

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Updated King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Joint Commitments and Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Progress

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION	Staff seek action from Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments. No action is sought on the Environmental Stewardship Plan at this meeting, staff will be providing an update for discussion.
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RECOMMENDATION

Move to authorize the Mayor to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments with the attached signing letter.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

This presentation will cover two topics: 1) the updated K4C Joint Commitments; and 2) the Environmental Stewardship Plan update. Staff will seek action from Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments and will provide an informational update on the Environmental Stewardship Plan update process.

Background

K4C Joint Commitments

Bellevue joined the K4C in August 2014 (Resolution No. 8789, 2014) and voted to sign the K4C Joint Commitments on February 17, 2015. The K4C is a voluntary collaboration of King County, 16 cities, and the Port of Seattle to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action. The K4C Joint Commitments outline a set of 11 shared commitments and a set of countywide climate goals and targets to help guide the collaborative efforts of the K4C.

Signing the K4C Joint Commitments is a statement of support for these countywide goals. One of the key principles of collaboration of the K4C allows K4C partners to select which of the joint commitments they will implement in their own policies and programs. Individual jurisdictions, such as Bellevue, have the ability to determine how the K4C goals apply to their own cities, and are not required to adopt all of the provisions of the K4C Joint Commitments.

The K4C Elected Official liaisons agreed to update the Joint Commitments in June of 2019, to reflect 1) the current participating elected officials as signatories; 2) relevant new state laws; 3) updated science; 4) the current countywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory; and 5) current K4C membership. GHG emissions reductions pathways for the county were also updated to reflect the

current emission reduction targets and to chart broad strategies to meet these goals. A draft of the updated K4C Joint Commitments was presented at the October 2019 K4C Elected Official Worksession for input and discussion. The County Executive Cover Letter (Attachment B) discusses the results of the October 2019 worksession and underscores that “each partner will tailor their local strategies and regional engagement for the greatest impact and influence and may not individually pursue every policy or program.”

Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

Staff will provide an update on the planning process, results from the Phase 2 public outreach and engagement this spring, highlight key strategies for the plan, and provide an overview of how the plan aligns with the K4C Joint Commitments. At the November 12, 2019 study session, staff presented to Council the update to the Environmental Stewardship Plan and provided three options for goals and targets for the plan and recommended the “bold” level of ambition. At the conclusion of staff’s presentation, Council provided direction to identify opportunities for strengthening the goals to “leading edge,” if possible, developing shorter-term goals, and evaluating the costs and benefits of potential actions. Staff updated the walkable access to parks and electric vehicle goals in response to this direction, and added short-term targets for 2030.

Staff were scheduled to present to Council in April, but due to limitations on public meetings associated with the Washington State Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, that presentation was postponed. Since November 2019, staff and the consultant team have reviewed best practice actions and developed a short list of actions, performed public outreach and engagement on the short list of actions (summarized in Attachment E, ESI Phase 2 Outreach Summary¹), and are developing the draft plan. Staff aim to release the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment in late September, and return to Council in November to review the draft plan for Council adoption in December.

At the next Council presentation in November, staff will present the final draft plan for Council review and discussion, highlighting key strategies and actions in the plan, along with input from the public comment period, and feedback from Boards and Commissions. In November, staff will request input on the plan and direction to move the plan forward for adoption by Council, currently anticipated for December.

Analysis

K4C Joint Commitments

Attachment C: Updated K4C Joint Commitments Policy Analysis includes a summary of the updates to the K4C Joint Commitments, along with an analysis of how the Joint Commitments align with Bellevue’s existing policies and/or draft goals and targets for the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan. The updates to the K4C Joint Commitments reflect recent state climate and energy legislation, new clean fuels and electric vehicle commitments, goals to reduce fossil fuel use in buildings, the recently adopted King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, and a goal for partners to lead by example.

¹ All public outreach conducted in Phase 2 was consistent with State and public health orders.

Bellevue's policies and draft Environmental Stewardship Plan goals and targets align with seven of the eleven joint commitments, with partial alignment for four of the joint commitments (climate policy, clean fuels and electric vehicles, green building and energy efficiency, and waste). The draft short-term goals for the Environmental Stewardship Initiative are slightly less ambitious for energy efficiency and waste, and Bellevue's policy language related to climate, clean fuels and electric vehicles, and green building do not fully align with the K4C language, as outlined in Attachment C.

For the policy areas in which there is partial alignment or Bellevue does not currently have any policies, staff recommends that Council directs a review of the K4C Joint Commitments as part of the City's annual legislative agenda process, to consider updates to Bellevue's legislative agenda to align with the K4C Joint Commitments. Any updates to Bellevue's legislative agenda would occur after signing the updated K4C Joint Commitments and the adoption of the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan, and would be part of the regular annual process for reviewing and updating the legislative agenda.

Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

Staff have developed a short list of actions for the draft plan for implementation over the next five years, and identified additional longer-term actions for further study. The outreach and engagement process focused on gauging the level of support for potential actions through an online survey, focus group discussions, and an online townhall. The online survey received over 600 responses and the top five priority actions for the plan included: 1) Exploring a single-use plastics ban, 2) increasing access to energy efficiency programs, 3) developing a Mobility Implementation Plan, 4) strengthening the tree preservation code, and 5) providing recycling and composting support to multi-family and commercial buildings.

Staff have summarized the input from Phase 2 of public outreach and engagement in Attachment E. This report includes a summary of the potential actions for the plan, the majority of which were strongly or somewhat supported by the respondents.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The following policies provide the background and context for the K4C Joint Commitments and the Environmental Stewardship Plan update:

K4C Joint Commitments

King County Cities Climate Collaboration (Res. 8789, 2014)

- Council joined the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) on August 4, 2014 by signing an Interlocal Agreement (Resolution No. 8798). K4C is a partnership among cities across King County working to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

Motion to Sign K4C Joint Commitments (February 17, 2015)

- Council voted to sign the K4C Joint Commitments on February 17, 2015, to support the achievement of the countywide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Climate Change Policies (2015)

- EN-6. Establish an achievable Citywide target and take corrective actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as reducing energy consumption and vehicle emissions, and enhancing land use patterns to reduce vehicle dependency.
- EN-7. Develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies that create a more resilient community by addressing the impacts of climate change to public health and safety, the economy, public and private infrastructure, water resources, and habitat.
- EN-8. Provide regional leadership on environmental issues that extend beyond Bellevue's boundaries and require regional cooperation.
- TR-140. Support means to reduce transportation-source greenhouse gas emissions.

King County Countywide Planning Policies, Environmental Element (2016 Amendments)

- EN-17 Establish a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target that meets or exceeds the statewide reduction requirement that is stated as the 2050 goal of a 50 percent reduction below 1990 levels.
- EN-18 Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25 percent by 2020, 50 percent by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050. Assuming 1 percent annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) by 2020, 5 MTCO_{2e}, and 1.5 MTCO_{2e} by 2050.

Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (Resolution No. 7517, 2012)

- Council signed on to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2006, establishing a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

City Council Vision Priorities (2018-2020)

- Priority #11: Review progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the City may take to achieve environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy).

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with signing the K4C Joint Commitments. Fiscal implications of the Environmental Stewardship Plan will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

OPTIONS

1. Authorize the Mayor to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments with the attached signing letter.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. 2019 K4C Joint Commitments
- B. County Executive Cover Letter
- C. Updated K4C Joint Commitments Policy Analysis
- D. K4C Joint Commitments Bellevue Signing Letter

E. ESI Phase 2 Outreach Summary

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Resolution No. 8789, 2014: King County Cities Climate Collaboration