



CLIMATE CHANGES HEALTH

King County Board of Health
September 18, 2025

Outline

Introduction

- Ryan Kellogg, Environmental Health Assistant Division Director, Public Health - Seattle & King County

Overview – Climate at PHSKC

- Brad Kramer, Manager, Climate & Health Equity Initiative, Public Health – Seattle & King County

2025 Strategic Climate Action Plan

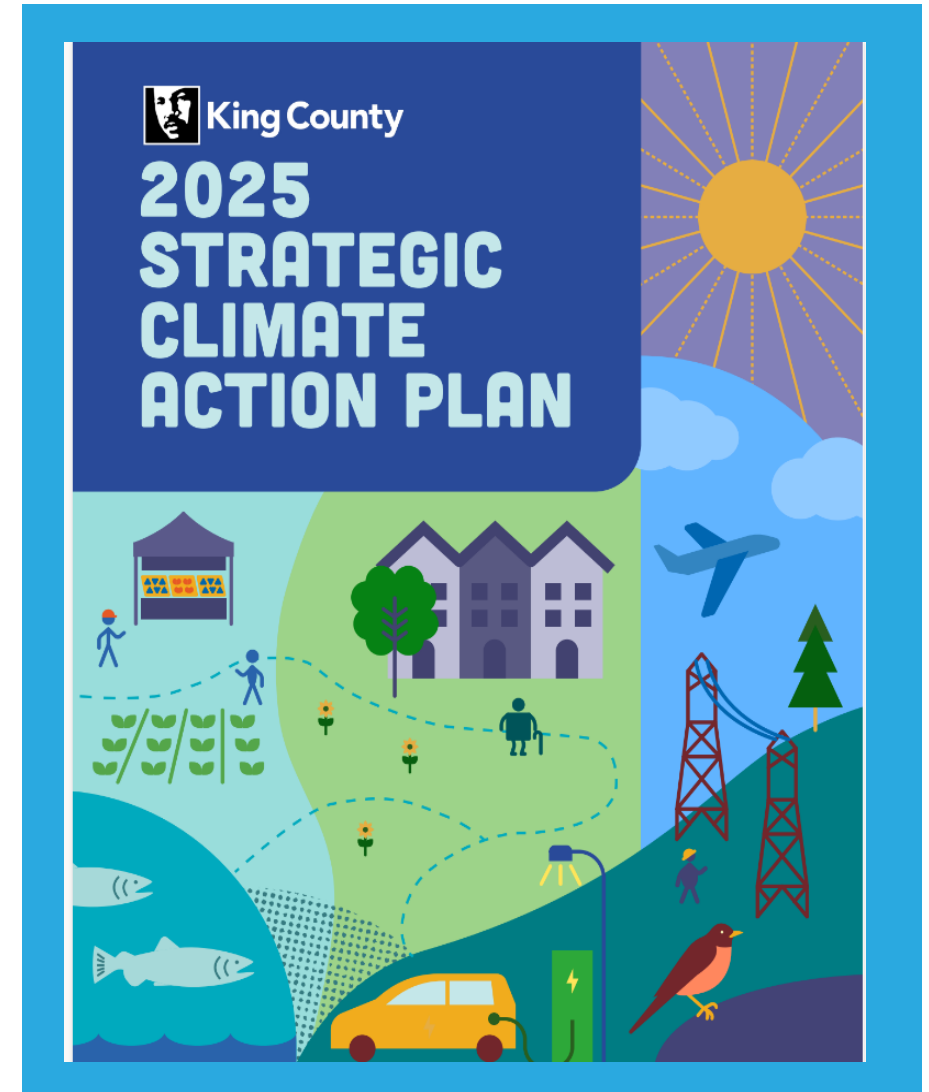
- Marissa Aho, Director, King County Executive Climate Office

Project highlight: Extreme Heat in Auburn

- Saja Ahmed, Community Representative for the Climate and Health Adaptation Modeling Project in Auburn

Next Steps: What can the Board of Health do?

Climate work is happening across the County



Climate & Health Equity Initiative



GOAL: Create the necessary conditions to prepare for, adapt to, and influence the impact of climate change on health, in partnership with other King County departments, communities, and additional partners.



**Data Monitoring
and Research**



**Communication and
Community Collaboration**



**Response
and Adaptation**



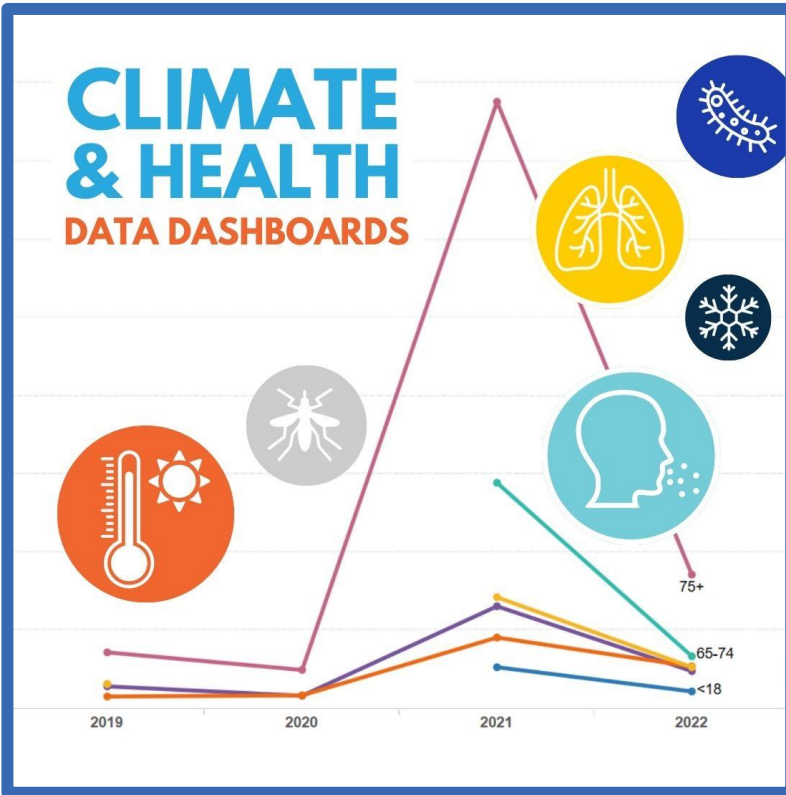
Data Monitoring and Research



Communication and Community Collaboration



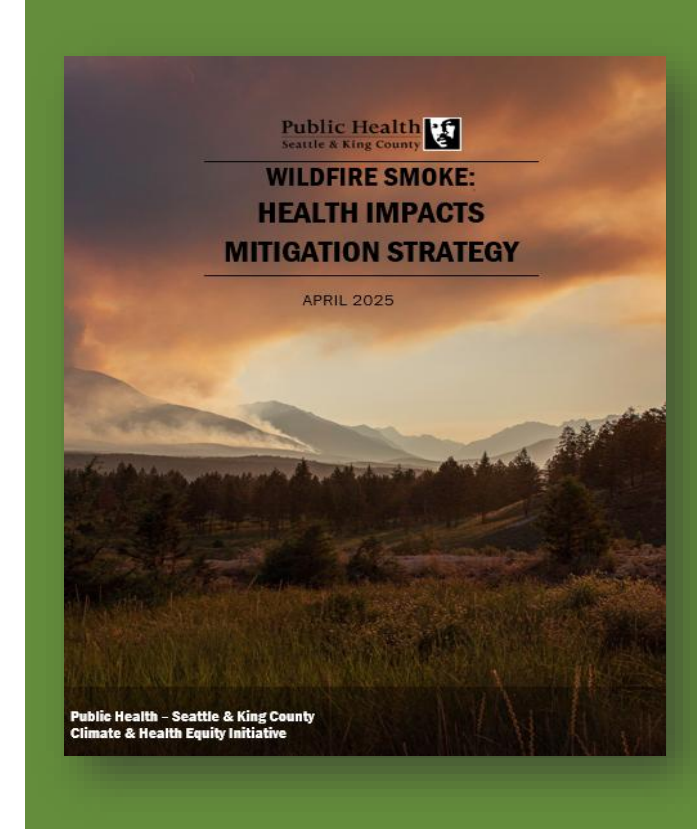
Response and Adaptation



kingcounty.gov/climateandhealth/data



kingcounty.gov/beattheheat



kingcounty.gov/IAQ

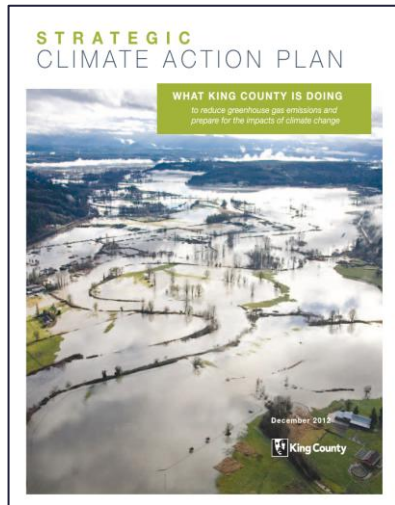
Cross-Agency Work: Indoor Air Quality

- 5,956** Air Purifiers distributed
- 10,000** Replacement filters distributed
- 19** CBO partners
- 368** Health & Enviro. Investigator visits
- 7** Educational videos produced
- 79** Buildings retrofitted
- 2,725** Trees and shrubs planted
- 7.8** Acres of urban forest restored

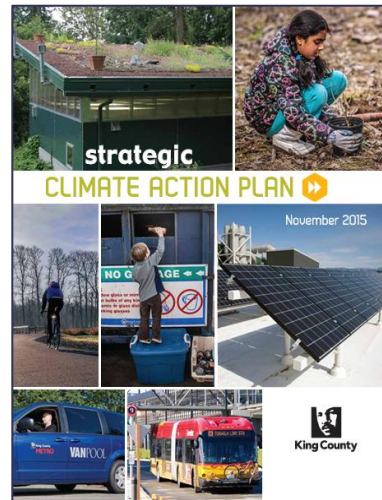


A History of Climate Leadership

The SCAP has been described as one of the most ambitious climate action plans in the United States and was awarded the most equitable climate plan by the U.S. Federal Transit Administration in 2022.



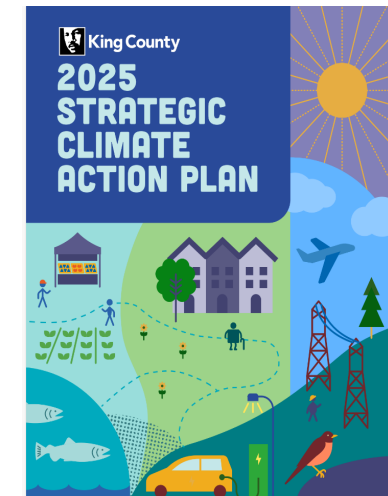
2012



2015

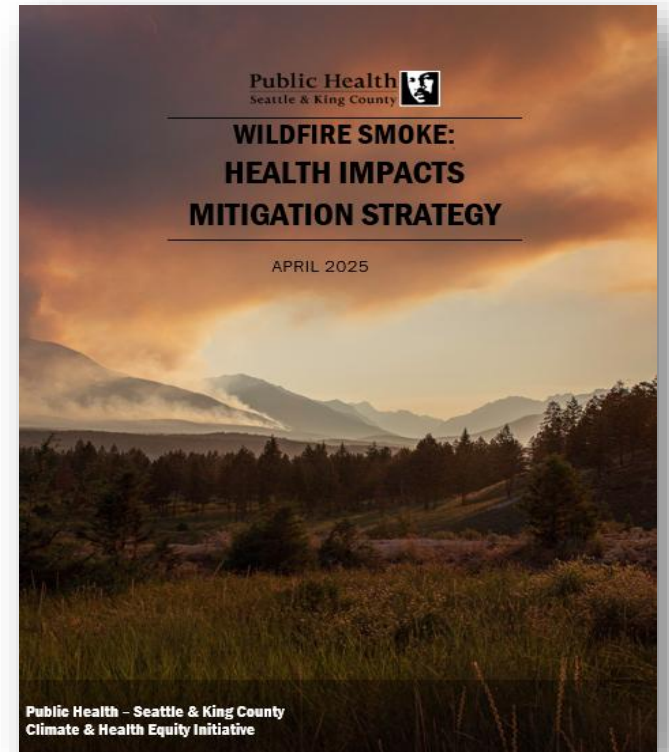
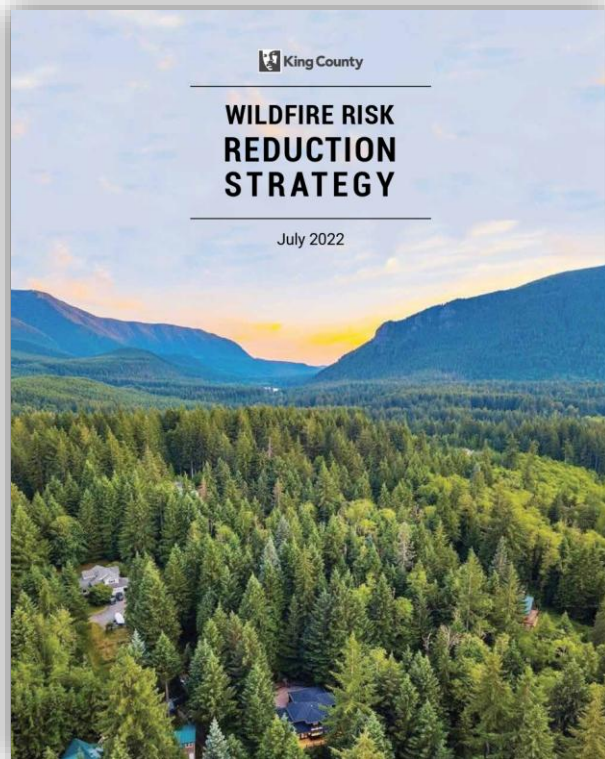


2020



2025

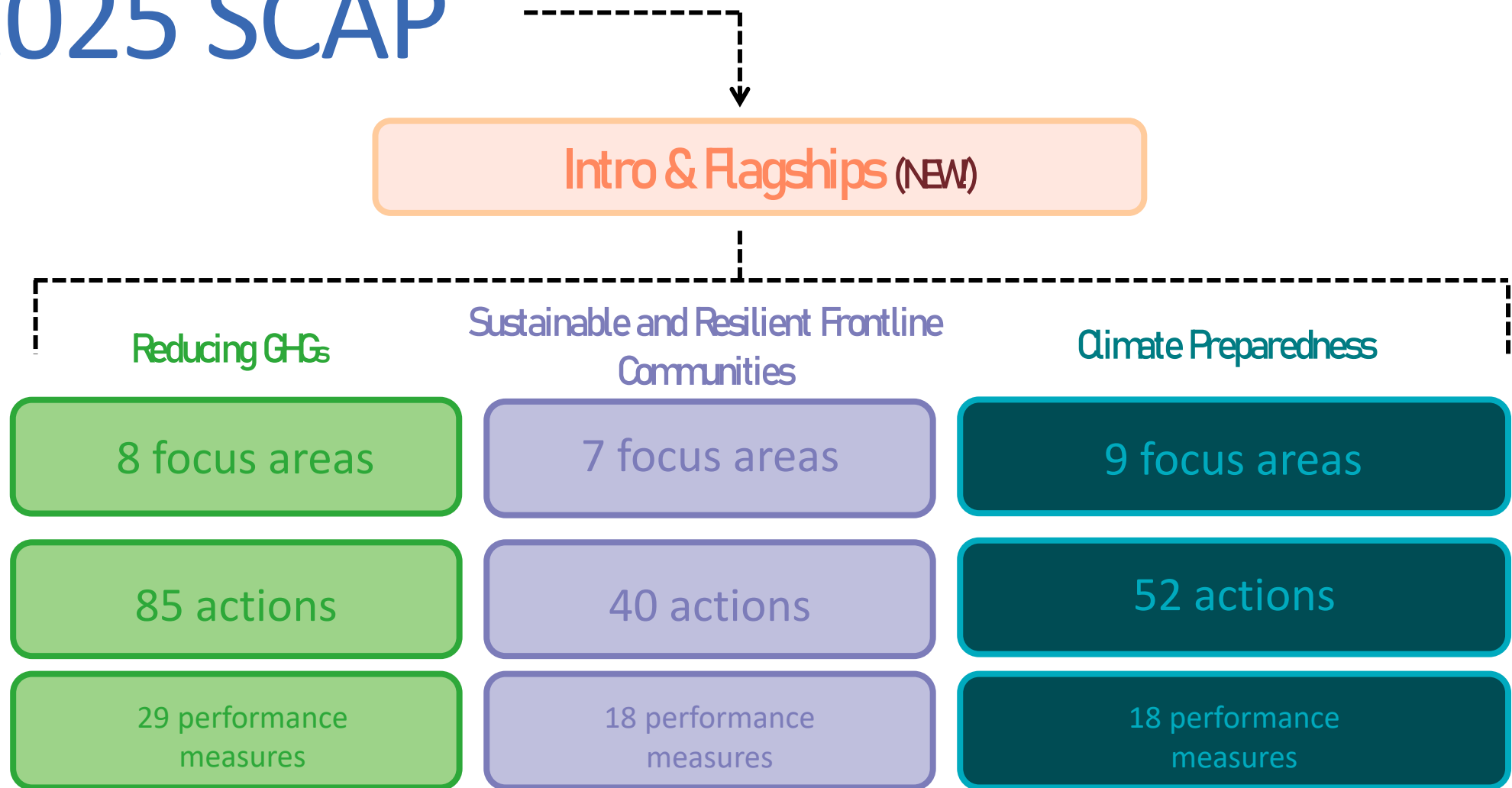
A Supporting Strategies – Highlights



2025 Approach

- ✓ **More strategic**
- ✓ **Focus on partnerships**
- ✓ **Engage community**

2025 SCAP



Supporting Strategies 2020 SCAP Performance Update, Operational Energy and Greenhouse Gas Guidance, Climate and Workforce Strategy, Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy (2024), Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy (2022)

