Recap of Recent Climate and Energy State Action and K4C Interests\(^1\) for 2020

**Who we are**

King County, and seventeen partners representing more than 1.6 million county residents — Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Tukwila, plus the Port of Seattle — are working together through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action.

**Our Shared Climate Goals and Actions**

In 2014, King County and all 39 cities formally adopted a shared target to reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the county scale 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline). To support this goal, K4C partners mapped out and recently updated Joint County - City Climate Commitments to meet this target, in areas ranging from transportation and land use to renewable energy to waste reduction and recycling.

**Importance of State Action**

While local governments have the responsibility to lead on climate solutions at the local level, a comprehensive and supportive policy and funding framework at the state level is essential to meeting our shared commitments. State policies and investments in climate and energy can also better position Washington State to be a leader in economic development. The current federal administration is continuing attempts to roll back the clean air and energy efficiency rules, weaken vehicle fuel efficiency standards, and scale back other federal efforts to reduce GHG emissions and support our communities’ work to prepare for local climate change impacts. This makes state and local climate action more important than ever.

**Policy Interest Details for 2020 Legislative Session**

These policy interests draw from the K4C’s updated Joint City - County Climate Commitments from K4C legislative interests developed in recent years and are informed by anticipated proposals for state legislation. These policy interests are intended to advance shared climate commitments and to be a resource for local governments as they review state legislation, consider comment letters, and weigh in on state policies as they develop. **We recognize that each K4C partner has unique policy and state legislative priorities and may not pursue all of these interests**, but through focused, coordinated action, we can maximize the impact of our individual and shared efforts.

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\(^1\) King County’s own formal legislative agenda is subject to review and approval by the King County Council, usually in November.
Climate Policy

*K4C supports comprehensive science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases.*

Recap of Recent Years:
- In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed, and Governor Inslee signed into law, SB 5116 that requires that utilities supply 100% carbon-free electricity supplies by 2045, and use a social cost of carbon when evaluating resource decisions and conservation programs.
- In 2019, the Legislature also passed HB 1112, which regulates and restricts most uses of hydrofluorocarbons by 2024. Governor Inslee signed this bill into law.
- In 2019, a cap and trade bill that would reinvest proceeds was introduced late in session, but did not advance.

2020 Priorities:
- Support a price on carbon based on best available science that reinvests a substantial share of revenues in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., transit service, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, forest protection and restoration), prioritize investments that benefit communities most impacted by climate change, and ensure a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.
- Support policies that establish and use “cost of carbon” methods for analysis and decision-making.
- Strengthen state climate change targets to align with the Department of Ecology’s 2016 recommendations which are complementary to K4C and Growth Management Planning Council adopted targets.

Transportation and Land Use

*K4C supports comprehensive state policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by reducing vehicle miles travelled, lowering the GHG intensity of fuels, and catalyzing investments in clean passenger, transit, and heavy-duty vehicles. K4C supports policies to focus growth inside the Urban Growth Area cities and centers well served by transit and other mobility options.*

Recap of Recent Years:
- In 2019, the Washington State legislature passed, and Gov. Inslee signed into law HB 1512, which authorized municipal utilities to offer incentives and programs for electric vehicles.
- In 2019, HB 2042 passed and was signed into law, providing incentives for a wide range of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure, including zero – emission buses.
In 2019, SB 5588, which authorizes the production, distribution, and sale of renewable hydrogen was passed and signed into law.

In 2019, HB 1110, which would have established a state-level clean fuels standard, did not pass through the Senate.

In 2019, SB 5911, which would have aligned Washington State’s zero-emission vehicle standards with the state of California’s standards, did not pass.

2020 Priorities:

• **Support**, as part of a comprehensive strategy for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions:
  
  o Protection for and expansion of funding for public transit;
  
  o Adoption of cleaner fuel standards;
  
  o Incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets and lower pollution from transportation fuels;
  
  o Continued funding and expansion as in previous years of the Commute Trip Reduction program and the Regional Mobility Grant program;
  
  o Policies and incentives to support transit friendly development and easy connections in vicinity of planned rail and high capacity transit and employment centers;
  
  o Follow through on principles for the VW Funding Settlement developed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency in partnership with King County and several K4C partners

**Energy Supply**

*K4C supports existing state renewable energy commitments including the Renewable Portfolio Standard and the Clean Energy Transformation Act that provide for 100% Clean electricity supply by 2045 by partnering with local utilities, state regulators and other stakeholders on a countywide commitment to clean energy resources. Support policies that meet our future energy needs through deep energy efficiency, grid modernization, and expanded renewable generation while phasing-out fossil fuels.*

Recap of Recent Years:

• In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed, and Gov. Inslee signed into law, SB 5116, the Clean Energy Transformation Act, which requires 80% carbon free electricity supplies by 2030, and 100% carbon free supplies by 2045. This bill requires utilities to remove coal – fired electricity supplies from rates by 2025.

• Also signed into law was SB 5223, which raised the utility volume cap for net metering from 0.5% to 4%. This bill did not include provisions to increase the system size that qualifies for net metering.
2020 Priorities:

- **Support a clear, articulated pathway for retirement of fossil fuel energy supplies** that protects ratepayers, creates jobs, supports a just transition, and maximizes replacement with new renewable resources.

- **Support changes in the utility Integrated Resource Planning process** that promote equitable consideration of environmental and health benefits and greater emphasis on energy efficiency and demand management.

- **Support the Energy Independence Act (I-937)** that requires increasing percentages of new energy load to be met by renewable sources other than hydropower. Washington State’s current renewable portfolio standard is currently at 9% of utility load, increasing to 15% by 2020 and years beyond.

- **Protect core provisions of the Clean Energy Transformation Act.**

- **Support distributed solar energy generation.** Current state legislation limits the size of solar arrays that qualify for retail electricity rates and limits the ability to meet net zero energy goals for larger buildings and the cumulative generating capacity from these renewable energy systems. We support policy changes that would expand utility limits for these systems and allow for development of larger solar installations while considering both the benefits of increased distributed solar energy generation and ratepayer fairness.

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**Green Building and Energy Efficiency**

*K4C supports state policy changes and investments that will help us to reduce energy use in existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030, achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2030, and reduce fossil fuel use in buildings by 20% by 2030.*

**Recap of Recent Years:**

- In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed, and Governor Inslee signed into law, HB 1257, which requires increasing commercial building efficiency and natural gas conservation programs, and authorizes development of renewable natural gas tariffs.

- Early versions of HB 1257 contained authority for local governments to offer optional stretch codes for residential construction, but this provision was struck from the final bill.

- HB 1444, which set stringent appliance standards for water and energy efficiency, passed and was signed into law.

- A bill was proposed to enable the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing mechanism but failed to pass.
• Several King County cities are developing High Performance Building policies and incentives.

2020 Priorities:
• **Continue to strengthen our Washington State Energy code**, leading the way to “net-zero emissions” buildings by 2030.
• **Support policies and new funding mechanisms to reduce energy use** and save money for King County residents and businesses.
• **Support policies, tools and programs to reduce construction-related emissions**, including embodied carbon in construction materials.
• **Provide State Department of Commerce grants** to leverage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments by local governments.