



**strategic**



# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

# 2015 King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP)



**King County Council  
Transportation, Economy and  
Environment Committee**

*September 15, 2015*

Matt Kuharic, Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
Directors Office



**King County**

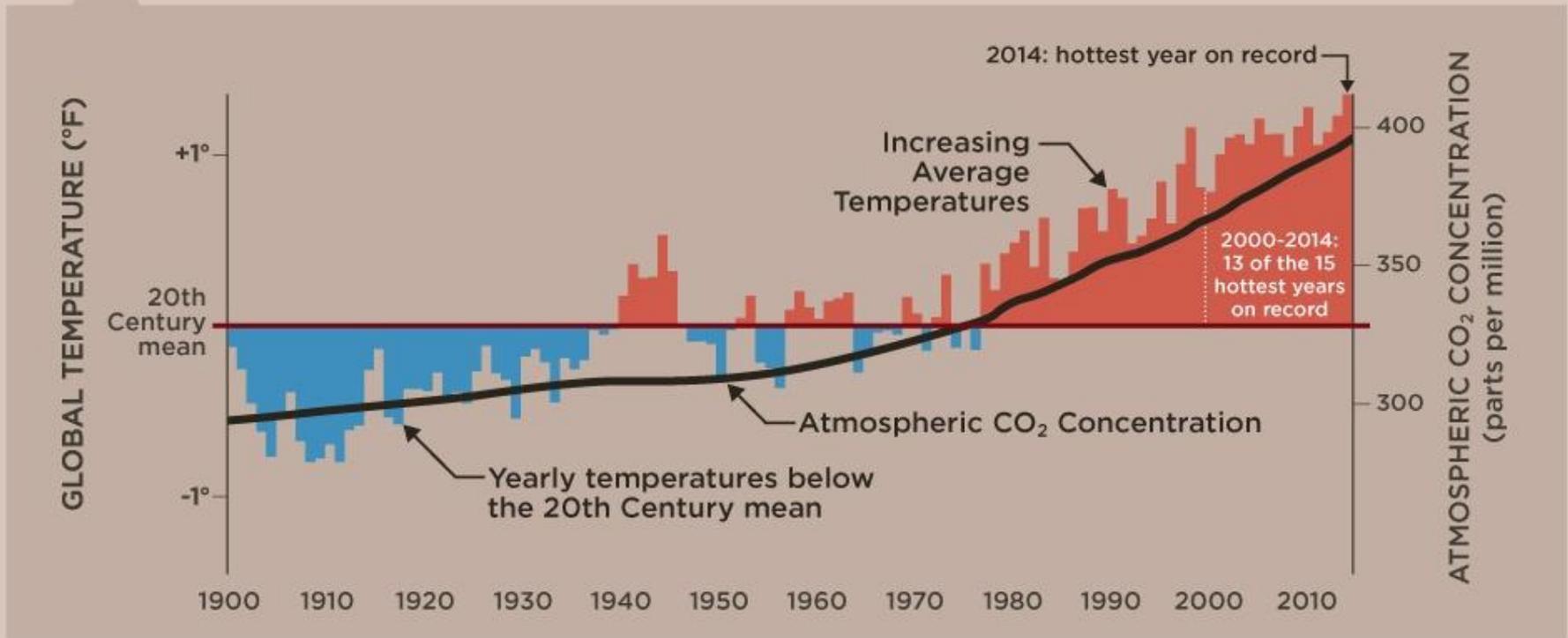
[www.kingcounty.gov/climate](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate)

# 2015 SCAP – Why Take Action?



## WHAT IS HAPPENING ON A GLOBAL SCALE?

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) LEVELS ARE THE HIGHEST IN THE LAST 800,000+ YEARS.



# 2015 SCAP – Why Take Action?



## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

2015 OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN.

### WINTER 2015

WARM JANUARY STORMS BRING TORRENTIAL RAIN AND FLOODING



In January, the Snoqualmie and Tolt Rivers reach the highest flood levels, with significant impacts in low-lying areas.

### SPRING 2015

SNOWPACK IN CENTRAL CASCADES AT LOWEST RECORDED LEVELS.



=



Warm winter temperatures set the stage for statewide drought.

### SUMMER 2015

RECORD NUMBER OF DAYS OVER 90 DEGREES



**JULY:  
HOTTEST  
MONTH  
EVER!**

Low water supplies impact hydropower production. Heat affects the health of residents. Toxic algae blooms shut down local shellfish industries.

### FALL 2015

DROUGHT CONDITIONS LIKELY TO PERSIST



Record low snow and heat lead to **high wildfire risk** and salmon die-offs and threaten local agriculture.

# 2015 SCAP – Why Take Action?



## WHY ACT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE?

REDUCING CARBON POLLUTION MAKES OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER FOR ALL.

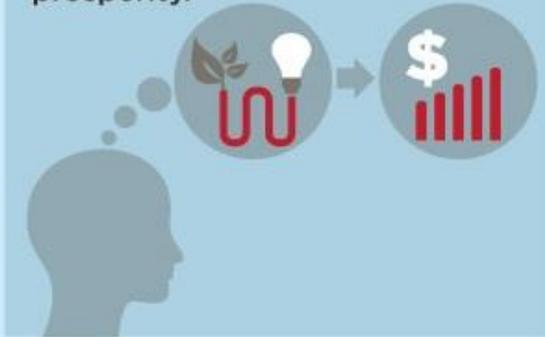
Increasing transportation options moves all of us around more efficiently.



Conserving resources and reducing waste saves money now and in the future.



Investing in a clean energy future invites innovation and economic prosperity.



Building green makes our homes and workplaces healthier and increases their value.



Preparing for impacts of a changing climate makes us more resilient for other emergencies like earthquakes.



# What the 2015 SCAP Covers

## SECTION ONE: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions



## Section One: Reducing GHG Emissions

- **Goal Area 1:** Transportation & Land Use
- **Goal Area 2:** Buildings & Facilities Energy
- **Goal Area 3:** Green Building
- **Goal Area 4:** Consumption & Materials Management
- **Goal Area 5:** Forests and Agriculture

## SECTION TWO: Preparing for Climate Change Impacts



## Section Two: Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

- Program-specific impacts, ongoing responses, priority actions and long term direction for twelve focus areas

# 2015 SCAP Basics

- **5-year blueprint** for County action to confront climate change
- Utilized successful **framework of 2012 SCAP**
- **Combined and integrated the Energy Plan**
- **Strengthens the climate change adaptation section**
- **Provides an update** on progress through 2014



# 2015 SCAP Plan Development

- Charts out **diverse and ambitious commitments**
- Defines where there are **pending or unmet resource implications**
- **Advances the County's commitment to equity and social justice**
- **Responds to Council Motion 14349**
- **Responds to Auditor and Council direction**, including to quantify GHG impacts and cost effectiveness



**County  
Services**



**County  
Operations**



**Quantifies  
Emissions**



**Advances  
ESJ**



**Pending/Unmet  
Resource Needs**



# 2015 SCAP Plan Development

- Highlights and **integrates work of the County's climate related partnerships**, such as the King County Cities-Climate Collaboration (K4C)
- **Developed with stronger community engagement**
- **Developed by interdepartmental teams**, which started with the big picture
- **Clearly links actions to outcomes** in reducing GHG emissions and achieving climate goals



KING COUNTY-Cities  
CLIMATE COLLABORATION

# 2015 SCAP Plan Development

## Outreach and Engagement

### – What's in the 2015 SCAP:

- ✓ Engagement since 2012 (e.g. K4C)
- ✓ Engagement directly related to the 2015 SCAP development

### – Example Priority Actions:

- ✓ Build Cross Sector Alliances
- ✓ Integrate climate change in the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan



*Elected Officials from King County and many other cities gather after the June 2014 K4C Elected Officials Summit.*

# 2015 SCAP Plan Development

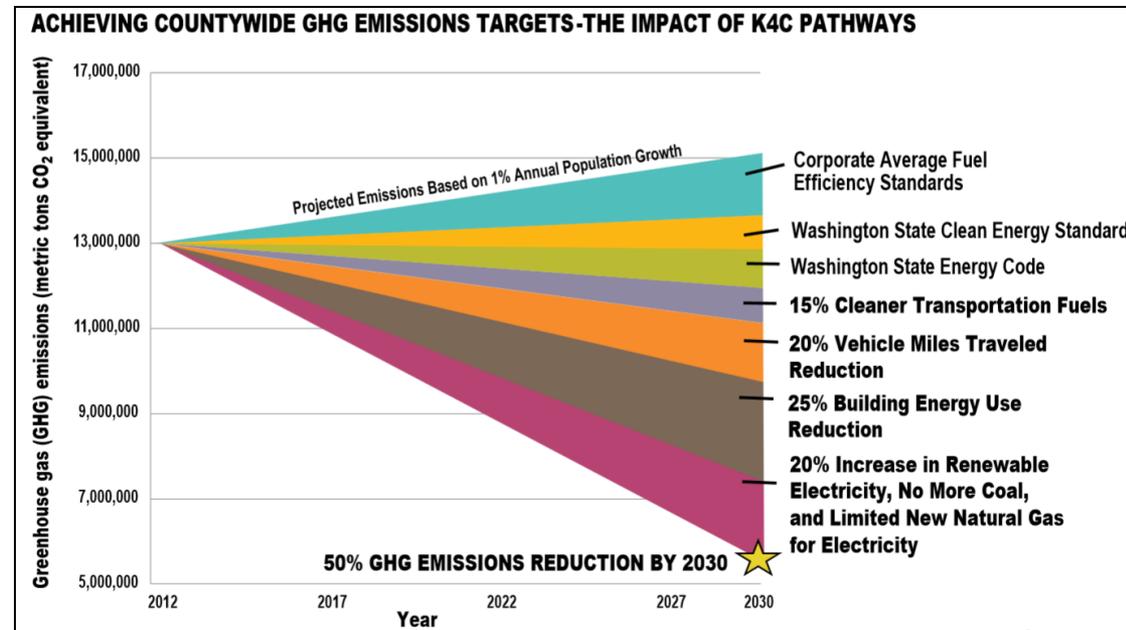
## Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

### – What’s in the 2015 SCAP:

- ✓ Summary of progress to date
- ✓ Technical, quantitative assessments of what it will take to achieve Countywide and operational targets
- ✓ Pilot cost effectiveness assessment results

### – Priority Actions:

- ✓ Assess cost effectiveness of select County operations commitments in the 2015 SCAP
- ✓ Develop and implement an operation “Cost of Carbon”



# Goal Area 1: Transportation & Land Use

## Key Takeaways:



- Focus almost all new residential construction in urban areas
- Double transit ridership by 2040
- Grow transit service thru 2020 with no increase in GHG emissions



- Increase the use of alternative fuels and decrease their carbon intensity



*Commuters and bike riders board Metro Transit's Route 41 in the downtown Seattle transit tunnel.*

# Goal Area 2: Buildings and Facilities Energy

## Key Takeaways:



- Partner to **phase in cleaner energy** sources, including efficiency



- **Reduce government energy use** by an additional 10%
- **Produce large amounts of renewable energy**
- **Use 100% GHG-neutral electricity** by 2025



*The BioEnergy Washington (BEW) renewable natural gas facility at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill.*

# Goal Area 3: Green Building

## Key Takeaways:



- Support King County’s permit customers
- Update and implement green development codes



- Implement the **highest green building and sustainable development standards and strategies**



*The Glidehouse is a net-zero energy home located on Vashon Island in unincorporated King County.*

# Goal Area 4: Consumption and Materials Management

## Key Takeaways:



- Significantly **increase the countywide recycling rate**
- Consider the safety and effectiveness of **banning recyclable materials**



- Update the County's **Environmental Purchasing Policy**
- Pursue initiatives that **improve landfill gas collection**



*Mercer Island high school students sorting recyclables in the lunchroom.*

# Goal Area 5: Forests and Agriculture

## Key Takeaways:



- **Permanently conserve** remaining high-priority lands
- **Provide incentives and technical assistance** to private landowners



- In partnership, **plant at least one million trees** by 2020
- **Steward and restore** more than 25,000 acres



*King County owns and stewards more than 25,000 acres of forest lands.*

# Section 2: Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

## Key Takeaways:



- **Assess impacts of climate change** on local rainfall patterns and flooding
- **Plan for climate change impacts** on wastewater, stormwater, emergency management, public health, roads, flood risk reduction, and salmon recovery
- **Improve regional coordination**

*Executive Constantine and regional leaders and emergency managers gather as part of the Resilient King County Initiative.*





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