



strategic



# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

# King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP)



**WLRD Science Seminar**

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



# SCAP – Adopted November 2015



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: TOWN HALL MEETING

Briefing 2015-B0177: Building for a Green Future

9/28/15

kingcounty.gov/council

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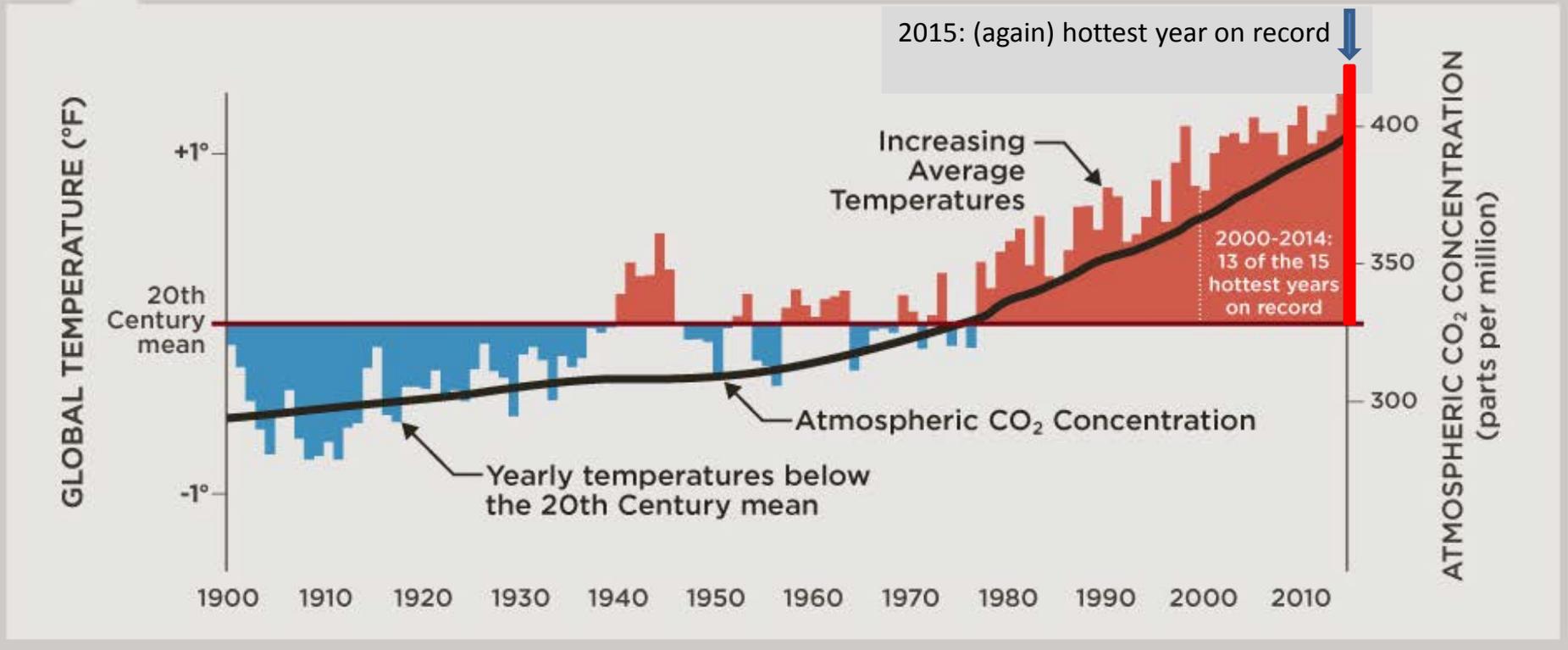


# Why Take Action?



## WHAT IS HAPPENING ON A GLOBAL SCALE?

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



# Why Take Action?



## WHAT RELATED IMPACTS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR REGION?

CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY AND HUMAN HEALTH.

