



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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June 11, 2020

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance that would, if enacted, authorize the King County Executive to enter into contracts for sewage heat recovery projects with private entities or users.

Approval of this proposed legislation would authorize a template contract for private users to use the wastewater treatment conveyance system for sewage heat recovery projects, a previously unutilized renewable energy resource. Advancing sewer heat recovery projects would also generate revenue for carbon emission reduction projects at the wastewater treatment utility.

As it flows through sewer pipelines to the treatment plant, wastewater contains heat energy which can be used as a source of heat for buildings. Americans flush 350 billion kilowatt-hours of hot water energy into the sewers each year, roughly enough to power 30 million U.S. homes according to one estimate.

Specifically, the proposed legislation would provide for up to three initial pilot projects with private users to operate sewer heat recovery systems using the County's wastewater system. The County would not collect an energy transfer fee during the three-year pilot project in exchange for the private user sharing data with the County. The cost and risk for any project would be borne by the private user. During the pilot projects, the private user would still reimburse the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) for any County costs associated with this project.

The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of Healthy Environment by helping reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030. The proposed legislation also furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of reducing countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions by supporting development of renewable energy resources.

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In developing this approach, , DNRP engaged the Seattle 2030 District's network of property owners and managers in the downtown Seattle core, as well as other entities potentially interested in sewer heat recovery. DNRP incorporated the input gathered into the proposed legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This important legislation will help King County residents reduce carbon emissions, recover resources, and generate revenue for additional carbon emission reduction projects.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Mark Isaacson, Division Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine".

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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

Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP