wider efforts to green the city's practices, and help implement the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. For more information or to join the GGT, please contact Kym Fedale at 7970.

**The Sustainable Building Team** includes staff from several city work units, who plan and oversee projects to promote sustainable building practices. For more information on the Sustainable Building Team, please contact Kim Spens at 8356.

**The Sustainable Communities Team** includes staff from various city departments who work to encourage sustainable development, alternative transportation, public facility siting and implementation of the city's Climate Action Plan. For more information, please contact Kim Brown at 7950.

### **City of Bellingham Awards**

**Bellingham named "greenest government" by Washington CEO Magazine – In May 2008,** the City of Bellingham came in first place as Washington CEO Magazine's greenest city, winning the Green Washington Award in the "government" category. The Green Washington Award showcases the top companies, non-profits and government agencies that have demonstrated their leadership, innovation and commitment to sustaining the environment and creating a healthier world through environmentally friendly initiatives.

**Bellingham honored by international leaders for climate protection -** The City of Bellingham was honored in May 2008 at the ICLEI Local Action Summit in Albuquerque, New Mexico for designing a climate action plan. This international award is part of the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability's Five Milestone climate protection process.

**Bicycle Friendly Community -** In January 2007, the League of American Bicyclists designated Bellingham as a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community. Bellingham was recognized for its extensive trail projects and education programs as well as ongoing efforts to promote bicycling, including Bike to Work and School Day, the Commute Trip Reduction Program, the Port of Bellingham multi-modal transportation hub, and the TravelSmart Program.

**Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant -** Post Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, the City of Bellingham's wastewater treatment facility, has won the Department of Ecology's Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award for years 2005 through 2007 for perfect compliance with wastewater-discharge permits. These awards honor treatment plants that pass every environmental test and analyze all samples according to requirements laid out by Ecology, and have had no spills into Washington's waters.