### OCEANS

#### OCEAN WATER



#### PUGET SOUND



### RIVERS



### MOUNTAINS

#### AVERAGE CASCADE SNOWPACK



# Why Take Action?



## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

THE LAST YEAR OFFERED A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN

### SPRING 2015

SNOWPACK IN CENTRAL  
CASCADES AT LOWEST  
RECORDED LEVELS

Warm winter temperatures  
set the stage for  
statewide drought.



### SUMMER AND FALL 2015

HEAT AND DROUGHT

Drought and low stream flows kill  
spawning salmon. Heat impacts  
the health of residents. More than  
one million acres of Washington  
lands burn, the biggest fire  
season ever.



### WINTER 2016

WARM RAINS RETURN

Storms return, with severe flooding in  
December. The winter ended as the  
wettest on record for the Seattle area.  
However, above average winter  
temperatures resulted in only average  
mountain snowpacks, with below  
average totals at lower elevations.



# Why Take Action?



## WHY ACT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE?

REDUCING CARBON POLLUTION MAKES OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER FOR ALL.

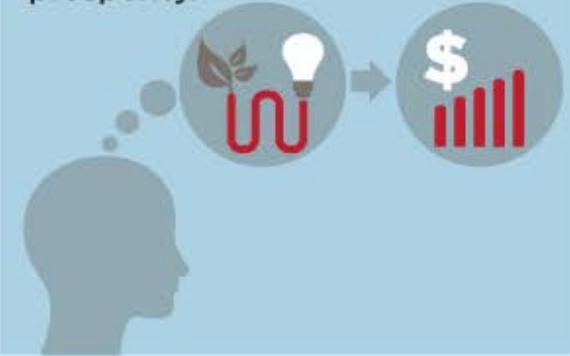
Increasing transportation options moves all of us around more efficiently, promotes health, and provides clean air and water.



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.



# 2015 SCAP Basics

## 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 ONE: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions



### 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

# King County Strategic Climate Action Plan



## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



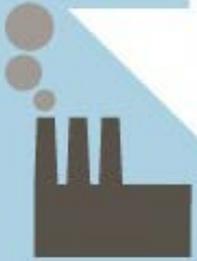
- **Unanimously adopted** by council, Nov 2015
- **5-year blueprint** for County climate action

# Goals: Combatting Climate Change

1. Reduce countywide carbon pollution by



**80%**  
by 2050



2. Prepare our region for the impacts of a changing climate by



**strengthening  
community  
resiliency**

# 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
- Decrease vehicle fuel use



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

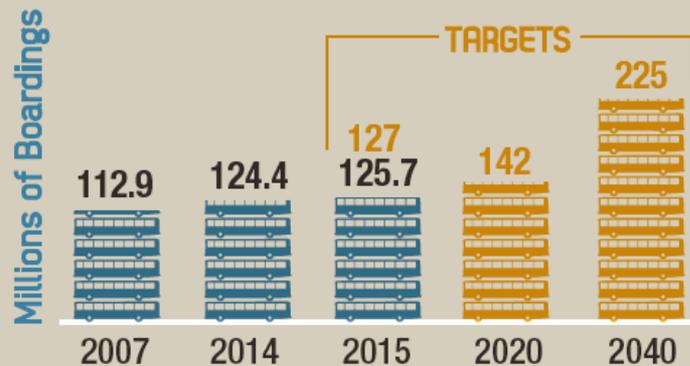
# Goal Area 1: Transportation & Land Use



