

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL**

NO. AB2007-300

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	PK	070207	<b>RECEIVED</b>  JUL 03 2007  WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	7/10/07	Public Works Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	PK	7-3-07			

**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:** Approval of Resolution declaring Whatcom County's intent to require the recycling of all electronics and mercury-containing products in the community waste stream

**ATTACHMENTS:**

SEPA review required?	( ) Yes	( x ) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing ?	( ) Yes	( x ) NO
SEPA review completed?	( ) Yes	( x ) NO	Requested Date:		

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:** (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

*A Resolution Declaring Whatcom County's Intent to require the recycling of all electronics and mercury containing products in the community waste stream.*

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**  
7/10/2007: Forwarded to Council for approval

**COUNCIL ACTION:**  
7/10/2007: Council Approved 7-0  
Res. 2007-032

<b>Related County Contract #:</b>	<b>Related File Numbers:</b>	<b>Ordinance or Resolution Number:</b> Res. 2007-032
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**Please Note:** Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).

PROPOSED BY: Executive Kremen  
SPONSORED BY: Consent  
INTRODUCED: 7/10/2007

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-032

A RESOLUTION DECLARING WHATCOM COUNTY'S INTENT TO REQUIRE  
THE RECYCLING OF ALL ELECTRONICS AND MERCURY-CONTAINING  
PRODUCTS IN THE COMMUNITY WASTE STREAM.

WHEREAS, Whatcom County government seeks to play a leadership role in the environmental protection of its community; and

WHEREAS, electronic items such as computers, laptops, and television sets can contain lead, mercury, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants, which can pose a health hazard if disposed improperly; and

WHEREAS, electronic waste is a growing portion of our solid waste stream; and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2009, Washington State law will require manufacturers of computers, monitors, laptops, portable computers, and televisions to provide recycling services throughout the state at no cost to households, small businesses, small local governments, charities, and school districts, per RCW 70.95N; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon legislature unanimously passed HB 2626, which will ban the disposal of electronics in the waste stream as of January 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of Whatcom County's solid waste is currently transported to Oregon landfills for disposal; and

WHEREAS, spent fluorescent-tube lighting and compact fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, and the use of compact fluorescents is becoming standard in household applications; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Law prohibits disposal of mercury-containing waste such as fluorescent lighting by commercial customers per WAC 173-303-573, the Universal Waste Rule, while households and other "Small Quantity Handlers" are currently exempted from this rule; and

WHEREAS, sufficient recycling services are available in Whatcom County to meet community electronic-waste and fluorescent lighting recycling needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council intends to enact an ordinance that will require electronic waste and mercury-containing lighting to be recycled rather than discarded, for not only commercial, but residential applications as well.

APPROVED this 10 day of July, 2007.



Dana Brown-Davies, Clerk of the Council


WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
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Carl Weimer, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

(  ) Approved ( ) Denied

  
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Karen A. Fink  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

  
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Pete Kremen, County Executive

Date Signed 7-11-07