JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE
PORT TOWNSEND CITY COUNCIL TO
COMMIT TO ADDRESSING ENERGY USE
AND CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL
WARMING

The Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Washington, and the City Council of Port Townsend, Washington, do jointly resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, numerous scientific organizations have determined that warming of the climate system is unequivocal as evidenced by increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, receding glaciers, decreasing snow pack, and coral bleaching, and by rising global mean sea levels, and further is potentially damaging to our environment and our economy; and

WHEREAS, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, e.g., coal, oil and gas, accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and that the U.S. produces nearly one quarter of all global emissions; and

WHEREAS the governments of Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend can greatly influence the community’s energy usage by exercising power over land use, transportation, building construction, waste management, and energy supply and management; and

WHEREAS governments can provide leadership by motivating and supporting citizens to improve energy use within businesses, port facilities, schools, churches, and homes; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend recognize that the probable adverse effects on our citizens and infrastructure, and on our mountains, glaciers, forests, rivers, oceans, and other waterways from severe weather, rising temperatures, and rising sea levels due to climate change pose a risk to future economic viability; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, saving money and reducing tax burdens for governments, businesses and citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend commit to collaborate in a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, specifically:

• Collaborating with the Climate Protection Campaign volunteers in conducting a comprehensive baseline inventory of local energy uses that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, especially CO2, and making estimates of current emissions and forecasts of future emissions if current practices do not change,

• Appointing a joint City/County citizen’s committee tasked with developing a Local Climate Action Plan. Specifically, the committee should provide recommendations for achieving a community-
wide standard of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to levels 80 percent lower than 1990 levels by 2050, with preliminary reduction targets to be set for earlier years,
• Implementing policies and measures to meet the emission reduction targets, and
• Monitoring and verifying results

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners and the City of Port Townsend.

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS 29th DAY OF MAY, 2007.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phil Johnson, Chairman

David Sullivan, Member

John Austin, Member

ATTEST

Julie Matthes, Deputy Clerk of the Board


CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND

Mark Welch, Mayor

ATTEST

Pamela Kolacy, City Clerk