Briefing on the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)

Tukwila City Council

Monday May 20, 2019

Megan Smith, Director Climate and Energy Initiatives,
King County Executive Office
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King County Executive Office

Current K4C Partners

SEAL OF TUKWILA WASHINGTON 1908

KENMORE BY THE LAKE

King County

CITY OF BELLEVUE WASHINGTON

CITY OF NORMANDY PARK WASHINGTON

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

CityofRedmond WASHINGTON

CITY OF ISSAQUAH WASHINGTON

CITY OF KIRKLAND WASHINGTON

KENT WASHINGTON

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

BURIEN

CITY OF SHORELINE

Port of Seattle

CITY OF RENTON

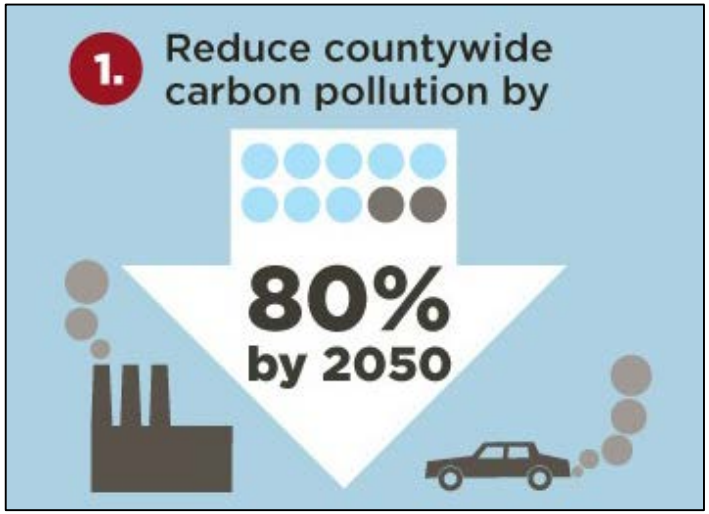
CITY OF SNOQUALMIE

City of Seattle

City of Sammamish Washington

K4C Governance

- Formal but voluntary collaboration to reduce carbon emissions
- Our work is guided by the Joint County-City Climate Commitments
  - Partners agree to work on shared climate goals that also support a resilient regional economy.
  - Partners support the shared vision, but may not pursue each action. Partners will pursue strategies that are impactful and appropriate for their jurisdiction.



- Commitments cover transportation and land use, energy supply, green building and efficiency, forests, and government operations topic areas.

K4C Highlights: Benefits of Regional Collaboration

- **Collaborate** on goals & measuring progress
- **Share experiences** and learn from each others' success and challenges
- **Pursue grants**, funding & resources
- **Coordinate** outreach and messaging
- **Raise the profile** of climate work
- **Share** staff training & expertise
- Engage **elected officials** and other leadership
- Speak with a collective voice for **greater impact**

K4C Elected Official Summits 2x per year

K4C Partner Staff in 2016

Why act on climate?

Climate change impacts our health, economy and environment.

Climate change: Why does City action matter?

- High impact: King County cities under 100,000 residents are 44% of total population
- 98% of new growth in King County is happening in urban areas.
- Local governments have impact and influence on climate policies:
  - Land use and transportation planning;
  - Building codes;
  - Purchasing;
  - Renewable energy production;
  - Weighing in on federal and state policies for electricity supply, clean vehicles and fuels, and energy efficiency.
- Growing constituent interest in climate issues.
- Climate action can save money and resources.

K4C Highlights: Recent Progress (2017-2019)

Technical Analysis

- Clean Electricity Pathways Study
- Countywide Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Scope 5 Measurements

Capacity Building & Funding

- Fleet Managers Workgroup
- Cities-Fund to Reduce Energy Demand: development of new loan program for cities
- GreenTools and Regional Code Collaboration High Performance Green Building Implementation Tools

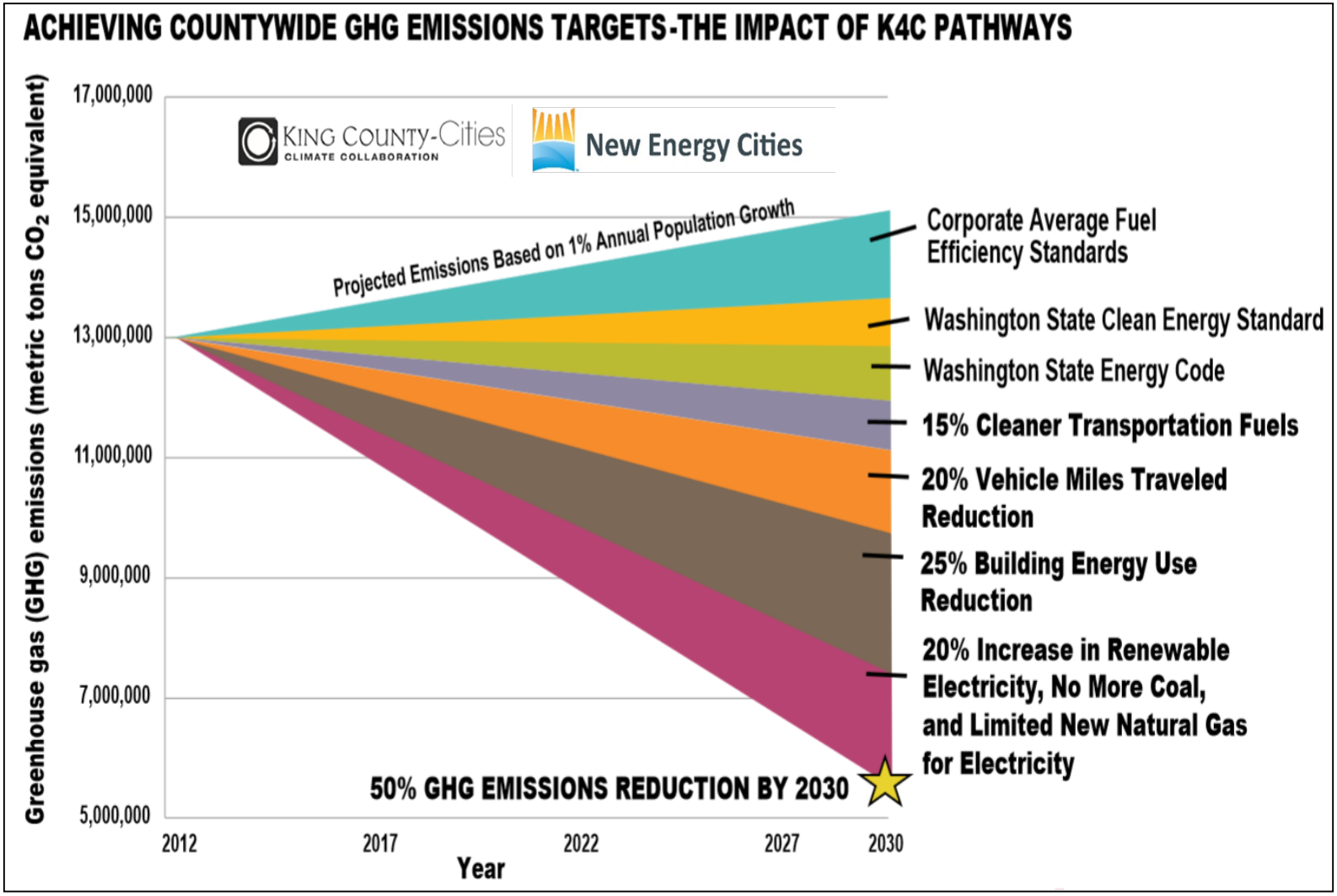
Communications

- Sustainable City Roundtables
- Scope 5 dashboards
- Customizable Infographic
- Case studies

Elected Official Action

- Green Direct development and enrollment
- Joint comments and testimony on energy and climate policies
  - State legislative session
  - Utility regulatory proceedings
  - Federal climate policy

K4C Foundations: Wedge Analysis



K4C Outreach Committee

Continue to support focused work of the Elected Outreach Committee for state level engagement and recruitment.

- Develop and use **2019 K4C Legislative Interests.**
- K4C Elected Officials have **testified at 8 legislative hearings** in the 2019 session supporting clean energy, building and appliance efficiency, and clean fuels bills that align with K4C shared interests.
- Outreach Committee members are following **utility regulatory proceedings.**
- **Recruit new partners** to join the K4C.
- **Share the importance of climate action:**


Menu

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY RECORD

News Sports Life Business Opinion Calendar Letters to the Editor

OPINION: State action essential for clean energy future

A shared guest opinion from March 8, 2019.

2019 K4C Work Plan

- Budget supports programs and work plan.
- Focus areas for 2019, based on elected official priorities identified at Oct. 2018 Summit:
  - Measure and manage GHG emissions with common reporting platform
  - Reduce government operations' energy use with support for building energy efficiency retrofits (partner with utilities for facility walkthroughs, ID lighting retrofits, leverage utility incentives, King County loan program)
  - Engage and inform residents and City council about key priority actions ways to get involved
  - Reduce community scale building emissions by mapping path to net zero commercial buildings
  - Improve tree canopy by sharing policy, studies and best practices
  - Shared approaches for integrating climate change considerations into city Comprehensive Plans and/or sustainability plans

Upcoming Opportunities

- K4C Elected Official Summits
  - June 10th, 1:30 – 4:00 pm, King Street Center, Seattle
  - October 7th, 1:30 – 4:00 pm, location TBD
- K4C Outreach Committee
  - Weekly conference call
- Engagement Opportunities related to the 2020 Update of King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan
  - Topic – based convenings: green building, mobility, forest health, energy supplies
  - Public meetings to be held later in Fall 2019 covering broad range of topics
  - Results of technical studies and discussion of updated joint commitments on agenda of June 10 Summit

King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) Update

- 2020 SCAP will have 3 sections:
  - ✓ Section 1: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - ✓ Section 2 (**new**): Sustainable and Resilient Communities
  - ✓ Section 3: Preparing for Climate Change Impacts
- Work to continue through out 2019 and early 2020
- Review city and county best practices
- Update community-scale emissions inventory with consultant support
- Update “Wedge” analysis in coordination with K4C partners
- Update K4C Priority Action Commitments

City of Tukwila K4C Briefing

Thank you!

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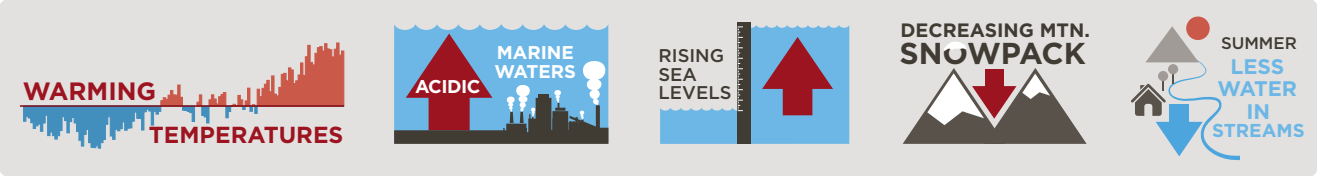
KING COUNTY-Cities
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

Joint Letter of Commitment: Climate Change Actions in King County

Climate change is a paramount challenge of this generation and has far-reaching and fundamental consequences for our economy, environment, public health, and safety.

Across King County and its cities, we are already experiencing the impacts of climate change: warming temperatures, acidifying marine waters, rising seas, decreasing mountain snowpack, and less water in streams during the summer.



These changes have the potential for significant impacts to public and private property, resource based economies like agriculture and forestry, and to residents' health and quality of life.

The decisions we make locally and regionally, such as where our communities will grow and how they will be served by transportation, will set the stage for success or failure in reducing carbon pollution, making sound long-term investments, and ensuring our communities are livable and resilient to climate change impacts.

Current science indicates that to avoid the worst impacts of global warming we need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions sharply. The King County Growth Management Planning Council – a formal body of elected officials from across King County - voted unanimously on July 23, 2014 to adopt a shared target to reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050.

Based on our shared assessment of emissions in King County, and review of potential strategies to reduce emissions, we believe that these targets are ambitious but achievable.

