

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 08-129

Adopting the “Local Government Green Jobs Pledge”

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Multnomah County’s Sustainability Principles adopted in 2004 by Resolution 04-019 found that “Environmental quality, economic health, and social well-being are interconnected and action in one of these areas impacts all other areas,” and resolved to “Promote a sustainable future that meets today’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.”
- b. Two of Multnomah County’s top priority areas include a thriving economy and clean, healthy neighborhoods with a vibrant sense of community. Sustainable economic development that includes green jobs supports both of these priorities.
- c. Green jobs are defined as jobs that contribute significantly to preserving or enhancing environmental quality; provide career pathways and family wage jobs for all workers; and emphasize community-based investments that cannot be outsourced.
- d. Community-based green jobs programs in places like Oakland, Richmond, Boston, Los Angeles, and New York City have prompted state-level commitments in Washington, California, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania and set the stage for the federal Green Jobs Act of 2007.
- e. Green jobs efforts in Oregon are newly underway, including training programs instituted by Verde, Oregon Tradeswomen Inc., and other community-based entities; the Oregon Apollo Alliance; and the Sustainable Oregon Workforce Initiative.
- f. Green jobs should also provide wages that allow a household to be self-sufficient and ultimately sustainable. For example, according to a self sufficiency study from the University of Washington commissioned on behalf of the regional Workforce Investment Board, for a single headed household with one child under the age of five and one child over the age of 5, the self-sufficiency wage in Multnomah County is \$15.32 per hour.
- g. As a provider of social services, Multnomah County is uniquely positioned to help determine how sustainable economic development and green jobs can improve social equity and provide pathways out of poverty for members of our community who are not the typical audience for sustainability programs, including households living below the federal poverty level, households with members who

are formerly involved in the criminal justice system, or households in communities of color.

- h. Multnomah County has had a commitment to sustainability at the local level since 2001. In addition, county support of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects achieve multiple benefits of environmental protection and economic development. These commitments pave the way for the County to support the development of green jobs that simultaneously build a green economy and improve the quality of life for all County's residents.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. To adopt the attached "Local Government Green Jobs Pledge."

ADOPTED this 25th day of September 2008.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
John S. Thomas, Deputy County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:
Mindy Harris, Chief Financial Officer

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GREEN JOBS PLEDGE

BUILDING A GREEN ECONOMY FROM THE BOTTOM UP

The 21st century is our time to build an inclusive green economy in the United States that benefits our neighborhoods, our working families and our planet. Our green future will be invented at the local level and crafted by local leaders, and our actions will provide an example and a challenge to our state and federal governments. We are ready to rebuild American competitiveness and environmental leadership by growing a green economy that fights global warming, pollution and poverty at the same time.

AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS, WE COMMIT TO:

Focus on green-collar jobs as a central strategy for advancing environmental, economic, and climate protection goals. Green-collar jobs:

- ◆ Provide pathways to prosperity for all workers;
- ◆ Offer competitive salaries and lead to a lasting career-track, thereby strengthening the US middle class;
- ◆ Emphasize community-based investments that cannot be outsourced;
- ◆ Contribute directly to preserving or enhancing environmental quality.

Grow an inclusive sustainable economy that creates green-collar jobs that:

- ◆ Strengthen and make further progress on our stated commitment to improving the environment in ways that grow both the green economy and green-collar jobs locally;
- ◆ Build on climate and environmental commitments to create market demand for green products, services, and skilled workers and create more prosperous local economies;
- ◆ Catalyze green-collar job creation and training by supporting policies that drive public and private investment in an inclusive local green economy; and
- ◆ Develop education and job training programs that improve social equity and provide pathways out of poverty for our residents while strengthening our middle class by equipping workers for high demand jobs in the green economy.

Execute tangible actions that place priority on building an inclusive green economy that will:

- ◆ Involve our communities in developing and enacting green-collar jobs initiatives;
- ◆ Drive accountability and resolve to continuously improve and strengthen our efforts to invest in climate solutions that create economic opportunity and build sustainable communities;
- ◆ Provide accessible leadership that is responsive to our communities as we evolve the green economy;
- ◆ Use the purchasing power of our local governments to create markets for renewable energy, energy efficiency and other green industries; and
- ◆ Invest new local government resources in programs and initiatives that build an inclusive green economy, while leveraging and aligning existing public resources, and private sources of capital and finance, toward these same goals.

We commit to join together as a movement of local governments across the United States to seize the economic, environmental and social opportunities offered by building an inclusive green economy of high quality jobs and a thriving green-collar workforce.

Let's do it now—together. There is no time to waste.

SIGNED

Mayor Martin Chávez
Albuquerque, New Mexico

County Executive Ron Sims
King County, Washington

TITLE

DATE

CITY OR COUNTY

