



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 9, 2008

Ordinance 16129

Proposed No. 2008-0217.2

Sponsors Constantine, Ferguson, Phillips,
Patterson and Gossett

1 AN ORDINANCE restricting county purchase of bottled
2 water.

3

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

5 1. In 2006 Americans bought a total of thirty-one and two tenths
6 billion liters of water, sold in bottles mostly made of polyethylene
7 terephthalate (PET); it takes nearly nine hundred thousand tons of
8 PET bottles to contain this water. PET bottles are produced from
9 fossil fuels.

10 2. In 2006, it is estimated that producing the bottles for American
11 consumption required the equivalent of more than seventeen
12 million barrels of oil, not including the energy for transportation,
13 requiring three liters of water to produce each single liter of bottled
14 water and producing more than two and one-half million tons of
15 carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

16 3. The potable water throughout King County provides some of
17 the highest quality water in the nation, equal to or exceeding the
18 quality of bottled water.

19 4. While the average price for bottled water is approximately one
20 dollar per pint bottle, or eight dollars per gallon, the average price
21 for Seattle tap water is only one-third of one cent a gallon.

22 5. Bottled water is approximately two thousand four hundred times
23 more expensive than tap water.

24 6. In 1989, the King County council adopted Ordinance 9240,
25 which established the King County recycled product procurement
26 policy. In 2007, on Ordinance 15912, the council adopted an
27 environmental purchasing policy to incorporate environmentally
28 preferable products. The county executive has developed policies
29 and procedures that provide explicit direction and assigns
30 responsibility for implementation to county agencies, departments
31 and offices.

32 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

33 SECTION 1. A. After December 31, 2008, King County funds may no longer be
34 used to purchase single serving bottled water, when potable water is available. To reduce
35 the environmental impacts of bottled water, agencies, departments and offices should
36 eliminate the purchase and use of single-serving bottled water bottles given the high-
37 quality municipal water available.

38 B. The King County executive is directed to adopt policies and procedures for
39 implementing this bottled water restriction in the King County environmental purchasing
40 policy.

41 C. Exceptions may be made to this policy, in cases where there are no reasonable
42 alternatives to access to safe drinking water; when there are hydration requirements for

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43 employees working outside of county facilities; or to comply with state or federal
44 workplace rules or other contractual reasons.

45


Ordinance 16129 was introduced on 4/14/2008 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 6/9/2008, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von
Reichbauer, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Hague

No: 0


Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 17 day of June, 2008.



Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL