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COUNTY OF ERIE
LOCAL LAW INTRO NO. 5- 2007
LOCAL LAW NO. 6- 2007

A **LOCAL LAW** entitled **The Green Buildings Act** which adopts LEED standards for the construction or renovation of buildings owned by Erie County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF ERIE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Findings and Purpose

FINDINGS—The Erie County Legislature finds that:

1. Energy costs for public buildings are skyrocketing and will likely continue to increase.
2. Energy use by public buildings contributes substantially to the problems of pollution and global climate change.
3. Public buildings can be built and renovated using high-performance methods that save energy costs, preserve the environment, and make workers and students safer and more productive.

(B) PURPOSE—This law is enacted to more efficiently spend public funds and protect the health and welfare of Erie County residents.

SECTION 2. Definitions

DEFINITIONS—In this section:

1. “LEED silver standard” means the United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating standard referred to as silver standard.
2. “Major facility project” means:
 - a. A building construction project larger than 2,500 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space; or
 - b. A building renovation project when the cost is greater than 50 percent of the assessed value and the project is larger than 2,500 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space.

3. "Erie County" means every County office, board, commission, committee, bureau, department or public institution of higher education.

SECTION 3.

GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

All major facility projects of Erie County shall be designed, constructed and certified to at least the LEED silver standard. This provision applies to major facility projects that have not entered the design phase prior to _____, 2007

SECTION 4. If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence of this local law is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, that portion shall be deemed a separate distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion hereof.

SECTION 5. This local law shall take effect immediately in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

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