

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE 126437
COUNCIL BILL 120160

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; adding a new section to Chapter 21.49 of the Seattle Municipal Code to establish the Renewable Plus Program; authorizing the City Light Department to implement and execute customer participation agreements; amending Seattle Municipal Code subsection 21.49.130.B to authorize the City Light Department to execute, implement, and administer contracts for the acquisition of eligible renewable energy resources, together with any necessary or convenient transmission, integration, or ancillary services related to such renewable energy.

WHEREAS, an increasing number of large, non-residential customers seek to address climate change by working with the City Light Department (“City Light”) to increase the supply of renewable energy in the Pacific Northwest region serving their operations in City Light’s service territory; and

WHEREAS, a majority of City Light’s hydroelectric energy supply, although carbon-neutral, does not qualify as renewable energy under current regulations and therefore City Light does not produce renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) associated with such energy, a non-power attribute valued by large non-residential customers with renewable energy goals; and

WHEREAS, City Light’s large non-residential customers have expressed specific interest in renewable energy programs beyond those authorized under the Seattle Municipal Code (Section 21.49.082, Net metering program; Section 21.49.083, Large Solar Program; and Section 21.49.084, Voluntary Green Power Programs) in order to meet their renewable energy goals; and

1 WHEREAS, City Light seeks to establish the Renewable Plus Program to meet the desires of its
2 large non-residential customers who seek to increase the supply of renewable energy on
3 the electric grid; and

4 WHEREAS, City Light seeks to offer the Renewable Plus Program in a manner that will have no
5 material financial impact on customers who do not participate in the Renewable Plus
6 Program; and

7 WHEREAS, to increase the supply of renewable energy and integrate it into the energy mix as
8 desired by City Light customers, City Light seeks to enter into one or more long-term
9 power purchase agreements with one or more developers for the acquisition of new
10 renewable energy, together with all associated environmental attributes, to City Light for
11 the Renewable Plus Program; and

12 WHEREAS, to minimize the financial impact of Renewable Plus Program to non-participants,
13 City Light will seek to enter into long-term agreements with large non-residential
14 customers; and

15 WHEREAS, in order to further minimize the financial impact of the Renewable Plus Program to
16 non-participants, City Light must secure long-term agreements from customers to
17 determine the amount of renewable energy for the Renewable Plus Program prior to
18 committing to the acquisition of any renewable resource for the Renewable Plus
19 Program; and

20 WHEREAS, City Light expects to benefit from diversifying its energy supply portfolio to
21 include additional wind and solar resources to improve grid resiliency and take advantage
22 of market opportunities in the Western Energy Imbalance Market; NOW, THEREFORE,

1 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

2 Section 1. To endeavor to meet certain renewable energy goals of the City Light
3 Department’s (“Department”) large non-residential customers, the Department is authorized to
4 establish the Renewable Plus Program to make renewable energy, together with associated
5 renewable energy certificates (“RECs”), available to customers on a long-term subscription
6 basis.

7 Section 2. Under the Renewable Plus Program, City Light is authorized to implement and
8 enter into contracts with qualifying customers to purchase renewable energy, together with
9 associated RECs, for a period not exceeding 20 years.

10 Section 3. A new Section 21.49.089 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

11 **21.49.089 Renewable Plus Program**

12 A. The Department shall implement and offer a Renewable Plus Program that enables
13 qualifying customers to purchase energy from renewable resources, together with associated
14 RECs, on a long-term subscription basis. The Renewable Plus Program shall be open to
15 customers demonstrating a minimum aggregated annual consumption of 10,000 megawatt hours
16 (MWhs). The Department may implement additional rules and conditions associated with the
17 Renewable Plus Program that are in the best interests of the Department and are necessary or
18 convenient for the implementation and operation of the Renewable Plus Program.

19 B. The Department may execute long-term customer commitment contracts with
20 qualifying customers to purchase energy and RECs associated with renewable resources for a
21 period not exceeding 20 years.

22 C. The Department shall purchase all energy acquired for the Renewable Plus Program
23 and will integrate it into its existing supply portfolio as business conditions allow.

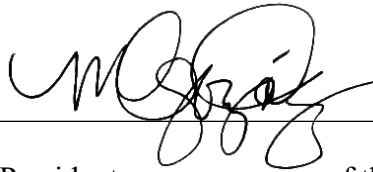
1 district, governmental agency, municipal corporation, mutual association, broker, or agent, or
2 with any person, firm, or corporation, or any other member of the general public, outside its
3 service area, for an effective term of not more than 60 months from the month following the date
4 on which the contract is first signed (“prompt month”), providing for the acquisition, exchange,
5 or sale of capacity or energy, or integration, transmission, or ancillary services, or eligible
6 renewable resources, which shall have the same meaning as defined by RCW 19.285.030, on
7 terms most favorable to the Department under such circumstances and in compliance with state
8 law, including RCW 43.09.210. Such acquisition, sale, or exchange shall be made on a basis
9 representing the value of such capacity or energy, or integration, transmission, or ancillary
10 services, under then-existing market conditions, and may include provisions that require
11 indemnification by the Department.

12 3. The Department may execute agreements with the Bonneville Power
13 Administration providing for reimbursements from Bonneville of some or all of the costs of
14 operating energy conservation programs authorized by the City Council. The Department shall
15 determine that such agreements or amendments to such agreements shall not incur any
16 indebtedness or the acceptance of moneys imposing any duties or obligations on the City that are
17 inconsistent with the Department’s budget appropriation for such energy conservation programs.
18 The Department shall provide a written notification prior to the execution of such contracts and a
19 copy of such contracts to the appropriate authorizing committee of the City Council.

20 4. The Department may execute contracts for the purchase or sale of
21 environmental attributes, including but not limited to ((~~renewable~~)) renewable energy credits (RECs),
22 ((~~green house~~)) greenhouse gas offsets, and carbon credits to meet policy and regulatory
23 requirements in a cost-effective and timely manner. The Department may enter into such

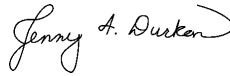
1 Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 20th day of September, 2021,
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 20th day of
6 September, 2021.

7 

8 President _____ of the City Council

9 Approved returned unsigned / vetoed this 27th day of September, 2021.

10 

11 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 27th day of September, 2021.

13 

14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)