## KING COUNTY SERVICE GOAL

### Annual Metro Transit Ridership

Target: 127 million passenger boardings by 2015



### New Construction within the Urban Growth Area (UGA)

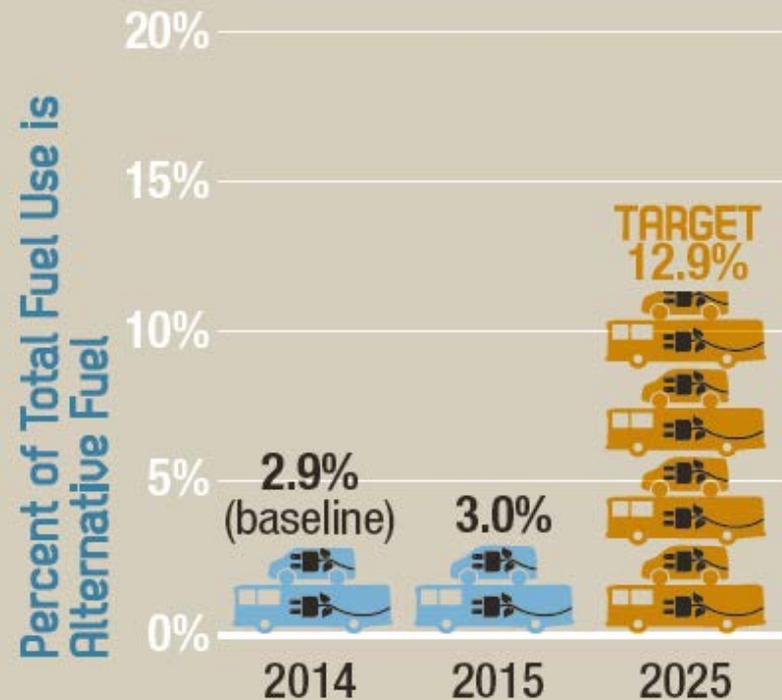
Target: At least 97% of new residential construction within the UGA



## KING COUNTY OPERATIONS GOAL

### Alternative Energy Use County Vehicles

Target: 10 percentage point increase over 2014 baseline in alternative fuel use for all county vehicle operations by 2025