FLAGSHIPS

3
Connected and
accessible
transportation



5
Fresh, local food
for everyone



7
Clean air,
water, and
healthy
ecosystems



1
Put frontline
communities
first



2
Safe, healthy, and
climate-ready
buildings



6
Designing out
waste



8
Reliable and
future-ready
infrastructure

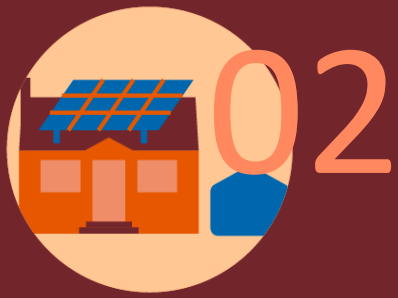


9
Collective
leadership and
community-led
solutions



4
Economic
mobility and
career
opportunities





Safe, Healthy, & Climate Ready Buildings

Ensuring every home and workplace is energy efficient and resilient

GHG



Building Energy & Green Building

GHG 26. *Directly facilitate retrofits of housing and community assets of frontline communities*

SRFC



Housing Security Anti-Displacement

SRFC 32. *Invest in Equitable Development*

Prep

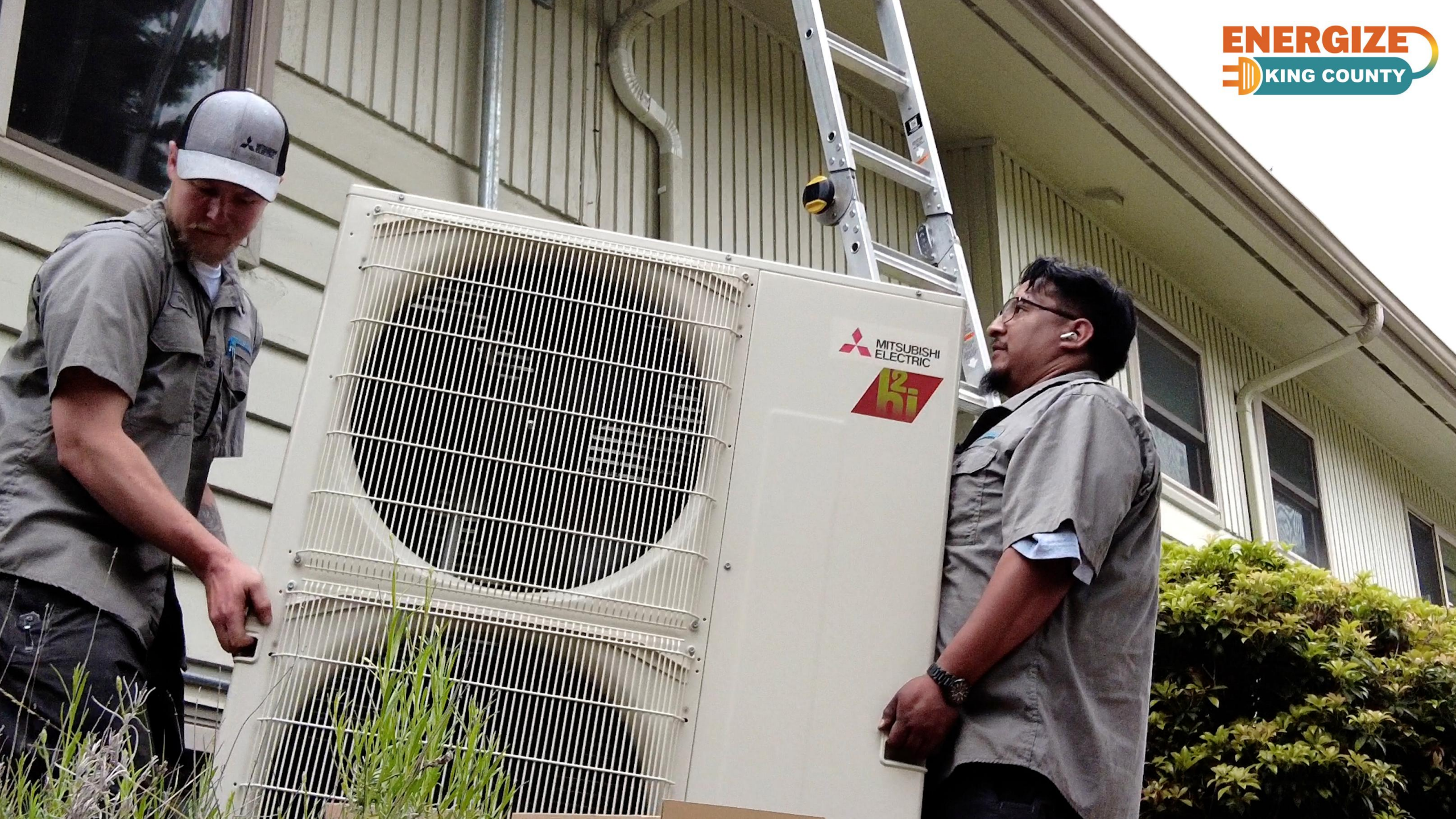


Wildfire Risk Reduction

Prep 30. *Develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans*

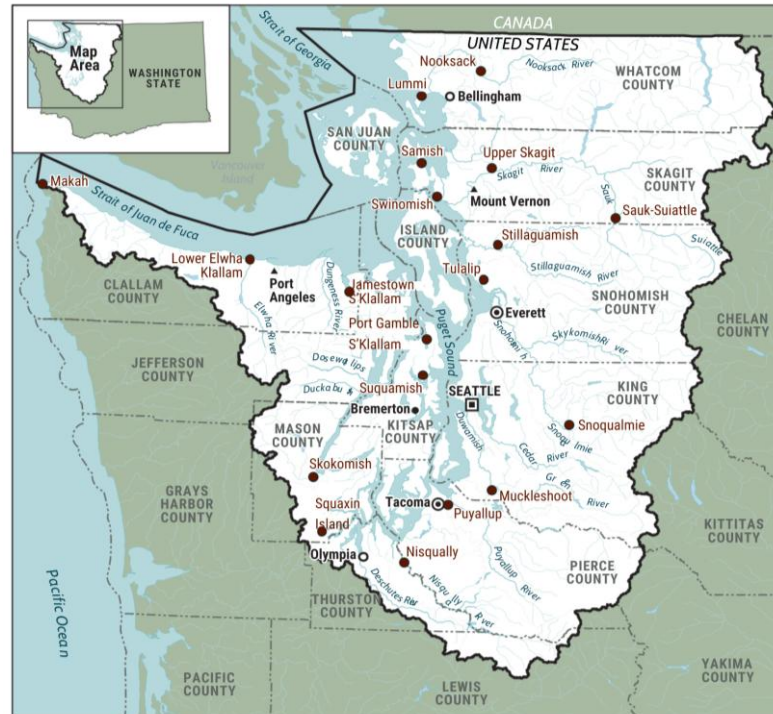
Example:



