



King County

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL

June 30, 2016

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

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

I am pleased to transmit the 2015 annual report on implementation of the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP). This report is designed to be transparent, performance-based, and aligned with the goals, targets, measures, and priority actions in the 2015 SCAP update, which was unanimously adopted by the Council last fall.

Reflecting my commitment to transparency and performance management, this report reviews our goals and our progress in translating our climate commitments into action. It shows where we are on track and where we need to do more. To make the report more user friendly and accessible to our customers, we have included an overall performance dashboard and infographics to show progress against targets. This report also reflects full integration of the County's Energy Plan with other climate change actions in the 2015 SCAP update. Finally, and Appendix to this report summarizes progress on all the priority actions recommended in the 2015 SCAP Update, as requested by Councilmembers. Annual reporting on SCAP implementation is required by Ordinance 17270 and K.C.C. chapter 18.50.

King County government has a long record of action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change, but we must do much more. Our SCAP is a bold blueprint for confronting climate change and reducing GHG emissions across King County by 80 percent by 2050. It sets goals, targets, measures, and priority actions in the following areas:

- Transportation and Land Use
- Buildings and Facilities Energy
- Green Building
- Consumption and Materials Management
- Forests and Agriculture
- Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

Fortunately, the actions we need to take—expanding transit, conserving energy, using more renewable energy, and preserving open space—will also bring a multitude of benefits to our economy and environment.

I am proud of the work King County employees have done to make government operations more efficient and sustainable as we provide essential regional services. I am also honored to work in partnership with cities, energy utilities, businesses, and County residents as we continue to confront climate change. Here are just a few of our recent successes:

- Metro Transit achieved record passenger boardings on buses and other services.
- King County surpassed its goals for reducing energy use in buildings and facilities.
- More than half of all new single-family buildings achieved green building certification.
- Recycling at our transfer stations increased by one-third.
- Our King County-Cities Climate Collaboration grew to 14 local governments and was recognized with a national award from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Since the adoption of the 2015 SCAP, King County has completed further technical analysis to estimate the cost effectiveness of a selection of SCAP operational commitments. This work will inform implementation of the SCAP; for example it identified alternative fuel and fleet conversions among the most cost effective solutions, and further quantified the large GHG benefits at relatively low costs of tree planting.

The report also furthers the goals of key County plans and initiatives as follows:

- The report furthers the King County Strategic Plan goals focused on Healthy Environment; Mobility; and Efficient, Accountable Regional and Local Government.
- The report and related SCAP implementation efforts further the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative goals by implementing climate solutions through shared decision-making and ways that are shaped by ESJ objectives for Process Equity, Distributional Equity, and Cross-generational Equity.

It is estimated that the report required approximately 220 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$40,000. Minimal printing costs are associated with the report.

For 2015, major expenses associated with King County's climate change program included: technical analysis, community engagement, and report production costs in support of the 2015 SCAP update (~\$80,000); title sponsorship of the 2015 GoGreen Conference (\$35,000); support for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (\$20,000); and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency regulatory dues (\$173,000). Not included in these totals are costs of staff time from County agencies implementing climate and SCAP commitments - from energy and resource conservation managers to bus drivers to public health professionals.

I look forward to ongoing progress as we put our climate plan to work.

The Honorable Joe McDermott
June 30, 2016
Page 2

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Megan Smith, Director of Climate and Energy Initiatives in the King County Executive Office, at 206-263-9605.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
 Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council
Carrie Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office (KCEO)
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Harold Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Caroline Whalen, Director, Department of Executive Services
Megan Smith, Director of Climate and Energy Initiatives, KCEO