



City of Seattle  
Office of the Mayor

**Executive Order: 2013-02**

**Seattle Public Utilities' Carbon Neutral Implementation Strategy**

*An Executive Order directing Seattle Public Utilities to develop and implement a "carbon neutral" strategy to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2015.*

**WHEREAS**, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is responsible for delivering high quality, reliable water, sewer, drainage and solid waste services;

**WHEREAS**, climate change poses potential risks to SPU' water, drainage and sewer systems through increases in temperature, changes in precipitation patterns and intensity, sea level rise and other factors;

**WHEREAS**, SPU has been a national leader within the utility sectors in assessing and adapting to the projected impacts of climate change, which is an essential component of a comprehensive strategy to manage the risks of climate change;

**WHEREAS**, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a fundamental part of a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change;

**WHEREAS**, RCW 35.92.43 authorizes a city operating utilities for power, sewer, storm water drainage, or solid waste to generate a plan for reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or achieve "no-net emissions" from all the utility's sources of GHGs and to mitigate the environmental impacts of its operation, including specifically GHG emissions, by purchasing, trading, and banking of GHG offsets or credits;

**WHEREAS**, SPU emits greenhouse gases as part of its operations in providing high quality utility services;

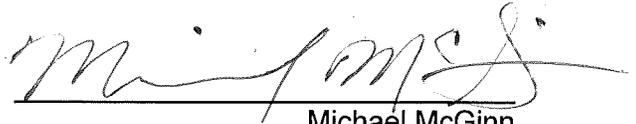
**WHEREAS**, SPU's 2009 greenhouse gas inventory has been verified through The Climate Registry by a certified third party verifier and SPU plans to verify its greenhouse gas inventories on an annual basis starting with the 2013 inventory;

**WHEREAS**, Seattle City Light has been "carbon neutral" since 2005, which means it has zero net greenhouse gas emissions on annual basis through a combination of energy conservation, use of renewable energy and the purchase of certified carbon offsets;

**WHEREAS**, SPU can build on the success of Seattle City Light and complement its leadership on climate adaptation by adopting and implementing a strategy to be carbon neutral;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I MICHAEL MCGINN**, Seattle Mayor do hereby direct Seattle Public Utilities to develop and implement a strategy to be carbon neutral relative to its Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions. SPU shall also explore the viability of including Scope 3 emissions, such as air travel, as part of its carbon neutral strategy. In developing the strategy, SPU shall develop a portfolio of approaches for achieving carbon neutrality, including but not limited to measures that reduce SPU's energy use, the purchase and/or development of renewable energy and the purchase of carbon offsets. Seattle Public Utilities shall develop its carbon neutral strategy by the 1st quarter of 2014 and implement the strategy by 2015.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael McGinn', written over a horizontal line.

Michael McGinn  
Mayor, City of Seattle