



Recap of Recent Climate and Energy State Action and K4C Interests¹ for 2022

New content for 2022 indicated in highlight

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 2021, King County and its cities recommended strengthening shared targets to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040; and 95% and net zero emissions by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline). These targets have been recommended by the Growth Management Planning Council to the King County Council and are expected to be adopted by the end of 2021. In support of these targets, K4C partners have signed on to [Joint County - City Climate Commitments](#), in areas ranging from transportation and land use to renewable energy to waste reduction. The Joint Commitments articulate that building an equitable clean energy economy will require deep engagement with communities of color and low income, immigrant, and youth populations and committed to work in ways that are fair, equitable, empowering, and inclusive. The 2019 update to the Joint Commitments added preparing for climate change impacts to K4C's shared work.

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.

Policy Interest Details for 2022 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

¹ King County's own formal legislative agenda is subject to review and approval by the King County Council, usually in November.

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.



Climate Policy

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

2021 Recap:

- In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act (SB 5126) that establishes a state cap in emissions in support of the goal of reducing emissions 95% by 2050 and establishes a funding stream for investment in climate priorities. While specific programs are not yet developed, the sale of credits is expected to fund transportation electrification, infrastructure, and climate resilience.
- The legislature passed HB 1050, which strengthens legislation passed in 2019 that regulates the use of hydrofluorocarbons in equipment and the built environment.
- The legislature passed the “Healthy Environment for All” (HEAL) Act (SB 5141), which recognizes that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and low-income communities are at higher risk for adverse health outcomes due to environmental harms and historic injustice. The law requires that state agencies, and local government grantees comply with environmental justice requirements.

2022 Priorities:

- **Support policies that establish regulation of methane emissions** based on best available science and technology.
- **Support policies that establish and use “cost of carbon” methods for analysis and decision-making.**
- Support amendments to existing legislation that **strengthen targets to align with best science**, and that provide additional structure or resources to reach the targets.
- Support policies encouraging **carbon sequestration**.



Transportation and Land Use

K4C supports comprehensive state policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by supporting transit, and opportunities to walk, roll, and bike, catalyzing investments in clean transit vehicles.



K4C supports policies to focus growth inside cities and prioritizing centers well served by transit and other mobility options.

2021 Recap:

- HB 1099, which would have added a climate change and resiliency element addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on people, property, and ecological systems to the elements that must be included in comprehensive plans, did not pass. A budget proviso funded Commerce to set up programs for future launch when a climate change element does eventually pass.
- HB 1075, which proposed to reduce emissions from on-demand transportation services, did not pass.

2022 Priorities:

- **Support**, as part of a comprehensive strategy for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions:
 - **Support legislation for transportation funding** that aligns with state climate policy goals to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles and reduce miles travelled.
 - **Flexibility in how potential revenue streams, including Road Usage Charges, (RUC) are spent.** Support local government authority to use revenues to fund transit, multi-modal, pedestrian and road improvements that increase mobility and prioritize reaching climate goals.
 - **Support for integration of climate considerations** in comprehensive planning policies.
 - **Protection for and expansion of funding for public transit** and investments that support travel by walking, rolling, and biking.
 - **Continued funding and expansion as in previous years of the Commute Trip Reduction program** and the Regional Mobility Grant program.
 - **Policies and incentives to support equitable transit friendly development and easy connections** in vicinity of planned rail and high-capacity transit and employment centers.
 - **Development of land use strategies** that encourage dense, affordable healthy, sustainably developed neighborhoods that discourage displacement.



Clean Fuels and Electric Vehicles

K4C supports comprehensive state and regional policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by increasing Federal vehicle efficiency



standards, adopting state or regional clean fuels standards, and the increase in the use of electric light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles.

2021 Recap:

- The legislature passed the Clean Fuels Standard (HB 1091), which establishes a target to reduce the carbon intensity of fuels statewide 20% by 2038. This standard promotes biofuels and electricity as “fuels” and is expected to spur the acceleration of the electrification of the transportation sector.
- The legislature also passed HB 1287 and SB 5192 in support of vehicle electrification. HB 1287 provides for a more structured approach to utility planning for the transition to electric vehicles, and SB 5192 establishes a framework to ensure easier and more equitable access to EV charging infrastructure.
- SB 5000, which provides a tax incentive for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, passed.

2022 Priorities:

- **Support the development of comprehensive transportation sector decarbonization plan** that evaluates reductions in vehicle miles travelled, land use strategies, vehicle electrification and renewable hydrogen technologies, and transit.
- Support existing legislation that provides for **the establishment of strong clean fuel standards.**
- **Incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets** and lower pollution from transportation fuels.
- Support existing legislation that establishes **accessible, reliable, interoperable, and fairly priced electric vehicle (EV) charging** and support policy updates to require EV charging stations and EV-ready parking spaces as part of new commercial and residential development.
- Support **equitable incentives** to promote adoption of electric vehicles by residents.



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.



2021 Recap:

- HB 1046, which would have amended community solar legislation, did not pass. It would have eased requirements to develop community solar projects.

2022 Priorities:

- **Protect core provisions of the Clean Energy Transformation Act.**
- **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 existing state law 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 15% of utility load for 2020 and beyond.
- Support **distributed solar energy generation**. Current state law limits the size of solar arrays that qualify for retail electricity rates. 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.



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 2017 levels by 2030, achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2031, and reduce fossil fuel use in buildings by 20% by 2030.

2021 Recap:

- HB 2586, which would enable public utilities to establish beneficial electrification plans, including the use of ratepayer dollars for programs, marketing, and incentives, did not pass.
- HB 2744, which would have established guidelines for the reduction of emissions associated with manufacture, sourcing, and transportation of concrete, steel, wood, and other materials used in State building projects, did not pass.
- HB 1084 ("Healthy Homes and Clean Buildings Act") did not pass. The bill would have extended building performance reporting requirements for smaller commercial facilities (10,000 – 50,000sf), directed electrification for both commercial and residential buildings, and eliminated fossil-fuel combustion for space and water heating by 2027 for new construction.



2022 Priorities:

- Support **stronger Washington State Energy code**, leading the way to “net-zero emissions” buildings by 2030.
- Support **policies and funding mechanisms to reduce energy use** and save money for residents and businesses.
- Support **policies that enable the beneficial electrification of buildings**, with a focus on equitable access to programs and just transition for workers.
- 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.
- Support **policies that enable or encourage permanently affordable green homeownership** development projects.
- Support **policies and funding that support the retrofit of existing building stock** to lower the carbon footprint of existing residential and commercial buildings.



Consumption and Materials Management

K4C supports state policy and investments that will help us achieve a 70% recycling rate countywide and achieve zero waste of resources for materials that have economic value for reuse, resale, and recycling by 2030.

2021 Recap:

- E2SSB 5022, which sets minimum recycled content requirements for certain plastic packaging and products (that will lower emissions), bans certain types of expanded polystyrene packaging and requires single-use food service on request only, passed.
- SB 5345, which establishes an industrial waste coordination program that provides expertise, technical assistance, and best practices to support local industrial symbiosis (using waste as feedstock) projects, passed.
- SB 5286, which would have established statewide organic waste management system – including 90% diversion goal, update standards and permitting, set landfill methane standards, support statewide compost end markets, support soil carbon sequestration from organic waste, did not pass.



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- Although SB 5286 did not pass, this effort resulted in a research study undertaken by WSU on the carbon sequestration potential of applying compost to the soil; this report is scheduled to be finalized at the end of 2021.

2022 Priorities:

- Support policies that **replace the take-make-waste linear economy** with a more **circular economy** where **waste is minimized, materials are kept in use longer** and **natural systems are regenerated**.
- Support policies that **reduce emissions from solid waste management by increasing reuse, recycling and composting statewide** and **support new processing infrastructure innovations such as co-digestion**.
- Support policies for **Extender Producer Responsibility**, which will **increase the reuse and recycling rate of residential packaging and paper products** across the state to 75% by 2030 and **reduce residential recycling costs for rate payers**.
- **Support policies that reduce food waste** and reclaim edible food from the waste stream and provide it to those in need.
- Support policies that develop opportunities for **soil carbon sequestration** and **mitigating the impacts of climate change** through the application of compost.
- Support policies that **reduce methane emissions** from solid waste management including landfill operations, especially those that divert food waste from the landfill.
- **Support policies that use a lifecycle and consumption emissions approach to reduce emissions**, so reducing the risks of carbon leakage.



Climate Preparedness

K4C supports policy changes and investments that increase community resilience and reduce climate change impacts on K4C communities and the King County region.

2021 Recap (highlights):

- HB 1099, which would have added a climate change and resiliency element addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on people, property, and ecological systems to the elements that must be included in comprehensive plans, did not pass. *A budget proviso funded Commerce to set up programs for future launch when a climate change element eventually passed.*
- HB 1114, Utility Action on Urban Heat Islands, passed. This bill encourages municipal electric utilities and public utility districts (PUDs) to assist electric customers in the acquisition and



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installation of materials and equipment for the conservation of energy, including cool roof programs and tree plantings

- SB 5126, the Climate Commitment Act, passed. This bill establishes a new “cap and invest” emissions reduction framework that will generate revenue for clean energy transition and assistance, clean transportation, and climate resiliency projects that promote climate justice, including dedicating a minimum of 35% of funds toward overburdened communities and a minimum of 10% toward tribal projects. ([learn more](#))
- SB 5141, the “Healthy Environment for All” (HEAL) Act, passed. The HEAL Act recognizes that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and low-income communities are at higher risk for adverse health outcomes due to environmental harms and historic injustice. The law requires that state agencies, and local government grantees comply with environmental justice requirements.

2022 Priorities:

- Support policies that **require climate preparedness, climate equity and GHG emissions reduction in Comprehensive Planning and climate preparedness in Hazard Mitigation Planning**, including a potential reintroduction of HB 1099.
- Support policies and investments that **reduce specific climate change impacts equitably** (e.g., flooding, sea level rise, wildfire, urban heat, public health risks), **increase state and local capacity** to address climate change impacts, and **increase frontline community resilience**.
- Support dedicated **funding for implementation** of climate preparedness actions or policies.
- Support investments in **climate change impacts research, resources, and engagement** that benefit state and local action on climate change.