Building on the work of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) - a partnership between the County and cities to coordinate and enhance local government climate and sustainability efforts – more than a dozen cities and the County came together in the first half of 2014 to chart opportunities for joint actions to reduce GHG emissions and accelerate progress towards a clean and sustainable future.

The attached ***Principles for Collaboration*** and ***Joint County-City Climate Commitments*** are focused on practical, near-term, collaborative opportunities between cities and King County. These shared commitments build on the significant work that many of our cities and County are already taking. By signing this letter, we pledge our support for the shared vision that these principles and actions represent. Our cities commit to actively pursue those strategies and catalytic actions where our jurisdictions can make the most impact given our size, location, and development patterns.

Through focused, coordinated action, we will maximize the impact of our individual and shared efforts.

KING COUNTY-Cities
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

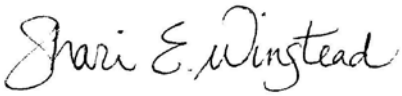
Elected Officials of King County and King County Cities

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

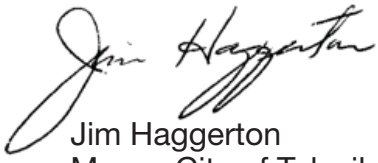
Larry Phillips
King County Council Chair

Bruce Bassett
Mayor, City of Mercer Island

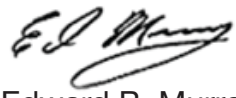
Matthew Larson
Mayor, City of Snoqualmie



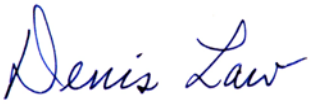
Shari E. Winstead
Mayor, City of Shoreline



Jim Haggerton
Mayor, City of Tukwila

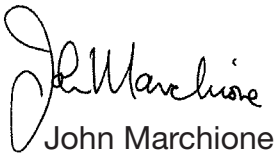


Edward B. Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle



Denis Law
Mayor, City of Renton

Amy Walen
Mayor, City of Kirkland



John Marchione
Mayor, City of Redmond

Fred Butler
Mayor, City of Issaquah

Claudia Balducci,
Mayor, City of Bellevue

Tom Vance
Mayor, City of Sammamish

Lucy Krakowiak
Mayor, City of Burien

KING COUNTY-Cities
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

Principles for Collaboration

1. Climate change is the paramount challenge of our generation, and has fundamental and far-reaching consequences for our economy, environment, and public health and safety.
2. Strong action to reduce GHG emissions is needed, and the time is now.
3. Local governments can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through many decisions related to transportation and land use, energy and green building, forests and farms, and consumption and materials management.
4. Many cities in King County have set individual climate goals and are taking steps to reduce local GHG emissions, and we need to build on this leadership.
5. Local solutions need to be implemented in ways that build a cleaner, stronger and more resilient regional economy.
6. Progress will require deeper engagement with communities of color and low income, immigrant, and youth populations. These communities can be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change–from increasing flood risks to rising costs of fossil fuels – and historically less likely to be included in community-scale solutions or as leaders. We are committed to work in ways that are fair, equitable, empowering, and inclusive and that also ensure that low income residents do not bear unfair costs of solutions.
7. Federal and state policies and laws can help us achieve our goals, but countywide and local policy, programs and partnerships are needed to fill the existing gap to achieve local GHG targets.
8. Progress will require deep partnerships between the County, cities, utilities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other public sector agencies.
9. King County and nine cities have formed the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), and we will work to build on this initial pledge, both in increased action and increased participation from additional cities.
10. We can accomplish more with a shared vision and coordinated action; collaboration will increase the efficiency of our efforts and magnify the impact of our strategies beyond what each of us could achieve on our own.
11. Our cities support the shared vision that the Joint County-City Climate Commitments represent, but it is not the intention that each city will pursue every catalytic action. Cities and King County will actively pursue strategies where they have the most impact and influence.
12. We will reconvene at least annually to share progress. We also dedicate a staff point person from our cities and from the County to help coordinate implementation of the following Joint County-City Climate Commitments, and to serve as a point person to the K4C.

Joint County-City Climate Commitments ●○○○

I. Shared Goals

Pathway: Adopt science-based countywide GHG reduction targets that help ensure the region is doing its part to confront climate change.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Collaborate through the Growth Management Planning Council, Sound Cities Association, and other partners to adopt countywide GHG emissions reduction targets, including mid-term milestones needed to support long-term reduction goals.

Catalytic Project or Program: Build on King County's commitment to measure and report on countywide GHG emissions by sharing this data between cities and partners, establishing a public facing dashboard for tracking progress, and using the information to inform regional climate action.

II. Climate Policy

Pathway: Support strong federal, regional, state, countywide and local climate policy.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Advocate for comprehensive federal, regional and state science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A portion of revenue from these policies should support local GHG reduction efforts that align with these Joint County-City Climate Commitments, such as funding for transit service, energy efficiency projects, and forest protection and restoration initiatives.

III. Transportation and Land Use

Pathway: For passenger vehicles and light trucks, reduce vehicle miles traveled by 20% below 2012 levels by 2030 and GHG emissions intensity of fuels by 15% below 2012 levels by 2030.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Partner to secure state authority for funding to sustain and grow transit service in King County.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Reduce climate pollution, build our renewable energy economy, and lessen our dependence on imported fossil fuels, by supporting the adoption of a statewide low carbon fuel standard that gradually lowers pollution from transportation fuels.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Focus new development in vibrant centers that locate jobs, affordable housing, and services close to transit, bike and pedestrian options so more people have faster, convenient and low GHG emissions ways to travel.

Catalytic Project or Program: As practical, for King County and cities developing transit oriented communities around high capacity light rail and transit projects, adopt the Puget Sound Regional Council's Growing Transit Communities Compact. For smaller cities, participate in programs promoting proven alternative technology solutions such as vehicle electrification, as well as joint carpool and vanpool promotional campaigns.

Joint County-City Climate Commitments ○●○○

IV. Energy Supply

Pathway: Increase countywide renewable electricity use 20% beyond 2012 levels by 2030; phase out coal-fired electricity sources by 2025; limit construction of new natural gas based electricity power plants; support development of increasing amounts of renewable energy sources.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Build on existing state renewable energy commitments including the Washington State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to partner with local utilities, state regulators and other stakeholders on a countywide commitment to renewable energy resources, including meeting energy demand through energy efficiency improvements and phasing out fossil fuels.

Catalytic Project or Program: In partnership with utilities, develop a package of county and city commitments that support increasingly renewable energy sources, in areas such as community solar, green power community challenges, streamlined local renewable energy installation permitting, district energy, and renewable energy incentives.

V. Green Building and Energy Efficiency

Pathway: Reduce energy use in all existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030; achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2030.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Join the Regional Code Collaboration and work to adopt code pathways that build on the Washington State Energy Code, leading the way to “net-zero carbon” buildings through innovation in local codes, ordinances, and related partnerships.

Catalytic Project or Program: Develop a multi-city partnership to help build a regional energy efficiency retrofit economy, including tactics such as: collaborating with energy efficiency and green building businesses, partnering with utilities, expanding on existing retrofit programs, adopting local building energy benchmarking and disclosure ordinances, and encouraging voluntary reporting and collaborative initiatives such as the 2030 District framework.

Joint County-City Climate Commitments ○○●○

VI. Consumption and Materials Management:

Pathway: By 2020, achieve a 70% recycling rate countywide; by 2030, achieve zero waste of resources that have economic value for reuse, resale and recycling.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Partner through the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee on policy, projects and programs focused on (1) waste prevention and reuse, (2) product stewardship, recycling, and composting, and (3) beneficial use.

Catalytic Project or Program: Develop a regional strategy through the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan process to reach 70% recycling through a combination of education, incentives and regulatory tools aimed at single-family, multi-family residents, businesses, and construction projects in King County.

VII. Forests and Farming

Pathway: Reduce sprawl and associated transportation related GHG emissions and sequester biological carbon by focusing growth in urban centers and protecting and restoring forests and farms.

