



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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December 23, 2021

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

As called for by Motion 15866, this letter transmits a report on the Implementation of the Blueprint for Addressing Climate Change and Health and a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

The report outlines public health-related climate action needs. It includes the staffing and budgetary resources needed to implement the community health actions and strategies in the Blueprint for Addressing Climate Change and Health, and the related Community Health and Emergency Preparedness focus area and Preparing for Climate Change sections of the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP). The report outlines the health impacts of climate change and the role of Public Health -- Seattle and King County in addressing climate and health.

Climate change and its inevitable impacts on health have arrived in the Puget Sound region. The trends of climate change produce conditions and exposures that impact human health, from heat related illness and death, to air pollution and changes in vector ecology. Since 2017 the region has come to expect days or even weeks when wildfire smoke descends, driving the air quality index to unhealthy levels. More recently, during the record-breaking heat wave of June 2021, at least 15 King County residents died from heat-related causes. The enclosed report demonstrates the importance and urgency of implementing key Blueprint strategies to address climate and health.

This work furthers the goal of the King County Strategic Plan to improve the health and well-being of people in our community through supporting frontline communities most impacted by the health impacts of climate change. It aligns with the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative and is central to advancing the county's Strategic Climate Action Plan's Community Health and Emergency Preparedness and Preparing for Climate Change focus areas.

It is estimated that the report required 835 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$70,068. The estimated printing cost for this report is nominal.

The Honorable Councilmember Balducci

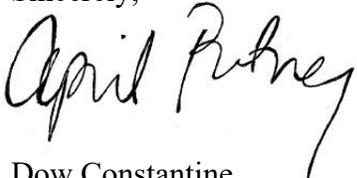
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Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion. I look forward to continuing to work with the Council to ensure King County addresses the health impacts of climate change for frontline communities.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Dennis Worsham, Interim Director of Public Health, at 206-263-8158.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Dennis Worsham, Interim Director, Public Health - Seattle and King County