

A RESOLUTION PROMOTING THE USE OF LEED STANDARDS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF CITY BUILDINGS AND IN THE CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

WHEREAS, development and construction practices are significant contributors to the depletion of natural resources and a major cause of air and water pollution, solid waste, toxic waste, health hazards, deforestation, habitat destruction, global climate change, and other deleterious consequences; and

WHEREAS, the United States Green Building Council has created a variety of rating systems to address multiple areas of construction, such as existing buildings and commercial interiors, collectively referred to as the LEED Rating System™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) that identifies a range of actions and performance measures that define green buildings through qualification and quantification criteria and provide a third party certification process for such buildings; and

WHEREAS, the term "Green Building" has become synonymous with other terms and trade names such as "high performance building", "smart building", "BuiltGreen", "sustainable design and construction", "healthy building", "eco-building"; and

WHEREAS, Green Building can be defined as building practices that conserve resources, use recycled materials, maximize energy efficiency, reduce waste, prevent pollution, improve indoor air quality, and consider lifecycle analysis to promote environmental, economic and social benefits in the design and construction of a building project; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the principles of LEED and Green Building are supported by a variety of goals and policies in the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City encourages, and has implemented, Low Impact Development (LID) strategies in the public and private sector and that these are integral components of LEED and Green Building; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington recently adopted legislation requiring all new public buildings to meet LEED standards, one of the first states in the country to do so; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the City of Bellingham, Sustainable Connections held Green Building educational events in 2004 that attracted over 100 engineers, architects, developers, builders, and other professionals, along with over 60 local government staff members from Public Works, Building Services and Planning Departments; and

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WHEREAS, nearly one thousand community members participated in a variety of other educational events in Green Building produced by Sustainable Connections; and

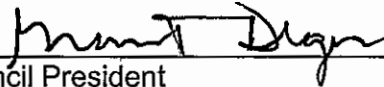
WHEREAS, the Building Industry Association of Whatcom County has adopted the BuiltGreen™ program to establish standards for “green” residential construction; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and City departments support sustainable economic development by encouraging the expansion of the environmental services and products sector, that includes Green Building practices, products, and technologies; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM: Where feasible, the City commits to meet the LEED “Silver” rating for the construction of all new and renovated City buildings over 5,000 square feet where the City provides the majority of funding.

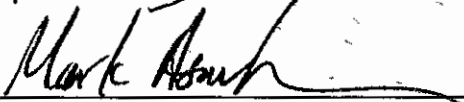
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The City of Bellingham is dedicated to promoting LEED and Green Building construction practices in the private sector and to educating city staff on LEED and Green building strategies, in conjunction with ongoing efforts to promote and implement Low Impact Development (LID).

PASSED by the Council this 9th day of MAY, 2005.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 12th day of May, 2005.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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