Catalytic Policy Commitment: Partner on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) initiatives to focus development within the Urban Growth Area, reduce development pressure on rural lands, and protect our most valuable and important resource lands.

Catalytic Project or Program: Protect and restore the health of urban and community trees and forests, for example through public-private-community efforts such as Forterra's Green Cities Partnerships.

Catalytic Project or Program: Partner on collaborative efforts to expand forest and farm stewardship and protection, for example through King Conservation District's farm management planning, landowner incentive, and grant programs.

Catalytic Project or Program: Expand our local food economy, for example by supporting urban and community farming, buying locally produced food, and participating in the Farm City Roundtable forum.

Joint County-City Climate Commitments ○○○●

VIII. Government Operations

Pathway: Reduce GHG emissions from government operations in support of countywide goals.

Policy Commitment: Develop and adopt near and long-term government operational GHG reduction targets that support countywide goals, and implement actions that reduce each local government's GHG footprint.

Catalytic Project or Program: In support of the Section V. Green Building and Energy Efficiency pathway targets to reduce energy use in existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2030: execute energy efficiency projects and initiatives at existing facilities, measure existing building performance through EPA's Energy Star or equivalent program, implement high-efficiency street and traffic light replacement projects, and construct new buildings to LEED or Living Building Challenge standards and infrastructure to equivalent sustainability standards.

IX. Collaboration

Policy Commitment: Participate in or join the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) – focused on efforts to coordinate and enhance city and County climate and sustainability efforts – to share case studies, subject matter experts, resources, tools, and to collaborate on grant and funding opportunities.

Catalytic Project or Program: Engage and lead government-business collaborative action through efforts such as the Eastside Sustainable Business Alliance.

KING COUNTY-Cities
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

K4C State Policy and Legislative Interests for 2019

Who we are

King County, and fifteen partners representing more than 1.6 million county residents — Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Tukwila, plus the Port of Seattle — are working together through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (**K4C**) to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action.

Our Shared Climate Goals and Actions

In 2014, King County and all 39 cities formally adopted a shared target to reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the county scale 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline). A dozen cities and the county, representing three quarters of the County's population mapped out Joint County-City Climate Commitments to meet this target, in areas ranging from transportation and land use to renewable energy to waste reduction and recycling. These policy interests are intended to advance shared climate commitments and to be a resource for local governments as they review state legislation, consider comment letters and weigh in on state policies as they develop. **We recognize that each K4C partner has unique policy and state legislative priorities and may not pursue all of these interests**.

Climate Policy

K4C supports comprehensive science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases.

- **Support a price on carbon based on best available science that reinvests a substantial share of revenues in efforts** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., transit service, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, forest protection and restoration), prioritize investments that benefit communities most impacted by climate change, and ensure a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.
- **Support policies that establish and use "cost of carbon" methods for analysis and decision making.**
- **Strengthen state climate change targets to align with the Department of Ecology's 2016 recommendations which are complementary to K4C and Growth Management Planning Council adopted targets.**

Transportation and Land Use

K4C supports comprehensive state policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by reducing vehicle miles travelled, lowering the GHG intensity of fuels, and catalyzing investments in clean passenger, transit, and heavy duty vehicles.

- **Support**, as part of a comprehensive strategy for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions:
  - **Protection for and expansion of funding for public transit**;
  - **Adoption of cleaner fuel standards**;
  - **Incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets** and lower pollution from transportation fuels;
  - **Continued funding and expansion as in previous years of the Commute Trip Reduction program** and the Regional Mobility Grant program.
  - **Policies and incentives to support transit friendly development and easy connections** in vicinity of planned rail and high capacity transit and employment centers.
  - Follow through on **principles for the VW Funding Settlement** developed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency in partnership with King County and several K4C partners

Green Building and Energy Efficiency

K4C supports state policy changes and investments that will help us to reduce energy use in existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2030.

- **Continue to strengthen our Washington State Energy code**, leading the way to "net-zero emissions" buildings by 2030.
- **Support policies that reduce energy use** and save money for King County residents and businesses.
- **Provide State Department of Commerce grants** to leverage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments by local governments.

