



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

2008 PROPOSED BUDGET – ISSUE OVERVIEW

GREEN BUILDING FUND

Background:

The Seattle Climate Action Now campaign encourages everyone in Seattle to reduce global warming pollution at home, on the road and in their neighborhoods. And the City is no exception. The City of Seattle has approximately 11 million square feet of building space and spends approximately \$11 million on energy costs annually (assuming \$1 per square foot). Just a 10 percent savings in consumption could reduce the City's annual energy costs by approximately \$1 million. Energy savings, coupled with reduced carbon dioxide emissions, are the primary benefits of a new \$5 million Green Building Fund Mayor Greg Nickels proposed in his 2008 budget.

Under this proposal, City-owned facilities will be eligible for funds to make cost-effective investments that will reduce energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions. Specific investment projects will be chosen by a committee of senior City officials after review of proposals from departments. This will be a revolving fund which will provide budget savings that can be recaptured and allocated to new projects. This funding could be leveraged in concert with utility rebates and other funding.

Examples of possible projects include replacing the lights and lighting control systems in the Seattle Municipal Tower, installing waste heat recovery for the City's Data Center, replacing the rooftop heat pump at the Southeast Health Center, installing energy-efficient heat pumps in fire stations, replacing outdated boilers at the Charles Street shops and the Loyal Heights Community Center, and upgrading domestic hot water systems at the Queen Anne Pool. Because more modern systems need less maintenance, these projects will also provide labor savings.

Any City department with facilities may apply for money out of this revolving fund. Projects will be selected based on energy savings and other considerations, such as carbon dioxide reduction.

Action Needed:

Share your thoughts about this with the City Council its upcoming public hearing on the proposed budget.

Timing:

The public hearing begins at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10. Testify in person or call or e-mail all Councilmembers. For those testifying in person, please sign-in when you arrive at the meeting and wait for your name to be called to testify.

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