## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 9 | **Name:** | Jake Tracy |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2022-0034 | **Date:** | March 15, 2022 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion (PM) 2022-0034 would accept the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) 2022 Work Plan and Budget.

**SUMMARY**

PM 2022-0034 would accept the 2022 Work Plan and Budget for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C),[[1]](#footnote-1) as requested by Motion 14449. For 2022, K4C anticipates $46,700 in funding for its work. K4C plans a total of $50,411 in spending over the 2021-2022 period to complete the ongoing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Modeling project, which would provide city-level emissions data. The K4C Work Plan, which is only partially funded with these K4C dollars, includes work in the following eleven areas:

* Shared Goals (including Inventory and Modeling project)
* Climate Policy
* Transportation and Land Use
* Clean Fuels and Electric Vehicles
* Energy Supply
* Green Building and Energy Efficiency
* Consumption and Materials Management
* Forests and Farming
* Government Operations
* Climate Preparedness
* Collaboration

**BACKGROUND**

**K4C Description.** K4C is a voluntary but formal partnership between King County, the Port of Seattle and 16[[2]](#footnote-2) cities to work together on climate and sustainability issues. K4C is supported by an Interlocal Agreement outlining areas of focus for joint work and cost-share requirements.[[3]](#footnote-3) Through K4C, staff from the partner cities share ideas and best practices and host an annual summit of elected officials to discuss climate related topics. K4C activities include the following:

* Outreach – to develop, refine, and utilize messaging and tools for climate change outreach to engage decision makers, other cities, and the general public
* Coordination – to adopt consistent standards, benchmarks, strategies, and overall goals related to climate change response
* Solutions – to share local success stories, challenges, data, and products that support and enhance climate mitigation efforts by all partners
* Funding and resources – to secure grant funding and other shared resource opportunities to support climate-related projects and programs

As specified in the interlocal agreement, K4C is funded by a shared funding model, scaled to member jurisdictions’ population. Participating local governments determine how to use shared resources to support regional climate progress. The K4C Interlocal Agreement (ILA) includes a stipulation that 75 percent of parties must approve of budget expenditures.

Motion 14449, adopting the County’s 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP), includes the following requirement for reporting on K4C:

*“Consistent with Ordinance 17285, which authorized the Interlocal Agreement for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, the executive is requested to coordinate with staff of the transportation, economy and environment committee, or its successor, in developing the annual work plans and budget for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration under the interlocal agreement. The executive is requested to submit by January 31, and every year thereafter, the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration annual work plan and budget to the council for acceptance by motion. The 2016 work plan should include recommendations on the timing and approach for an update to the interlocal agreement that includes addressing drafting issues identified during the council’s initial review of the agreement.”*

**Recent K4C Work and Actions.** According to the 2022 K4C Workplan and Budget, K4C's 2021 work included working to implement the K4C Joint Climate Action Commitments, developing K4C State Policy and Legislative Work for 2022, and providing technical analysis, engagement and collaboration for the 2020 SCAP, which was adopted by the King County Council in May 2021.

Additionally, King County and K4C partners engaged in the development of the 2021 Countywide Planning Policies, which adopted stronger emissions reduction targets than those found in the Joint Climate Action Commitments and 2020 SCAP. The adopted language in the 2021 Countywide Planning Policies is as follows:

**EN-27** Adopt and implement policies and programs to achieve a target of reducing countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040, and 95%, including net-zero emissions through carbon sequestration and other strategies, by 2050. Evaluate and update these targets over time in consideration of the latest international climate science and statewide targets aiming to limit the most severe impacts of climate change and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius.

**ANALYSIS**

**K4C Budget.** As noted above, the contributions of each K4C partner are based on that jurisdiction's population. Table 1 below shows the anticipated contribution from each K4C partner in 2022.

**Table 1.**

**Anticipated K4C Partner 2022 Contributions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Partner** | **Anticipated 2022 Contribution** |
| Bellevue | $2,500 |
| Burien | $2,000 |
| Issaquah | $1,200 |
| Kenmore | $1,200 |
| Kent | $2,500 |
| King County | $10,000 |
| Kirkland | $2,500 |
| Lake Forest Park | $700 |
| Mercer Island | $1,200 |
| Port of Seattle | $7,000 |
| Redmond | $2,500 |
| Renton | $2,500 |
| Sammamish | $2,000 |
| Seattle | $5,000 |
| Shoreline | $2,000 |
| Snoqualmie | $700 |
| Tukwila | $1,200 |
| **Total** | **$46,700** |

The Work Plan notes that much of K4C’s work is completed by staff and elected officials of K4C partners and does not require K4C budget or expenditures.

**K4C Work Plan.** The 2022 K4C Work Plan includes priority areas of work, determined at K4C's Elected Official Work Sessions. Each priority area and planned actions are described briefly below.

*Shared Goals.* 2022 actions would include:

* Supporting K4C partners in integrating the new greenhouse gas reduction targets adopted through the Comprehensive Planning Policies into comprehensive plan and climate and sustainability plan updates;
* Completing the Puget Sound Regional Emissions Analysis Project, which includes:
  + Updating the countywide geographic and consumption-based emissions inventories;
  + Assessing, collecting, and tabulating local emissions data for the purpose of developing a tool with city-specific emissions data and visualizations; and
  + Developing guidance or a tool for cities to complete GHG inventories for government operations.

According to Executive staff, these deliverables are expected to be completed in 2022.

*Climate Policy.* K4C partners would track and analyze bills during the 2022 state legislative session and advocate for bills that would advance the K4C Joint Commitments.

*Transportation and Land Use.* K4C partners would work to support transit-friendly development and easy connections, and support countywide transportation-related policy updates as appropriate.

*Clean Fuels and Electric Vehicles.* In 2022, K4C partners would undertake the following work:

* Supporting engagement and partnership with utilities and organizations to develop pilots or programs to incentivize the transition to electric vehicle (EV) ownership;
* Supporting adoption of a proposed EV charging code developed through the regional code collaboration; and
* Working with Metro staff to coordinate EV data compilation and information sharing.

*Energy Supply.* K4C partners would continue engagement between elected officials, utilities, and utility regulators, with the goal of working toward a renewable energy future.

*Green Building and Energy Efficiency.* K4C's proposed green building and energy efficiency work for 2022 includes:

* Partnering through the Regional Code Collaboration to implement energy and green building policies and codes;
* Using K4C budget to support tools and training on newly adopted energy codes;
* Supporting regional energy efficiency programs, such as the King County Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) Program;[[4]](#footnote-4) and
* Collaborating with the Department of Commerce to increase awareness of, and provide support to, new energy efficiency incentives related to the state's Clean Buildings Act.

*Consumption and Materials Management.* King County is currently in the process of developing its "Re+ Plan," formerly known as the Zero Waste of Resources Plan, in partnership with the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Re+ Plan is to reduce garbage by keeping materials in use longer and recovering economically valuable resources that now get buried in a landfill. In 2022, K4C partners would engage in and support the development of the Re+ Plan.

Additionally, K4C partners would collaborate on community engagement and strategy development to create new tools and guidance for residents, governments, and businesses on low-GHG purchasing.

*Forests and Farming.* The Work Plan states that K4C partners would work in 2022 to increase tree canopy, improve forest health, and encourage tree planting.

*Government Operations.* K4C plans several actions relating to reducing GHG emissions in local government operations. According to the Work Plan, in 2022, K4C would:

* Increase use of clean vehicles and alternative fuels in local fleets;
* Reduce energy use in facilities and operations to reduce GHG emissions;
* Support analysis for partners and engagement with PSE and the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission on the Green Direct electricity program; and
* Increase demand for recycled content-products and materials, such as compost and recycled plastic, by exploring and implementing best practices in sustainable procurement policies and actions.

*Climate Preparedness.* In 2022, K4C would continue ongoing work to identify overarching goals and desired outcomes for climate preparedness work. Executive staff provided the following summary of ongoing collaborative work in this area:

* *“Develop shared K4C climate preparedness priorities and outcomes: Initial discussions with K4C partner staff have helped identify K4C interests, including the preparedness subject areas presented below. However a formal set of preparedness priorities and outcomes has not yet been agreed to. We anticipate hiring a consultant to further facilitate and advance discussions about K4C climate preparedness priorities and outcomes.*
* *Incorporate climate change into policies and practices: a) Comprehensive planning: K4C members are working jointly with the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative to support including climate preparedness in Comprehensive Plan updates. This has included engagement with the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) on the VISION 2050 resilience policies and development of a forthcoming webinar series for local governments on this work. This work will continue through the remainder of ’22 and into ’23. b) Stormwater Management: A planned stormwater management workgroup has not been convened. This work is related to a 2020 SCAP action by the DNRP Stormwater Services Section; Stormwater Services is working to secure the staffing resources needed for the SCAP action. c) Capital planning. This work is intended to leverage other efforts within King County to adapt capital planning guidance. That work is in the early stages and is likely to be deferred in the in the interest of focusing on K4C needs related to setting shared priorities and comprehensive planning.*
* *King County Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy: This work is underway. We anticipate completing the work in May or June ’22. This work is being completed in partnership with both K4C and many other partners.*
* *State Legislative Session: this work will be complete as of the end of the session in March ‘22. K4C communities have been tracking and responding to climate preparedness policies in the ’21 and ’22 state legislative sessions as needed.*
* *Incorporate Preparedness in K4C Collaboration: This work is ongoing. Climate preparedness has been incorporated into the monthly K4C Steering Committee meetings and elected officials work sessions as needed. Additional opportunities to include climate preparedness in K4C programming are being pursued as those activities are planned.*
* *Participating in Sea Level Rise Modeling: This work is just getting underway in ’22 due to delays in getting the WTD/USGS contract finalized. Community engagement with King County shoreline communities is anticipated in later ’22 or ’23.*
* *Planning for Sea Level Rise: This work in tied to the King County sea level rise modeling noted in [the bullet above]. Given delays in getting the modeling started, engagement with K4C shoreline communities on planning for sea level rise is not expected until late ’22 or ‘23. Some work on this issue may also occur through the Comprehensive Plan work described in [the second bullet].*
* *King County Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy: This work is expected to start very soon pending final award of a FEMA grant submitted in January ‘21. We should have a final answer about the award of the FEMA grant by spring ’22.”*

*Collaboration.* K4C's proposed 2022 Work Plan would focus on collaboration in three main areas:

* The Green Building Task Force and Regional Code Collaboration (RCC). In 2022, the RCC plans to undertake consultant-supported code and policy analyses relating water capture and reuse and to embodied emissions in building materials, as well as to mobilize partners to participate in the Washington State Building Code Council’s 2021 code amendment process.
* Staff work sessions to support local government climate action; and
* Collaboration on development of local climate and sustainability plans. According to Executive staff, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, and Shoreline are currently in the process of developing or updating climate action plans.

**AMENDMENT**

Amendment 1 would add language to Attachment A that was inadvertently left out of the transmittal, and correct section headings accordingly. The language that would be added is:

*“The K4C ILA includes a stipulation that at least 75 percent of partner jurisdictions must approve of any budget expenditures. In 2021 and 2022, the K4C has agreed to $50,411 of expenditures of the K4C budget to support the ‘Shared Goals - Special 2021-2022 K4C Partnership Project – GHG Inventories and Modeling’ detailed in Section 1 of this section. Additional 2022 budget expenditures may be decided on by formal vote of K4C partners.”*

**INVITED**

* Rachel Brombaugh, Director of Climate and Energy Initiatives, King County Executive's Office
* Matt Kuharic, Climate Change Program Coordinator, Department of Resources and Parks
* Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor, City of Issaquah

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2022-0034 (and its attachment)
2. Amendment 1 (and its attachment)
3. Transmittal Letter

1. Attachment A to the PM [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Tukwila [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ordinance 17285 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This program was enacted by King County Ordinance 19360. More information can be found at <https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/stewardship/sustainable-building/pace.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)