

## Updated K4C Joint Commitments and City of Bellevue Environmental Policies Analysis

### Overview

This document outlines the updated King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Joint Commitments and the associated Bellevue policies and provides a brief summary of how the commitments and policies are aligned. The K4C is a voluntary collaboration of King County and sixteen cities and the Port of Seattle to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action. The K4C Joint Commitments were developed at the inception of the K4C in 2014, and outline the shared regional goals and principles of collaboration for the group. Bellevue signed the original K4C Joint Commitments in 2015.

The K4C has recently updated the K4C Joint Commitments to better reflect current climate science and WA State climate and energy legislation. This update is considered a minor update or “refresh” to account for the current policy context, and to have an updated list of elected official signatories.

The K4C Joint Commitments outline a set of eleven shared commitments for the County and Cities participating in the K4C, and a set of climate goals and targets for the county. One of the key principles for collaboration of the K4C allows partners to select which of the joint commitments they will implement in their own policies and programs. Signing the K4C Joint Commitments is a statement of support for these countywide goals. Individual jurisdictions have the ability to determine how the K4C goals apply to their own cities. These joint commitments are voluntary in nature, and are intended to help guide the collaborative efforts of the K4C.

### Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Bellevue City Council sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments, to reaffirm Bellevue’s engagement with the K4C and endorse the countywide goals.

As part of the Environmental Stewardship Plan update, staff prepared recommendations for Council for environmental goals and targets in November 2019, which are generally aligned with the K4C goals and targets except for a couple of differences outlined below. The K4C Joint Commitments, along with other best practices, were used as an input for the recommendations for Bellevue’s Environmental Stewardship Plan goals and targets.

### Updated K4C Joint Commitments

The K4C Joint Commitments were originally developed in 2014 and signed by the City of Bellevue in 2015. The K4C Elected Official liaisons agreed to update the Joint Commitments in June of 2019, to reflect the current elected official as signatories, along with changed state laws, updated science, the current countywide GHG inventory, and current K4C membership. Greenhouse gas 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.

The original K4C Joint Commitments were signed by King County and all seventeen partners. By signing the Joint Commitments, partners agree to collaborate on climate action and endorse the K4C countywide climate goals and targets. The original and updated K4C Joint Commitments both underscore that each partnering city has the ability to set their own priorities and policies related to climate action, and are not obligated to adopt the K4C Joint Commitments as local policies. Of the cities participating in the K4C, several have adopted all of the K4C Joint Commitments as local targets, others have adopted some of the Joint Commitments (such as the climate target), some use the K4C Joint Commitments as local policy direction, and others are evaluating possible policies for climate action. In short, each participating city is at a different stage in climate action planning and policy development, and has the ability to use the K4C Joint Commitments as they see fit to inform local policies and legislative agendas.

## Background Policies

The following policies provide the background and context for the K4C Joint Commitments:

### **Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (Res. 7517, 2012)**

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

### **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 8798) and voted to sign the K4C Joint Commitments on February 17, 2015. K4C is a partnership among cities across King County working to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

### **King County Countywide Planning Policies, Environmental Element (2012)**

- EN-17 - Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050.
- EN-18 – Establish a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and measurement framework for use by all King County jurisdictions to efficiently and effectively measure progress toward countywide targets established pursuant to policy EN-17.

### **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.

## Summary of Updates to the K4C Joint Commitments

The Joint Commitments were updated to reflect new Washington state environmental legislation, updated science, GHG inventories, and new membership types (e.g. the Port of Seattle). Pathways are updated to reflect new emission reduction targets and to chart policies and investments to meet these goals.

### Preamble

- Updated scientific reference to recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- Added recent state climate legislation.
- Changed “city” to “partner” where appropriate to reflect current membership.

### Principles for Collaboration

- Moved principle #11 – acknowledgement that each partner will pursue strategies where action will have most influence – up to #4 to emphasize this collaboration principle.
- Strengthened commitment to climate equity and just transition.
- Incorporated language to seek solutions in concert with highly impacted populations.
- Adjusted language to more active voice in several places, particularly in role to influence state and federal policies.
- Increased goal to convene elected officials twice yearly, and opens options for more active involvement. Commits staff to meet regularly to share tools and best practices.

### Shared Commitments

#### I. Shared Goals

- Updated to call out the Growth Management Planning Council’s GHG emission reduction goals (50% by 2030, 80% by 2050). Additional language added that highlights that in addition to direct emissions reductions we can also further reduce climate change through carbon sequestration and reducing consumption based GHG emissions.
- Adds policy for partners to adopt their own GHG reduction targets that are consistent with GMPC goals, but allows for flexibility.

#### II. Climate Policy

- Only minor changes here to add “renewable energy” and “carbon neutral development” to efforts that could be supported by reinvestment of carbon tax proceeds.

