



Legislation Text

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Clerk 06/09/2008

AN ORDINANCE restricting county purchase of bottled water.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. In 2006 Americans bought a total of thirty-one and two tenths billion liters of water, sold in bottles mostly made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET); it takes nearly nine hundred thousand tons of PET bottles to contain this water. PET bottles are produced from fossil fuels.
2. In 2006, it is estimated that producing the bottles for American consumption required the equivalent of more than seventeen million barrels of oil, not including the energy for transportation, requiring three liters of water to produce each single liter of bottled water and producing more than two and one-half million tons of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.
3. The potable water throughout King County provides some of the highest quality water in the nation, equal to or exceeding the quality of bottled water.
4. While the average price for bottled water is approximately one dollar per pint bottle, or eight dollars per gallon, the average price for Seattle tap water is only one-third of one cent a gallon.
5. Bottled water is approximately two thousand four hundred times more expensive than tap water.
6. In 1989, the King County council adopted Ordinance 9240, which established the

King County recycled product procurement policy. In 2007, on Ordinance 15912, the council adopted an environmental purchasing policy to incorporate environmentally preferable products. The county executive has developed policies and procedures that provide explicit direction and assigns responsibility for implementation to county agencies, departments and offices.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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

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

C. Exceptions may be made to this policy, in cases where there are no reasonable alternatives to access to safe drinking water; when there are hydration requirements for employees working outside of county facilities; or to comply with state or federal workplace rules or other contractual reasons.