Energy Supply

K4C supports state policy updates and investments that will help us meet our goals for a 90% renewable electricity supply by 2030, phase out coal-fired electricity sources by 2025, limit construction of new natural gas based electricity power plants, and lead to development of increasing amounts of renewable energy sources.

- **Continue to support a clear, accelerated timeline** for retirement of coal from PSE's energy supply in manner that protects ratepayers and maximizes replacement with renewable sources rather than natural gas.
- **Support changes in the utility Integrated Resource Planning process** that promote consideration of environmental and health costs and greater emphasis on energy efficiency and demand management.
- **Require increasing percentages of new energy load to be met by renewable sources and energy efficiency.** Washington State's current renewable portfolio standard is currently at 9% of utility load, increasing to 15% by 2020 and years beyond.
- **Support distributed solar energy generation.** Current state legislation limits the size of solar arrays that qualify for retail electricity rates and limits the cumulative generating capacity available for these renewable energy systems. We support policy changes that would expand utility limits for these systems and allow for development of larger solar installations while considering both the benefits of increased distributed solar energy generation and rate payer fairness.

KING COUNTY-Cities
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

December 2018

FACT SHEET

City Fund to Reduce Energy Demand (C – FRED)

Overview

City Fund to Reduce Energy Demand (C – FRED)

Completed or current conservation projects:
18

Amount loaned to date:
$3.5 Million

Annual savings from these projects:
$500,000 per year

Project Summary: King County established the internal Fund to Reduce Energy Demand (FRED) in 2014 to overcome a major hurdle for county agencies trying to pursue energy and water conservation projects: securing up-front capital needed to support the initial investment. The FRED Program enables an internal loan that is paid off by the agency's operating savings from the project. To date, King County's internal FRED program includes 18 completed or in-development projects including lighting retrofits and a solar panel installation, totaling approximately $3.5 million dollars of investment that will result in $500,000 dollars in annual savings.

Cities in King County face similar barriers to financing resource efficiency and renewable energy projects. The County is expanding its internal loan program to city partners through a companion City-FRED program. Participating cities will be able to take advantage of the simple application process and low interest rate to fund energy efficiency or renewable energy projects on their facilities.

King County Project: *Transfer Station Lighting* This FRED project funded the comprehensive retrofit of light fixtures to LED technology at the Algona, Enumclaw and Vashon solid waste transfer stations. This project cost $109K and received a $50K utility rebate. With annual savings of 249,800 kWh and $19,900, this project had a 2.9 year payback, far less than the 10+ year expected life of the new lights.

King County Transfer Station

Detailed Description: Cities must demonstrate that the projects will save resources and money to repay the loan over the ten year term. Commitments to repay the loan would be secured through formal agreements.

Offering the C - FRED program to King County cities will help to advance progress toward the shared, countywide goal of reducing community greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

King County

Through focused, coordinated action, we will maximize the impact of our individual and shared efforts.

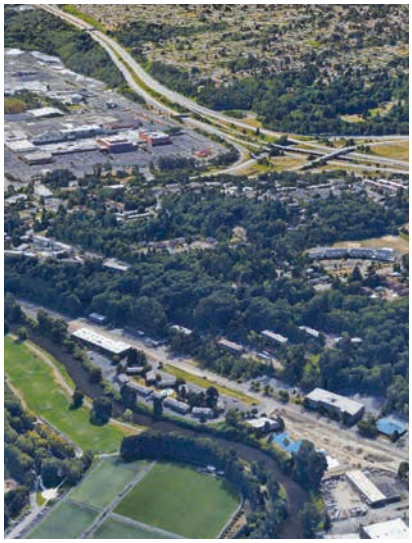
KING COUNTY-Cities
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

December 2018

FACT SHEET

City of Tukwila Tree Canopy Focus

Tukwila Hill Tree Canopy



Project Summary:

Adopted regulations

- Prohibiting tree removal or if removal is approved, requiring up to a 3:1 replacement ratio based upon canopy loss. (2018)
- Requiring more robust landscaping in industrial, commercial, and multi-family areas (2017)

Public Planting Program

- In 2017, 3,577 trees and shrubs were planted on Tukwila public property

Results: *2018 Update of 2012 tree canopy assessment*

Six year assessment to measure attainment of established goals and success of strategies

Prohibition of property clearing without an approved development permit and of removal of 6" diameter trees on single family lots

Detailed Description: This supplements public, nonprofit and volunteer tree planting programs that are targeting a total tree canopy of 29% by 2034. Tukwila's 2012 tree canopy inventory is a range of 9% in industrial areas to 51% in single family neighborhoods.

