BIN-BUMP-UP

City of Bellingham Planning Department Incentive

Bin-Bump-Up (BBU) is a permitting incentive that the City of Bellingham provides to encourage implementation of green building techniques. For qualifying projects, building permits are reviewed and approved within an expedited time-frame.

BENEFITS

Applicants that participate in Bin-Bump-Up benefit from:

- Reduced wait times for permit review and approval
- FREE Green Project Review Team integrated design meeting
- Implementation of green building techniques that will conserve electricity and water, improve indoor air quality, minimize site disturbance and reduce construction waste
- Project exposure through local green building programs

In 2010 the City of Bellingham offered the BBU as a pilot project in response to a 2009 customer survey conducted in collaboration with Sustainable Connections. The survey asked citizens who have done business with the City which incentives the City should analyze and offer in the following years. "Quicker permit review time-lines" was indicated as an incentive worth pursuing.

The City has four project review 'bins' under which building permits are reviewed and each of these have their own calendar day review time-lines. For example, single family homes typically fall into the "Standard" bin which requires the City to perform their review within 28 days. Under the BBU program, qualifying projects such as a single family home would be 'bumped up' into the "Quick Review" bin which has a 7 day timeline. During 2010 the City reviewed 11 building permits under the BBU program. Eight of those projects had permits ready to issue within the 7 day timeline.

The City is offering the BBU program again during 2011, running from March 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

In addition the City has assembled a "Green Project Review Team" dedicated to the review of qualifying projects. This team is available for a FREE 1-hour Integrated Design meeting. These meetings provide an opportunity for a proponent to present their concepts and designs to the Review Team. The Review Team will then identify requirements and potential code barriers for the proponent to consider while finalizing their design. This can significantly streamline a project submittal to the City's Permit Center.

SCOPE

Limited to building permits only.

THRESHOLDS

To receive BBU status, projects must be designed to achieve these minimums:

(1) BIA BuiltGreen 4- or 5-star

(2) LEED certified Silver, Gold or Platinum

or

(3) an alternative green standard as determined by either the Building Official or Planning Director

In addition, projects must include a construction waste management plan for deconstruction and demolition.

PERMIT INFORMATION

Contact COB Permit Center for more information: (360) 778-8300 or permits@cob.org.

www.cob.org/permits

Sustainable Connections

BIN-BUMP-UP

City of Bellingham Planning Department Incentive (cont'd)

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met prior to building permit submittal:

- Land use permits must be approved (SEPA, Critical Areas, Design Review, etc.)
- The project must be enrolled with the BIAWC BuiltGreen program or with USGBC for LEED or an alternative green standard as determined by the either the Building Official or Planning Director
- A copy of the enrollment/registration and either the BuiltGreen or USGBC checklist must be submitted with the building permit application
- An Integrated Design Meeting with the Green Project Review Team must be held
- A copy of third party verification must be submitted to the City's point of contact demonstrating that the project achieved the intended threshold

This program aligns with three City Council adopted legacies: Clean and Safe Drinking Water, A Healthy Environment and A Vibrant and Sustainable Economy.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

BIAWC BuiltGreen Program – *www.builtgreenwhatcom.org*
US Green Building Council – *www.usgbc.org*
City of Bellingham Green Building – *www.cob.org/services/environment/lid/green-building*

KEY CONTACTS

Steven Sundin
Planner - City of Bellingham
(360) 778-8359
ssundin@cob.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Advanced Methods and Materials (AMM)
Streamlined policy for AMM's include a series of building techniques approved by the City of Bellingham. For a full list of AMM's, please visit:
www.cob.org/services/environment/lid/green-building

Green Building Incentives
There are a number of economic benefits to green building and sustainable development strategies. They include reduced operating costs, increased return on investment, increased productivity and human health, enhanced image and marketability, meeting regulatory requirements, and reduced liability. City of Bellingham encourages the use of sustainable development techniques by all residential and commercial builders.
www.cob.org/services/environment/green-building-incentives.aspx

Whatcom County Construction Recycling Toolkit
An excellent resource for reducing waste on the jobsite. This tool includes valuable information on best waste management practices, local resources for recycling and useful tips that can help you earn those valuable LEED points.

www.sustainableconnections.org/greenbuilding/resources/sc_gbsd09_toolkit_v7.pdf

For more information please contact the City of Bellingham Building Development:(360) 778-8300 or planning@cob.org

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