



King County

Dow Constantine

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September 30, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am pleased to transmit the Climate Action Toolkit, as required by Motion 15555, along with a proposed motion that, if enacted, approves the Climate Action Toolkit. As required, the transmittal documents include the toolkit, a summary recommendation, a report detailing stakeholder engagement, and a plan for outreach.

Climate change is a paramount challenge with far-reaching consequences - a threat multiplier exacerbating inequities and intensifying natural hazards such as flooding, wildfires, and extreme heat that put our people, economy, and environment at risk. The Climate Action Toolkit advances King County's leadership in equitable climate solutions, charting policies and investments that cities can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, spur the growth of a clean energy economy, and protect the natural environment.

Since 2012, King County has partnered with other local governments in its jurisdiction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) through the King County – Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C). K4C membership now includes 16 cities and the Port of Seattle, representing 80 percent of the county's population. In 2014, the K4C established shared countywide greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 50 percent reduction by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050, against a 2007 baseline. These targets were later adopted as countywide planning policies through the Growth Management Planning Council.

To support the shared emission reduction targets, the K4C developed the Joint Action Commitments outlining sector specific pathways, while providing flexibility for each partner to take action where it will have the most impact and influence. In 2019, the K4C updated the Joint Action Commitments to reflect the most current data and analysis to reach these shared goals, placing emphasis on equity, climate justice, and a fair transition for workers. The Toolkit develops specific actions that cities can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, in

coordination with the County, can take to create opportunities to address historical and current inequities that place some communities at disproportionate risk.

The most recent countywide emissions inventory, completed in 2019 with 2017 data, shows stabilized GHG emissions countywide, with an 11 percent reduction in per capita emissions. However, to meet the shared goals as agreed to by all 39 cities, even bolder action and stronger collaboration with cities, businesses, and county residents is needed.

The Climate Action Toolkit will help accelerate the reduction in GHG emissions. The Toolkit identifies resources for cities to conduct emissions inventories. Framed by the Joint Action Commitments and informed by data, the Toolkit provides strategies for different sectors, including transportation and land use, and buildings, that can be adapted to each city's unique characteristics. The Toolkit provides clear directions and a range of actions and policies that can be used by any city, even those that have limited financial or staff capacity to develop and implement plans.

Broad community input was a focus in the development of the Climate Action Toolkit. To ensure a diversity of perspectives in the Toolkit, County varied engagement strategies were undertaken, with input from K4C staff representatives and elected officials, businesses, mainstream and climate justice environmental organizations, County agency staff, frontline communities, youth organizations, labor, and the public reflected in the Toolkit. The process included many opportunities and different levels of involvement for stakeholder participation and engagement, such as online workshops, focused small group meetings, and an online survey.

The Climate Action Toolkit advances King County Strategic Plan goals for public safety, economic growth, and environmental sustainability by reducing GHG emissions and preparing for climate change impacts.

The Climate Action Toolkit is estimated to cost approximately \$70,000 to develop and produce.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed motion, and your continued partnership on climate action. To reach our shared goals requires more than setting those goals, it requires the courage to work together to transform entire systems to reduce the harmful effects of climate change and build a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable King County.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

September 30, 2020

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If your staff have questions, please contact Rachel Brombaugh, Acting Director of Climate and Energy Initiatives, at 206-263-9633.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Brombaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Dwight Dively, Director, Performance, Strategy and Budget
Rachel Brombaugh, Acting Director, Climate and Energy Initiatives