# 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

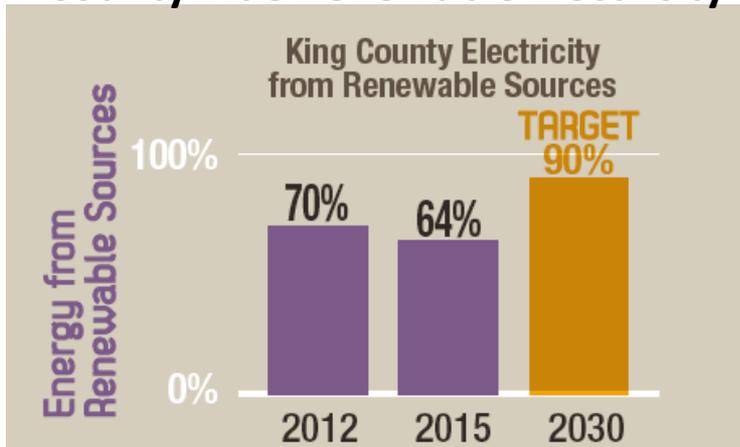


# Goal Area 2: Buildings and Facilities Energy

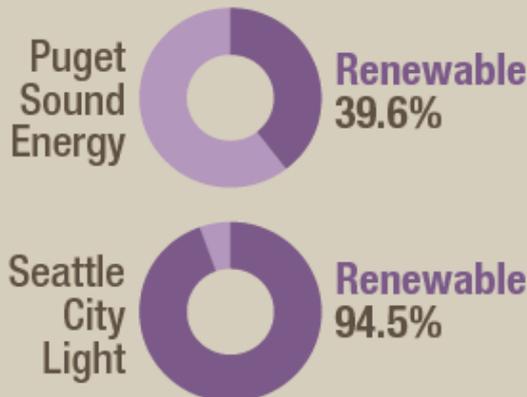


## KING COUNTY SERVICE GOAL

### Countywide Renewable Electricity



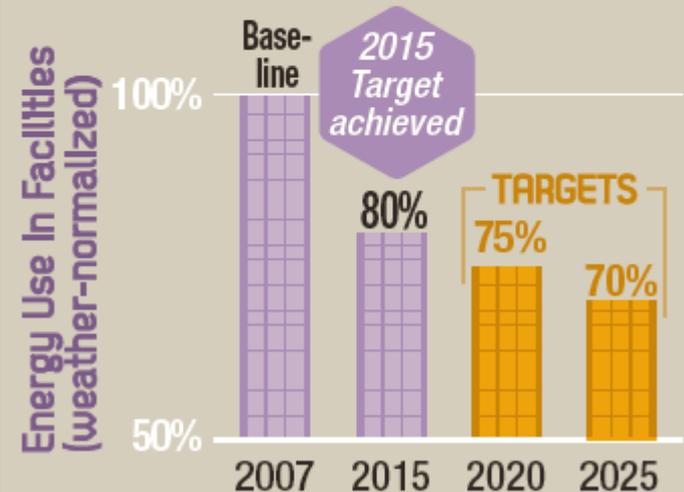
### 2015 Utility Electricity Sources



## KING COUNTY OPERATIONS GOAL

### Normalized Energy Use at County Facilities

*Target:* Reduction in energy use in County- owned facilities by at least 5% by 2020 and 10% by 2025, compared to 2014



# 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 Bullitt Center in Seattle makes more energy than it produces and is a successful commercial office building.*

