



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

May 2, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

As called for by Motion 16463, this letter transmits a report detailing the progress made to date on assessing funding options for the purpose of addressing the climate crisis and a proposed Motion, that if approved, would accept the report.

This report provides a summary of the current climate funding landscape, as well as high-level analysis of funding needs and opportunities to help inform climate planning. The data in this report informs preparation for future engagement with the community around recommendations for categories of expenditures that could be funded with potential future additional climate revenue. Department climate staff were engaged in the greenhouse gas reduction and climate preparedness areas identified by the Motion, as well as other areas of the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) and other frameworks for funding climate action countywide.

Engagement with community-based organizations and climate groups around elements of Motion 16463 identified a number of concerns around a potential County climate-focused ballot measure, including the abbreviated time frame for community input and the potential placement of a County ballot measure on the November 2024 ballot alongside a measure to repeal the state's Climate Commitment Act.

While additional funding for climate action is needed, this report does not identify a 2024 levy. Given feedback from our engagement work that raised concerns over a proposed King County climate levy appear on the November 2024 ballot alongside a measure to repeal the Climate Commitment Act, the report finds that a future County climate levy would benefit from further development to ensure that it is aligned to address gaps in local, state, and federal climate funding. A future climate levy would also benefit from a more robust process to determine a strategy and priority areas to benefit the County's climate initiatives.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

May 2, 2024

Page 2

In the meantime, the Executive Climate Office is leading work to coordinate a number of opportunities for climate funding that are in progress, including state and federal funding sources. These opportunities reflect robust investments in climate funding.

As we develop the 2025-2030 SCAP, we have the opportunity to work directly with stakeholders to further establish climate priorities, better define gaps in our climate work, and make recommendations on funding and implementation strategies that align with the next five years of King County climate actions.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. If your staff have questions, please contact Marissa Aho, Climate Director, Executive Climate Office, at 206-848-0579.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Marissa Aho, Director, Executive Climate Office
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Performance, Strategy and Budget