

Resolution No. M-1309

A RESOLUTION by the Olympia City Council on City actions to reduce use of petroleum fuel in order to improve air and water quality, mitigate global warming, reduce dependence on a limited resource, reduce traffic congestion, and reduce the need for pavement, thereby improving the urban environment and making Olympia more sustainable in the future.

WHEREAS, the extraction, processing, transport, storage, and combustion of petroleum have many negative effects upon the environment, ranging from massive spills that destroy entire ecosystems, to leaky storage tanks and spills that pollute local ground and surface water; and

WHEREAS, emission of gases from vehicles is one of the primary causes of global climate change and is the single largest source of air pollution in most urban areas; and

WHEREAS, petroleum is a limited resource, with an estimated world supply that will last only 30 to 50 years at current consumption rates; and

WHEREAS, the Persian Gulf war has demonstrated the high cost of dependence on a politically vulnerable fuel supply; and

WHEREAS, paving large areas for streets and parking lots to accommodate vehicle traffic is reducing the aesthetic quality of life in Olympia; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of vehicles are causing increased traffic congestion, accidents, injuries, and deaths in the Olympia area; and

WHEREAS, the hidden costs of dependence on petroleum fuel include the cost to the City of street construction, repair and maintenance; stormwater runoff control and treatment; and police and fire services; and

WHEREAS, people base their transportation choices on the cost, convenience, time, and dependability of their options; and

WHEREAS, single occupancy vehicles are highly inefficient consumers of petroleum fuel, compared to alternative means of transportation; for example consuming an estimated 100 times the energy and producing 100 times the hazardous emissions per passenger mile than a loaded transit bus; and

WHEREAS, low density urban development is a major reason for dependence on petroleum fuel for single-occupancy vehicles, and higher density development can better support public transport options; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has committed the City to a long-term strategy of mitigating global climate change by reducing emission of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has been selected by the State of Washington to help define and model an urban community that is sustainable, that is meeting the needs of the present generation without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations and living within the limits of the land, water, and air; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has the authority to reduce consumption of petroleum through its own municipal operations, through regulations of private activity, and through education and incentive programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has already begun conserving petroleum fuel; for example, synchronizing traffic signals which has resulted in saving an estimated 260,000 gallons of fuel per year since 1988.

THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

To move towards a sustainable transportation system in which reliance on petroleum fuel is greatly reduced and cars are part of a balanced system, including public transport, cycling and walking, that meets peoples' needs while fostering a healthy environment.

Section 1. In its analysis of the state growth management legislation and overhaul of the zoning ordinance, the City will consider how the community can use anticipated growth as an incentive to develop alternate modes of transportation and plan more compact, energy efficient development patterns in which jobs, homes, and services are consolidated and located near public transport.

Section 2. The City will discourage use of single occupancy vehicles and encourage bus, bicycle, and pedestrian travel and recommend changes aimed at reducing travel distances, discouraging single-occupancy vehicle use and encouraging alternative travel.

Section 3. The City will evaluate alternative-fueled City vehicles, a higher fuel efficiency standard for purchase of petroleum-fueled vehicles, and purchase of low-energy vehicles for use by employees during work hours.

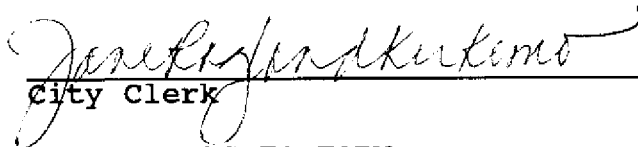
SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, THIS 19TH DAY OF MARCH, 1991.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL



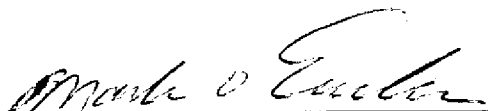
Mary Stuart Lux, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney