

## ENERGY CONSUMPTION

### Outcome: Improve Air Quality

#### Countywide Planning Policy Rationale

"In cooperation with water and electricity providers, local jurisdictions, including sewer and water districts, shall encourage programs for...power conservation in public facilities and in the private sector." (ED - 11) "Aggressive conservation efforts shall be implemented to address the need for adequate supply for electrical energy and water resources, and [to] achieve improved air quality. Efforts shall include, but not be limited to, public education...conservation credits, and energy efficiency in new and existing buildings." (CO, 6)

This indicator tracks the consumption of energy from gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, and electricity in King County. Total energy consumption in King County increased more than 13% from 1996 to 2008. When adjusted for population growth, per capita energy consumption remains roughly the same in 2008 as 1996. Per capita energy consumption was highest in 2000 when King County residents consumed nearly 149 million BTU per person.

**Non-Petroleum Energy** As shown in Figure 11.1, per capita consumption of natural gas peaked in 1999 before experiencing five straight years of decline and dropping 13% through 2004. Since then however, consumption of natural gas has again begun to rise.

Per capita consumption of electricity has similarly experienced a recent upward trend. While per capita consumption of electricity dipped in 2002 to a level not seen in at least the previous 15 years, it has since experienced six years of continued though gradual increase.

**Petroleum Energy** Figure 11.1 shows the steady decline in per capita gasoline consumption since 2001, decreasing more than 10% to about 1.12 gallons per day per person in 2008. Figure 11.2 reflects nearly a 4% decline in total gasoline consumption countywide over this time period, nearly 32 million gallons, despite population gains. Meanwhile, diesel fuel usage has assumed a greater share of energy usage in the last decade.

Figure 11.1

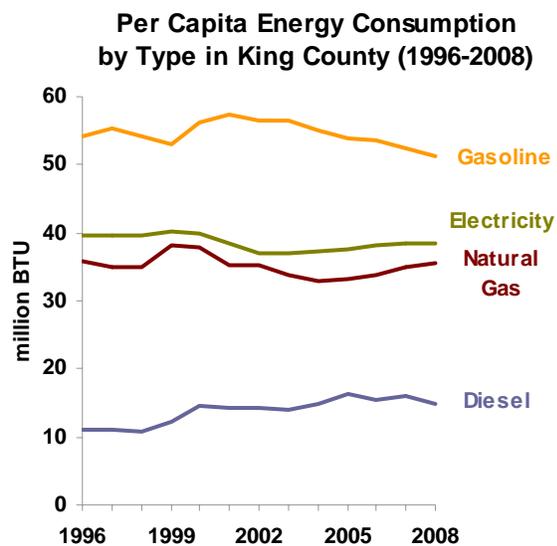


Figure 11.2

#### Total Energy Consumption by Type in King County (1996-2008)