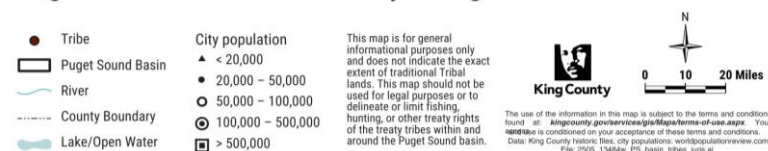


Regional Capacity Building

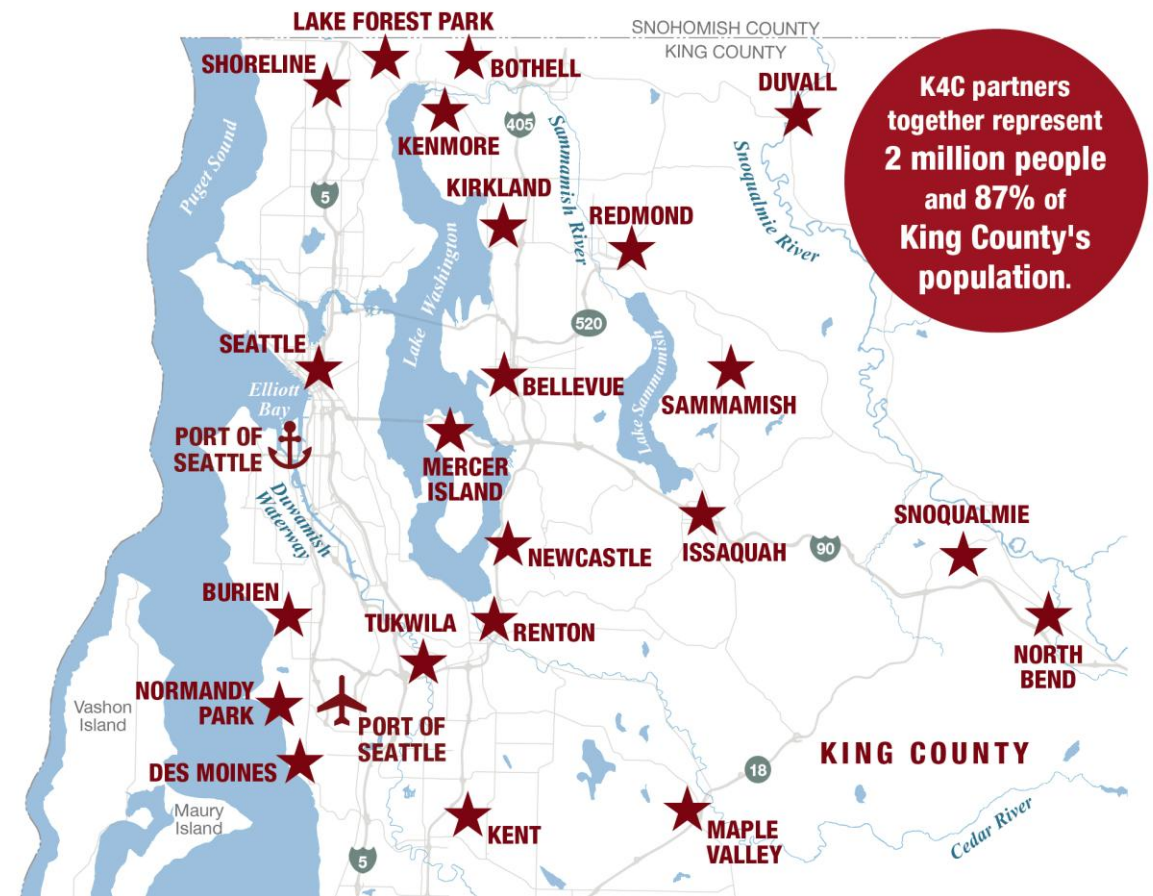
Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative



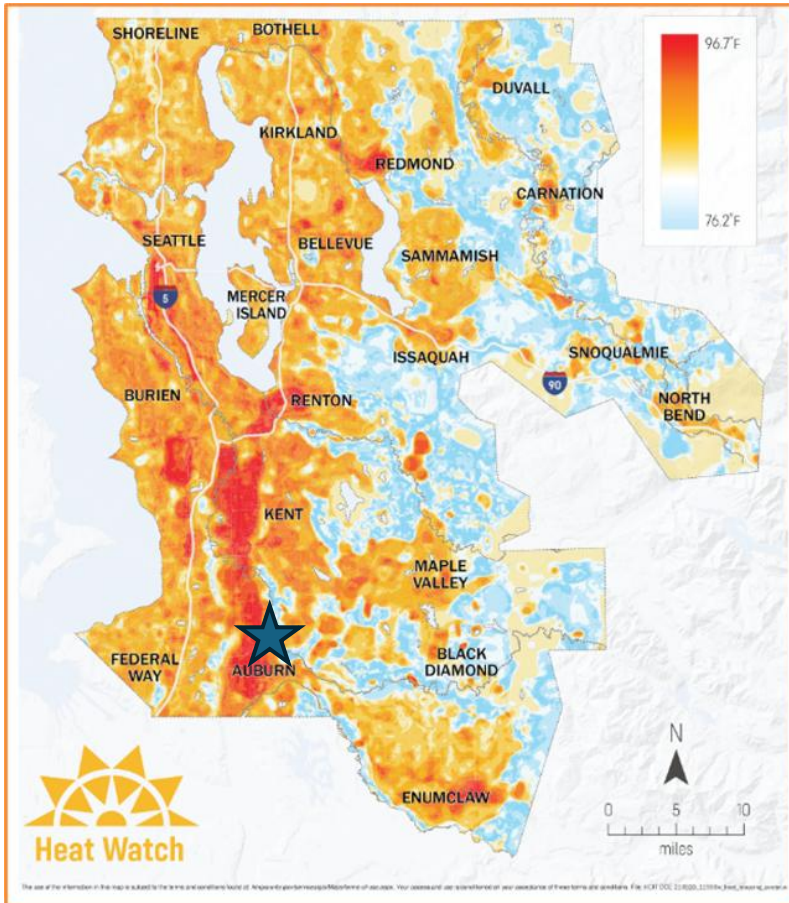
Puget Sound Basin and Federally Recognized Salish Sea Tribes



