



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

December 13, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a report that evaluates the feasibility of directing municipal solid waste (MSW) received at King County and other regional solid waste facilities to a potential future sustainable aviation fuel production facility, and a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report. The report summarizes a study prepared by a consultant in response to Ordinance 19210, Section 107, Proviso P1. The Proviso was not renewed in the 2023-2024 Adopted Budget.

The study, which is a joint initiative funded by the Port of Seattle and the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), will inform both entities' efforts toward achieving their goals pertaining to greenhouse gas emission reduction, economic development, and waste management. The study provides insight into the potential costs and benefits of building and operating a renewable fuel production facility that uses regionally generated MSW. It evaluates technological feasibility, waste stream suitability, siting, financing, and partnership potential, and also includes recommendations.

The information contained in the report has the potential to advance the greenhouse gas reduction goals of the Strategic Climate Action Plan through the conversion of municipal solid waste to sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), thus helping to reduce carbon emissions from the aviation industry. SAF is the only available near- to mid-term technology for significantly reducing aviation's carbon footprint.

As of the date of this transmittal, the Port of Seattle has not finalized its review of the consultant's report nor determined its next actions. However, DNRP is proceeding with transmittal of the report and its recommendations so that the Council may begin its review. DNRP will update the Council once the Port completes its review.

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Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion. The information in the report will help decision makers and King County residents further understand the potential for conversion of municipal solid waste to sustainable aviation fuel.

If your staff have questions, please contact Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4501.

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
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP