



## Recap of Recent Climate and Energy State Action and K4C Interests<sup>1</sup> for 2024

### Who we are

King County, and twenty-one partners representing more than 1.9 million county residents — Bellevue, Burien, Duvall, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, 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 cities strengthened 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). 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. In 2019, 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 2024 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.***

### 2023 Recap:

- The Climate Commitment Act and Low Carbon Fuel Standard both went into effect on 1/1/2023, with the Climate Commitment Act raising more revenue than anticipated.
- After several attempts, [HB 1181](#) passed and made climate change and resiliency elements required in comprehensive plans.

### 2024 Priorities:

- **Ensure impactful, sustainable, and equitable implementation of the Climate Commitment Act, including** through investments and programs that benefit tribal nations and overburdened communities as outlined by the State Environmental Justice Council.
- **Bring funding from state and federal climate action policies and investments such as the federal Inflation Reduction Act and state Climate Commitment Act to support on the ground implementation of local climate action.**
- **Protect the Climate Commitment Act to ensure maximal greenhouse gas reductions.**
- **Ensure impactful and equitable implementation of transformational state climate policies and laws including the Climate Commitment Act, Clean Energy Transformation Act, Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Energy Codes, Climate Change in Local Comprehensive Planning, and hydrofluorocarbon policies.**
- **Support policies that require climate preparedness, climate equity and GHG emissions reduction in Comprehensive Planning**
- **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.*

### 2023 Recap:

- [HB 1110](#), the “missing middle” legislation, passed and will require cities to authorize middle housing types (i.e. duplexes, triplexes) depending on the size of the city.
- SB 5466/HB 1517, a bill promoting transit-oriented development, passed the Senate and failed to pass the House in the final weeks.
- The legislature appropriated nearly \$1 billion of Climate Commitment Act revenue in the 2023-2025 Transportation budget, including \$176 million for active transportation programs and \$406 million for transit programs and projects.

### 2024 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 increasing use of electric light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles.*

### 2023 Recap:

- The legislature appropriated \$120 million for a medium- and heavy- duty electrification program along with a wide range of transportation electrification investments as part of Climate Commitment Act spending in the 2023-2025 Transportation budget.
- The legislature appropriated \$50 million in electric vehicle programs and incentives and \$138 million to support electric vehicle charging infrastructure through the [operating budget](#).
- [SB 5431/HB 1368](#), which would have mandated 70% of school bus purchases be zero emissions by 2030 and 100% by 2033 and established a zero-emissions school bus grant program, did not pass.

### 2024 Priorities:

- **Protect core provisions of the Clean Fuels Standard**, ensuring maximal reduction of the carbon intensity of fuels by 2038.
- **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 and engage in state legislation and rulemaking to regulatorily phase out sale of new gas-powered vehicles.**
- **Incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets** and lower pollution from transportation fuels.
- **Incentives for electrification of medium and heavy duty vehicles**, with consideration for mechanisms that allow for access by owner – operators.
- 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.



## Renewable and Resilient 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 energy efficiency, grid modernization, and renewable generation while phasing out fossil fuels.*

### 2023 Recap:

- [HB 1589/SB 5562](#), which would have ended the expansion of new residential and commercial customers connecting to the gas system while requiring large gas utilities to develop a gas decarbonization plan and programs to transition customers off fossil fuels, did not pass.
- [HB 1216](#), which establishes an Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council to ensure the siting of new clean energy projects happens in an efficient, sustainable, and equitable manner, passed the legislature.
- [HB 1427](#), the Solar Energy Resiliency Act, which would have updated net metering policy to allow larger solar arrays to qualify for retail electricity rates, did not pass.
- The legislature appropriated a wide range of clean energy investments with Climate Commitment Act revenue, including \$162 million in a range of solar and energy storage programs, \$20 million for hard-to-decarbonize sectors, and a broad range of other investments.

### 2024 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.
- **Protect core provisions of the Clean Energy Transformation Act.**
- 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.**
- 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.*

### 2023 Recap:

- The legislature appropriated \$163 million for a Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Program, \$40 million for weatherization programs, and \$43 million for public building energy retrofits and audits.
- [HB 1391](#), which would have established a comprehensive statewide Building Energy Upgrade Navigator Program to help building owners access electrification and energy efficiency services and funding, did not pass.

### 2024 Priorities:

- Protect **stronger Washington State Energy codes**, leading the way to “net-zero emissions” buildings by 2030.
- Support **equitable 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.***

### 2023 Recap:

- [HB 1131](#)/SB 5154, the “WRAP Act”, a comprehensive extended producer responsibility law, failed to pass.

### 2024 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.***

### 2023 Recap:

- [HB 1181](#) passed and made climate change and resiliency elements required in comprehensive plans.



# King County - Cities

## CLIMATE COLLABORATION

- The legislature appropriated \$41 million for local governments to implement the provisions of HB 1181 and \$38 million for a participatory grant program for communities impacted most by climate change.

### 2024 Priorities:

- Support policies that require climate preparedness in Hazard Mitigation Planning.
- 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.