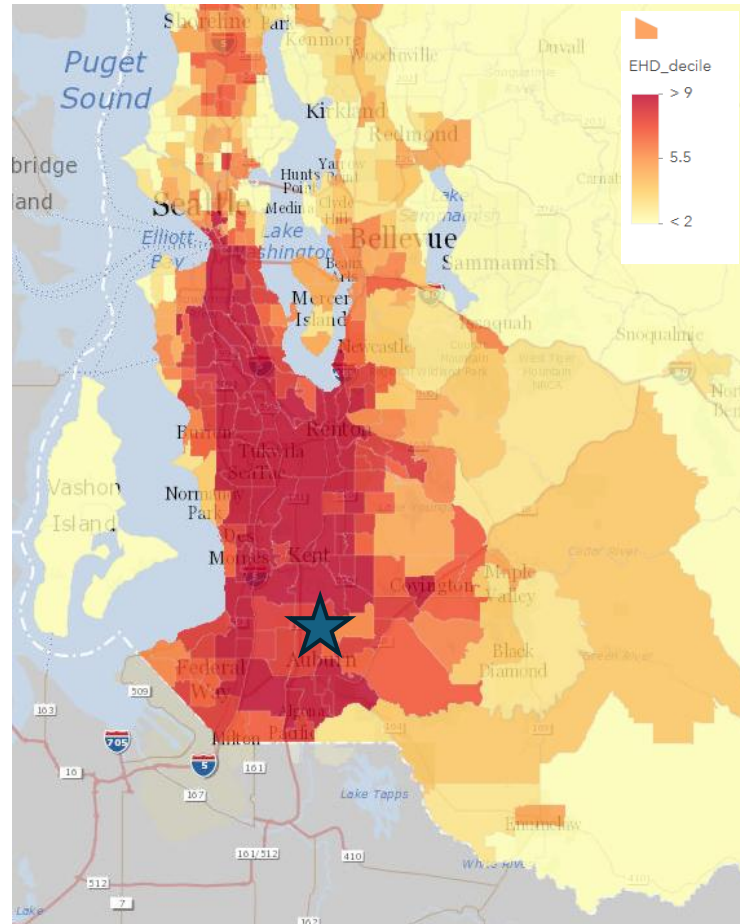
King County – Cities Climate Collaboration



Example: Climate and Health Adaptation Modeling Project (“CHAMP”)



2020 KC Heat Mapping: Evening Study Results



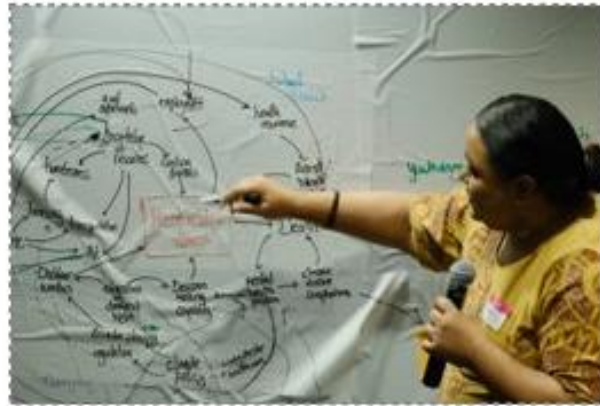
[WA DOH Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)
[Calculated for King County](#)

- Puget Sound area is projected to be 5.5°F warmer by 2050
- Impacts not equitably distributed
- Heat islands in King County, like Auburn, can result in temps 20°F hotter than in other areas of the county

CHAMP Project



- **City of Auburn, WA**
- **15-member workgroup comprised of City of Auburn community members**
- **6 half-day workshops between July 2024 and April 26, 2025**
- **Co-developing heat adaptation solutions using participatory group model-building approach**



CHAMP Recommendations

SOLUTION

DESCRIPTION



Cool Kits for Unhoused

Distributing cool kits including protective items like bottled water, cooling towels, sun protective clothing, and sunscreen



Energy Assistance

Alleviating the cost of energy for low-income households through energy assistance programs



Cooling Center Extended Hours

Providing cooling centers beyond working hours so that people can go and cool down during evening hours when it is still hot



Heat Education for Workers

Sharing information on heat risk and strategies to mitigate that risk for workers exposed to heat and ensuring they know their rights as a worker



Multilingual Communications

Making sure that heat and climate communications are available in the many languages spoken in King County



Heat Education in Schools

Teaching youth about heat and health, and reaching the broader community through this education



Board of Health Members Can Help

1. Share health focused messaging about climate-related events: **wildfire smoke**, **extreme heat, flood**, and **extreme winter weather**

Example: July and September Director's Reports to the Board of Health:

Three steps to stay safe from wildfire smoke

2. Encourage your jurisdiction to connect with Public Health on extreme weather and climate change related planning: climateandhealth@kingcounty.gov

Thank you!!



Questions?

Contact:
KCBOHAdmin@kingcounty.gov

