



Washington, DC – On Wednesday Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) joined House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Members of Congress in introducing the next steps in the Green the Capitol Initiative. The Green the Capitol Initiative was established in 2007 to provide an environmentally responsible workplace for employees by reducing the Capitol's carbon footprint and making operations more energy efficient. Rep. Blumenauer has played a direct role in assisting with the start-up and implementation of this program.

As part of these next steps, Members of Congress will be encouraged to take 15 simple steps to green their offices. The House Chief Administrative Officer will soon launch a website, "How to Green My Office" which will feature Blumenauer's office as an example of these greener initiatives in practice. Of the fifteen steps detailed, Blumenauer's office has successfully implemented thirteen and is close to successfully implementing the remaining two.

"By taking a few key steps, members of Congress can lead by example in moving our nation to a cleaner, greener world," said Blumenauer. "From recycling to composting to providing locally grown, sustainable options in our cafeterias the Green the Capitol Initiative has already made a difference – reducing the Capitol's carbon emissions by 72 percent and making our operations more energy efficient. Our office has been working toward building a greener workplace and I am honored to celebrate the 39th Annual Earth Day by having my office serve as an example of how other offices can go green. I encourage all Members to make this commitment to doing their part in providing a more sustainable future for our planet and for generations of Americans to come."

The 15 CORE greening actions steps Member offices are being asked to take include:

- 1) Light Switches -always turning off excess lights
- 2) Computer Power Management Settings: following ENERGY STAR recommended settings

- 3) Double-Sided Printing - setting this as the default
- 4) Recycle Paper - having a paper recycling bin at every desk
- 5) Composting - making sure your office has a bin and staff know what goes in it
- 6) Occupancy Sensors - installed where appropriate
- 7) Smart Power Strips - installed at all computer work stations
- 8) CFL Bulbs - all incandescent bulbs replaced with CFLs
- 9) EPEAT Computer Equipment - standard considered when buying new equipment
- 10) ENERGY STAR Printers and Copiers - standard considered when buying new equipment
- 11) Recycle Bottles, Cans, and Other Plastics - all recycled in office-supplied bin, including plastic
water cooler cups
- 12) Designate a Green Office Representative - to be responsible for maintaining the My Green
Office website data and encouraging other staff
- 13) Cancel Excess Publication Subscriptions - read newspapers and other House publications
online
- 14) Recycled-Content Paper - only purchase 100% post-consumer recycled content copy paper in
the Supply Store
- 15) Transportation Benefits - encourage staff to take public transportation

For photos from Wednesday's event please visit www.blumenauer.house.gov or e-mail Sahar.Wali@mail.house.gov.

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