



Seattle City Council

Central Staff - Memorandum

Date: May 25, 2016
To: Members of the Planning, Land Use & Zoning Committee
From: Aly Pennucci, Council Central Staff
Subject: Council Bill (CB) 118672– Living Building Pilot Program Extension

Council Bill 118672 would extend the enrollment period for the Living Building Pilot Program (Program) through June 30, 2017. If Council chooses not to take action, the Program's enrollment period will expire on June 30, 2016.

Background

The Living Building Pilot Program (Program) was adopted in December 2009, amended in 2012, and amended again in 2014. The Program provides Land Use Code flexibility to facilitate the development of buildings that would either meet the Living Building Challenge or alternative minimum standards. On June 6, 2013, the City Council passed Resolution 31400, directing the Department of Planning and Development (now the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections), to:

- 1) Establish a technical advisory group (TAG) to advise the City on sustainable building practices by August 30, 2013 (TAG met from ~10/2013 – 12/2014);
- 2) Develop recommendations to revise the Living Building Program by December 31, 2013 (amendments were adopted in July 2014, Ordinance 124535); and
- 3) Develop recommendations to revise the Program by December 31, 2014.

Following the amendments made in 2014, the Program was set to expire on December 31, 2015. In December 2015, Council extended the program through June 30, 2016, to give SDCI time to finalize legislation that would amend the Program.

As of May 2016, that proposal has not been delivered to the Council for consideration; this legislation would extend the Program by an additional year to continue the existing program in the interim period. Council expects that a proposal to make more substantive changes will be submitted to the Council for consideration before the end of 2016.