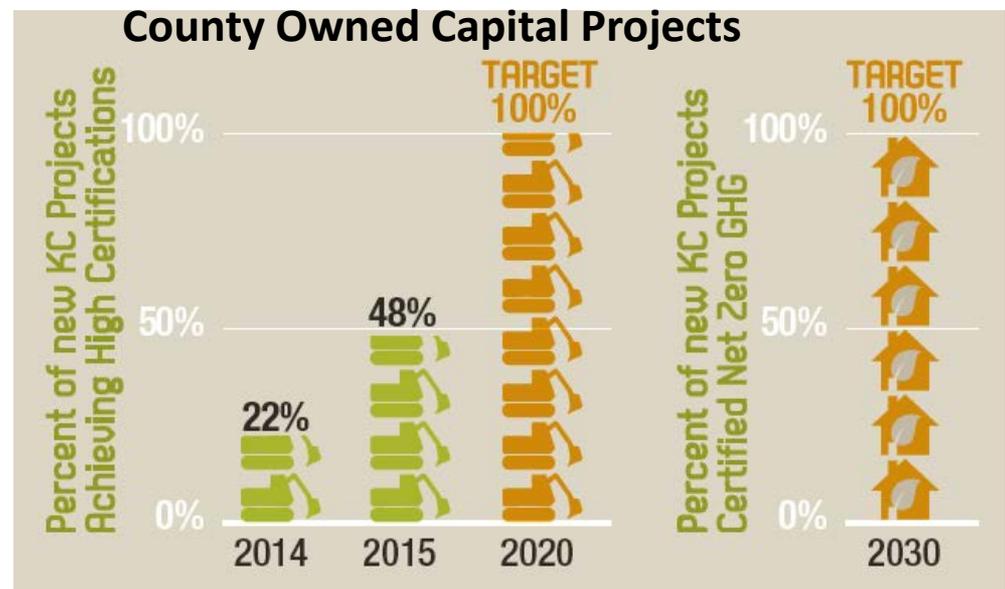
# Goal Area 3: Green Building



**KING COUNTY  
SERVICE GOAL**



**KING COUNTY  
OPERATIONS GOAL**



# 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**



# Goal Area 4: Consumption and Materials Management



## KING COUNTY SERVICE GOAL

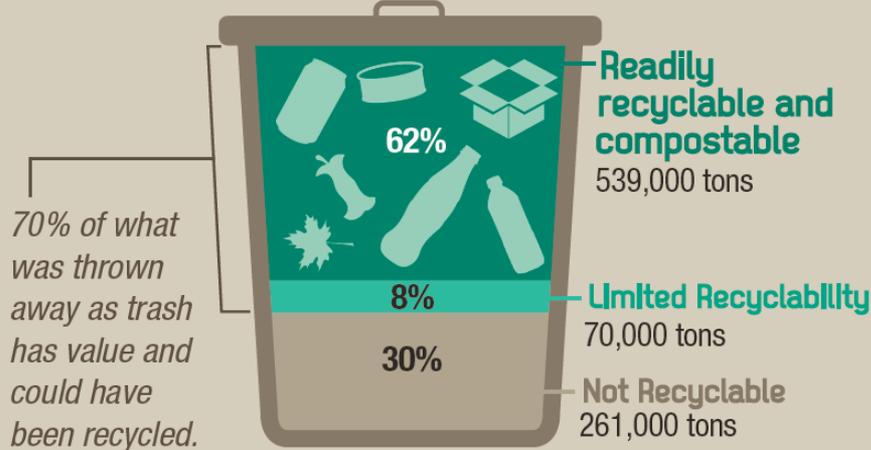


## KING COUNTY OPERATIONS GOAL

### Recycling Rates

Target: Zero waste of valuable resources by 2030

Waste Disposed at  
Cedar Hills Landfill in 2015  
(baseline year)  
870,000 tons



### Total Amount of Copy Paper Purchased

Target: Reduce copy paper usage compared to 2010:  
 ✓ 20% by 2013 · 30% by 2016 · at least 35% by 2020



# 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



# Goal Area 5: Forests and Agriculture

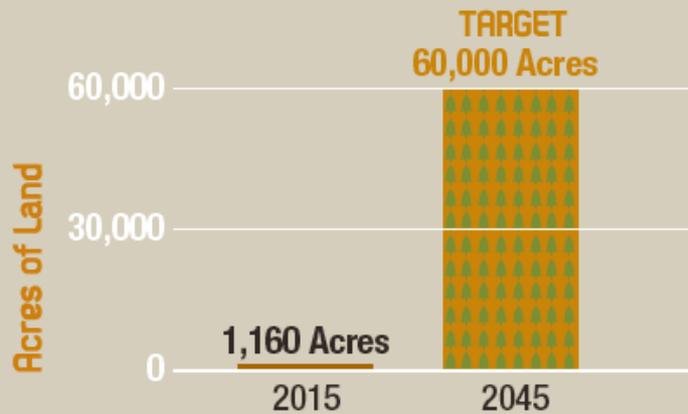


## KING COUNTY SERVICE GOAL



## KING COUNTY OPERATIONS GOAL

**Forest, Agriculture and Open Space Preservation** *Target:* Permanently protect all remaining high-priority lands within 30 years



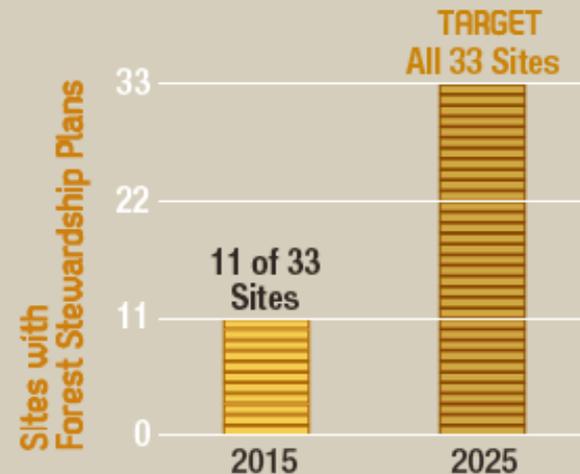
*To protect an average of 2,000 acres per year needed to meet the long-term target to permanently protect 60,000 acres of high priority land over 30 years, new funding strategies and partnerships are being developed.*

1

**Forest Stewardship Plans on Forested Sites over 200 Acres Managed by the Parks Division**

1

100% by 2025



# 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.*



# Section 2: Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

## 12 priority action focus areas:

### ➤ **Built Environment**

- Wastewater Treatment and Conveyance
- Roads and Bridges in Unincorporated King County
- King County International Airport
- King County-Owned Buildings and Facilities

### ➤ **Planning and Regional Services**

- Planning
- Public Health
- Stormwater
- Flood Risk Reduction and Floodplain Management
- Salmon Recovery and other Rural Programs
- Public Transportation
- Environmental Science and Monitoring
- Emergency Management



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