



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 3, 2003

Motion 11712

Proposed No. 2003-0170.2

Sponsors Patterson, Phillips, Hague,
McKenna, Irons, Lambert,
Sullivan, Gossett, Pelz, Edmonds
and Constantine

1 A MOTION establishing policy direction for leveraging the
2 energy potential of King County's asset base and waste
3 streams to increase revenues, reduce operating costs and
4 capture untapped energy resources from the county's waste
5 streams in an environmentally conscious manner.

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8 WHEREAS, over the past several years, King County has experienced
9 unprecedented increases in energy costs from suppliers of electricity, natural gas and
10 steam because of issues related to west coast energy supply and demand, market
11 manipulation by wholesale suppliers, utility infrastructure, and energy deregulation, and

12 WHEREAS, King County desires to provide affordable, stable and predictable
13 municipal services to its customers in an environmentally responsible manner, and

14 WHEREAS, it is prudent and desirable for King County to leverage its multiple
15 municipal, agricultural and livestock waste streams to extract greater energy value where

16 it is cost-effective and appropriate to improve air emissions and water quality and
17 mitigate impacts to fish and wildlife, and

18 WHEREAS, King County recognizes the need for greater facility and operational
19 energy efficiency and development of new energy resources, to the extent feasible, to
20 provide a greater level of self-sufficiency and independence from energy market
21 volatility and deficiencies, and

22 WHEREAS, King County recognizes that active management of energy supply
23 and usage is necessary to provide predictable and affordable municipal services, and

24 WHEREAS, extreme volatility and unpredictability in 2000 and 2001 west coast
25 wholesale energy markets drove county electricity purchases to \$28.3 million (sixty-nine
26 percent by the wastewater treatment division), and

27 WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment division experienced a \$10 million budget
28 shortfall in the 2002 wastewater treatment division's operating budget requiring that
29 sewer rates be increased eighteen percent in 2002 for increased energy costs and new
30 financial policies necessary to retain a favorable bond rating which was also adversely
31 impacted by high energy costs, and

32 WHEREAS, wastewater treatment division's proactive management of electricity
33 costs reduced electricity purchases in 2002 to \$9.6 million (a forty-nine percent
34 reduction), and

35 WHEREAS, King County acknowledges that the Pacific Northwest Power
36 Planning Council in drafting its Fifth Regional Power Plan is forecasting total
37 consumption of electricity to grow at an average yearly rate of 1.33 percent through 2025

38 which would require three hundred fifty megawatts of a additional electricity generation
39 each year, and

40 WHEREAS, King County recognizes the intrinsic value of developing energy
41 generation resources from the county's multiple waste streams in the Puget Sound basin
42 and its contribution to the regional power supply, and

43 WHEREAS, King County recognizes that developing digester gas generation at
44 its wastewater treatment facilities can provide an environmentally sound, economic
45 alternative to existing energy purchases and provide a heightened degree of plant
46 reliability and public safety, and

47 WHEREAS, King County desires to gain the greatest energy value from digester
48 methane gas at its existing and planned wastewater treatment facilities by installing
49 electrical generation facilities for onsite consumption of energy output to improve air
50 emissions and mitigate the volatility and unpredictability of energy prices that negatively
51 impact the price of municipal services, and

52 WHEREAS, generating electricity from digester gas at the South and West Point
53 treatment plants can produce approximately fifty-four million "green" kilowatt hours of
54 energy from available methane digester gas, equivalent to the annual electricity
55 requirements of five thousand four hundred households, and

56 WHEREAS, Cedar Hills regional landfill has received approximately twenty-five
57 million tons of municipal solid waste since it opened with projected disposal tonnage of
58 approximately one million tons per year through its permitted lifetime, and

59 WHEREAS; Cedar Hills regional landfill currently collects approximately
60 thirteen million cubic feet per day of landfill gas that is flared to the atmosphere at its
61 north flare station;

62 WHEREAS, King County recognizes the potential energy value of the Cedar
63 Hills landfill gas waste stream in the form of "green" landfill gas converted to "green"
64 electricity to serve the equivalent annual electricity requirements of approximately
65 sixteen thousand King County households in contrast to continued flaring of the methane
66 gas to the atmosphere, and

67 WHEREAS, King County further recognizes that the sale of landfill gas at Cedar
68 Hills will provide the added benefit of generating annual revenue to the county, and

69 WHEREAS, King County recognizes the need to promote the efficient use of all
70 resources through sustainable development, and

71 WHEREAS, King County recognizes that sustainable development strengthens
72 our local economy, improves and protects the quality of the environment and enhances
73 the quality of life and well-being of all of the people of King County.

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

75 A. King County shall promote and expedite projects and operational initiatives at
76 department of natural resources and parks facilities that leverage the energy potential of
77 its asset base and waste streams to increase revenues, reduce operating costs and capture
78 untapped energy resources from the county's waste streams in an environmentally
79 responsible manner.

80 B. King County shall maintain a heightened degree of energy self-sufficiency and
81 independence from the influence of external energy market supply, volatility and
82 unpredictability to insure stable, predictable and affordable municipal services.

83 C. King County shall leverage the energy value of methane gas within existing
84 and future county waste streams to provide a cost-effective sources of either electricity or
85 natural gas, or both, while improving air emissions, water quality and fish and wildlife
86 habitat.

87 D. King County's department of natural resources and parks shall evaluate the
88 county's municipal, agricultural and livestock waste streams for potential opportunities to
89 extract energy value in a manner that either creates new revenue and reduces costs or
90 improves air emissions, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, or both, for the county
91 and its constituents.

92 E. King County shall proactively manage all county energy use, supply, and
93 generation through involvement on a local, regional and national level with regulatory
94 agencies, governments, utilities, trade allies and suppliers.

95 F. King County's department of natural resources and parks shall adopt
96 sustainable design and development as a guiding principle that both demonstrates and
97 produces enduring benefits to the citizens of King County. Project design elements shall
98 incorporate concepts that minimize long-term impacts to the environment. The
99 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Rating System shall be used
100 to rate the performance of King County's buildings and guide project design. The LEED
101 rating system components include: sustainable site design; water efficiency; energy and
102 atmosphere; indoor environmental quality; and materials and resources. The department

103 of natural resources and parks shall seek, at a minimum, a "certified" LEED rating for all
104 capital related facility projects.

105 G. The King County department of natural resources and parks should only
106 pursue capital improvements and operational initiatives intended to implement the
107 policies contained in this motion when it can be demonstrated that the project or
108 operational initiative provides a net benefit to rate payers and/or county residents over the
109 life of the project. Benefits can include increased revenues, reduced operating costs,
110 greater energy self sufficiency, development of renewable resources, reduced discharge
111 of pollutants or other environmental benefits, reduced public health risks, improved
112 public safety, operational efficiencies or utilization of waste materials that the county is
113 required to manage. The executive shall provide the council with written information
114 concerning proposed projects or operational changes to document evaluation of the
115 following:

116 1. How the proposed project or operational initiative implements the energy
117 policies adopted by this motion.

118 2. The lifetime costs and benefits of any capital project designed to implement
119 these policies, including;

120 a. The cost of construction, operation and maintenance of the capital
121 improvement;

122 b. The operating savings to be achieved through the capital improvement; and

123 c. An evaluation of the length of time it would take for the county to recoup its
124 financial investment in the project or operational initiative.

125 3. Other benefits of the capital improvement, such as the environmental benefit,
126 the benefit to public health, improved public safety, the operational efficiencies, the
127 improved utilization of waste materials that the county is required to manage;

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128 development of a renewable resource, protection of the county from unpredictable and
129 volatile market events.

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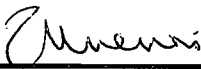
Motion 11712 was introduced on 4/14/2003 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/2/2003, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None