The regulations started with strong and clear Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, a Tree Environment Committee made up of citizens and Council members, and took three years from concept to adoption.

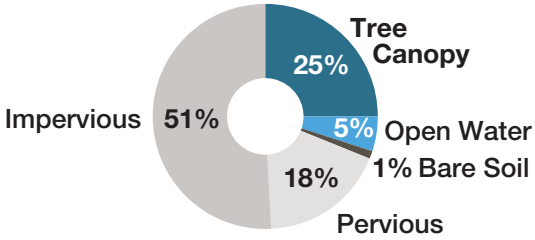
How much are Tukwila's Trees Worth?

Sequestered carbon	2,300 tons/year *	$48k
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	4.3 tons/year	$4k
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	10 tons/year	$89k
Ozone (O_3)	4.3 tons/year	$240k
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	8.5 tons/year	$18k
Particulate Matter	15.7 tons/year	$94k
YEARLY BENEFIT		**$493K**

* emissions are estimates

These projects support the Joint County – City Climate Commitments of Forestry and Farming. Tukwila has created a program and regulations meant to retain the City's urban forest as the City urbanizes and provides a center for the region's housing and jobs.

Tukwila 2012 Land Cover



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Through focused, coordinated action, we will maximize the impact of our individual and shared efforts.

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KING COUNTY-Cities
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

December 2018

FACT SHEET

City of Mercer Island Mobility Pilot Projects

Overview

City of Mercer Island Mobility Pilot Projects

Rideshare:
4,100 rides, with over unique 500 users

Bikeshare:
3,400 rides, with over 1,100 unique users

Project Summary: As parking pressure mounts at the commuter Park & Ride, all 447 stalls now fill by 7 a.m. on weekdays, forcing many residents wishing to use regional bus transit to reluctantly choose Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) travel instead. The City set out to improve options for access to the Sound Transit-owned Park & Ride (P&R) in order to: reduce SOV usage in general, free-up parking stalls, improve congestion on the Island, reduce rush-hour pressure on I-90, and help lower local greenhouse gas emissions. The primary mobility programs underway currently are:

1) a 6-month cost-share partnership with Lyft and Uber, providing discounted rides to/from the P&R;
2) a 3-month partnership with LimeBike, operating Island-wide; and
3) an existing peak-hour commuter bus shuttle (Route #630) in partnership with Metro direct from Mercer Island to Seattle's First Hill.

Results:

- Rideshare: 4,100 rides provided since April, with over 500 unique users
- Bikeshare: 3,400 rides provided since July, with over 1,100 unique users

Detailed Description:

Rideshare: The City allocated up to $20,000, matched by $10,000 from each rideshare vendor, to underwrite rides on Mercer Island only, for a 6-month period. The discount is applied automatically using geofencing as long as the origin or destination is the MI Park & Ride; service is available 24/7 on weekdays and is structured to encourage shared rides ($2/person) over solo rides ($5/person).

Bikeshare: The City negotiated with LimeBike to operate and maintain a fleet of 25 electric-assist rental bicycles for public use, for a 3-month period. In order to ensure some level of predictability for potential users, 8 hubs were designated that are restocked daily with several bicycles each. Since this market was the first time LimeBike had committed to operating in a low-density, suburban community in the region, it was unclear if the pilot would be profitable; therefore the City shared the cost of administration and maintenance 50-50 with Limebike, paying $4,875 for the 3-month period. These projects support the Joint County – City Climate Commitments by seeking to reduce SOV travel and associated GHG emissions, and by offering viable alternatives for access to mass transit.

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Through focused, coordinated action, we will maximize the impact of our individual and shared efforts.