

**2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Approved**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
26	1	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** OED-Environmental Services for Businesses

**Councilmembers:** Bagshaw; Conlin; Rasmussen

**Staff Analyst:** Phyllis Shulman

**Budget Committee Vote:**

Date	Result	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
11/10/2010	Pass 8- 1-Absent	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

**Background:**

The Office of Economic Development (OED) manages a business services program to support Seattle’s business community. The program helps businesses navigate permitting and regulatory issues, access financing, and provides other technical resources. The goal is to support the start-up of new businesses and the growth of existing ones. City departments also offer a suite of environmental services to help businesses become more environmentally sustainable. One of these services is the Seattle Climate Partnership Business Program, which has recently moved to OED from the Office of Sustainability and Environment. This program works with businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their competitiveness through the implementation of more energy efficient techniques and procedures. From a business owner’s perspective, it can be challenging to navigate the array of environmental services that the city offers and evaluate what may be appropriate for their business.

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The Council requests that the Office of Economic Development coordinate, integrate, and improve access to the array of City environmental sustainability services and the Seattle Climate Partnership Program components as part of OED’s business expansion and retention program. This will involve working with other departments to identify and coordinate environmental services and to unify outreach and services to businesses. OED is requested to develop an outreach strategy that communicates this coordinated service to businesses. OED is also requested to identify systemic and/or reoccurring issues, process improvements, policy modifications, and ideas for new services and make recommendations to the Citywide Business Advocacy Team. OED is requested to report back in writing to committee on the results of its efforts by December 1, 2011.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Regional Development & Sustainability

**Date Due to Council:** December 1, 2011