

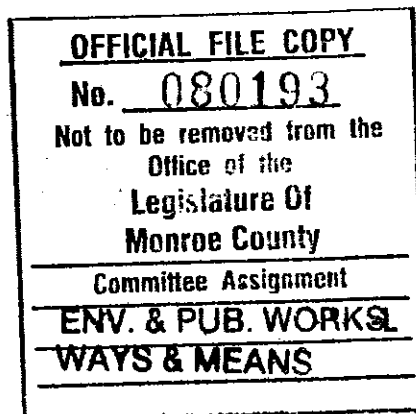


# Monroe County Legislature

**C. STEPHEN ECKEL**

LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 26

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June 9, 2008

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

## **Re: Establish a Green Sustainable Work Environment in Monroe County**

Honorable Legislators:

County Government sets an example to the community in a variety of fashions. By demonstrating leadership in alternative energy initiatives, and encouraging conservation and recycling, Monroe County has emerged as a "green-minded" public entity.

In October 2006 the County partnered with Rochester Midland Corporation, headquartered in Rochester since 1888, to purchase green janitorial cleaning products, saving Monroe County about \$20,000 a year and reducing the use of cleaning bottles from 13,000 to 630.

In her 2008 State of the County address, the County Executive talked of a sustainable future and a number of initiatives in environmental stewardship, showcasing Monroe County's new leadership role in promoting a "green agenda" for our community. Monroe County not only sets an example to the community through internal practices and management, but government is one of our area's significant energy consumers. In New York State, government consumes 15 percent of commercial electricity produced.

By setting sustainable standards for ourselves, we can help manufacturers of these "green" products and services expand their markets into our region. Establishing a green sustainable work environment is a "triple win" for Monroe County, resulting in economic development, taxpayer savings and environmental protection.

Therefore, in keeping with Monroe County's *Green Agenda*, we recommend that this Honorable Body adopt a resolution setting a further extensive green procurement policy to take effect January 1, 2009. Such procurement standards shall encourage, but not be limited to, the purchase of the following green products:



- 100% post-consumer recycled copying paper and assorted paper products
- LED light bulbs/fixtures
- Products sold in recyclable plastic containers PET, polyethylene terephthalate (#1) and HDPE, high density polyethylene (#2) plastics
- Replace old or broken machines with only Energy Star approved appliances
- Low-flow toilets and water efficient fixtures
- Low VOC paint and carpeting
- Restrictions on the purchase of styrofoam packaging, storage materials, and other non-biodegradable materials

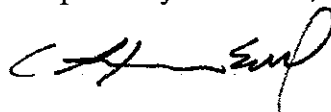
In addition, we hereby request the Administration to create and implement a sustainable management practices policy. This policy shall include administrative and employee training, guidelines and protocols to empower County employees to make efficient planning and sound decisions with available resources and energy consumed. Such a policy would include information on simple tasks such as turning off electronic devices and lighting fixtures at the end of the work day, boosting recycling efforts, and utilizing electronic document storage to help minimize the environmental and health impacts made as an organization.

This proposal is not meant to be seen as another layer of 'red-tape' on the operations of County government, but an empowering set of "green" guidelines to help Monroe County's achieve greater sustainability and lower energy costs.

This proposed local law will have no impact on the revenues and/or expenditures of the 2008 Monroe County Budget. Any future costs and savings resulting from the implementation of this resolution shall be incorporated into future budgets.

According to calculations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, if half the number of full-time equivalents listed in the 2008 Adopted Monroe County Budget began the practice of turning off a computer at night, the County would realize an estimated savings of \$195,180 (*These savings were based on units running 9 hours versus 24 hours*). If recycling efforts were increased with in County facilities, the revenues from the sale of those recovered materials would vary from \$47.25 a ton for corrugated cardboard, \$64.12 for sorted office paper, and \$38.70 for a ton of old newsprint (*According to the Global Recycling Network*). Clearly, the estimated cost savings and potential revenues from following this resolution would cover any administrative or personnel costs associated with the establishment of a sustainable work environment for County employees.

Respectfully submitted,



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Legislator – District 26

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