#### III. Transportation and Land Use

- Pathway reflects updated analysis for reductions needed in this sector to meet overall GHG goals. Acknowledges that some partners and areas are not currently well served by transit.
- Language in this section strengthened and expanded to include reference to regional growth strategies (Vision 2050) and link between land use and access to transit and other non – single-occupancy-vehicle means of travel.

**IV. Clean Fuels and Electric Vehicles**

- This is a new section reflecting the rapid shift in technology and customer adoption of EVs.
- Pathways reflect targets for clean fuels and EVs in recent analysis.
- Policy commitments reflect role of local governments to building codes to increase energy efficiency, and to convene and advance adoption in partnership with other stakeholders.

**V. Energy Supply**

- Pathway updated to reflect the passage of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA).
- Policy updated to include Clean Energy Transformation Act (in addition to Renewable Portfolio Standard) and to include additional ways for meeting future energy needs, including peak demand management, and renewable generation.
- Project added to participate in utility regulatory forums.

**VI. Green Building and Energy Efficiency**

- Pathways updated to reflect passage of law in 2019 to mandate natural gas conservation efforts, and to reflect additional action to reduce fossil fuel use in the built environment.
- Policy commitment adds provision for water conservation, use of low carbon building materials, and efforts to influence state and federal policy.
- Language added to commit to conversion to clean fuel sources in collaboration with labor, utilities and other stakeholders.

**VII. Consumption and Materials Management**

- Language updated slightly to reflect 70% recycling rate, and Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan.

**VIII. Forests and Farming**

- Language updated to reflect new initiatives, the Local Foods Initiative and Land Conservation Initiative.
- Language added to development of goals for urban tree health informed by the Land Conservation Initiative and the countywide forest health plan being developed in 2020.

**IX. Operations**

- New commitment that K4C partners to “walk the talk” to set targets to and implement actions that reduce operational GHG emissions.
- Added statement to electrify municipal vehicles.

**X. Climate Preparedness**

- This is a new section reflecting increased importance and visibility in preparing for climate change caused events.
- Language reflects role of K4C and local governments to work together to identify and prioritize climate preparedness work.

**XI. Collaboration**

- No changes in this section.

### Summary of Policy Alignment

The K4C Joint Commitments outline a number of countywide climate-related goals and targets. The City of Bellevue is in the process of reviewing and updating its environmental goals and targets through the Environmental Stewardship Plan update. For each K4C Joint Commitment, this document includes an analysis of how that policy comports with Bellevue's existing policies and/or draft ESI goals and targets. Bellevue's policies and draft ESI goals 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).

For the policy areas in which there is partial alignment or Bellevue does not currently have any policies, staff recommend 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, as directed by Council. Any updates to Bellevue's legislative agenda would occur after signing the updated K4C Joint Commitments and the adoption of the updated ESI Strategic Plan, and would be part of the regular annual process for reviewing the updating Bellevue's legislative agenda. This work would occur consistent with K4C Guiding Principle #4, which allows each partner to pursue strategies and policies which are most relevant to the individual partner.

## Crosswalk of K4C Joint Commitments and Bellevue Policies

Joint County-City Climate Commitments	Related Bellevue Policy	Policy Alignment
<p><b>I. Shared Goals</b>  <b>Pathway:</b> Achieve shared countywide GHG reduction targets that reduce direct countywide sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline. Pursue additional goals and actions to sequester carbon and reduce emissions from consumption of goods and services.  <b>Policy Commitment:</b> Adopt GHG reduction targets that are consistent with those established by the Growth Management Planning Council and that support countywide emission reduction goals.</p>	<p><b>2020 Legislative Agenda:</b>            Bellevue supports an accelerated transition from coal to clean, renewable energy provided the transition results in minimal negative economic impacts to ratepayers. The City supports the transition to cleaner energy sources, including: electric cars; “smart city” technologies; green building technologies that save energy; comprehensive science-based limits on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases; limiting plastics from the waste stream; and infrastructure that supports renewable power and storage.</p> <p><b>Draft ESI Strategic Plan Target:</b>            Reduce citywide GHG emissions 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.</p>	<p><b>Aligned.</b></p> <p>The K4C GHG Reduction goals are incorporated into the Countywide Planning Policies.</p> <p>The Draft ESI GHG targets align with the K4C targets.</p>
<p><b>II. Climate Policy</b>  <b>Pathway:</b> Support strong federal, regional, state, countywide, and local climate policy.  <b>Policy Commitment:</b> Advocate for comprehensive federal, regional, and state science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A portion of revenue from these policies should support local GHG reduction efforts that align with these Joint County-City Climate Commitments, such as funding for transit service, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, green building, and forest protection and restoration initiatives.</p>	<p><b>2020 Legislative Agenda:</b>            Bellevue supports comprehensive science-based limits on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases.</p>	<p><b>Partial alignment.</b></p> <p>Aligned on science-based limits</p> <p>Bellevue does not have a policy regarding putting a price on carbon.</p>
<p><b>III. Transportation and Land Use</b>  <b>Pathway:</b> Align planning for employment, affordable housing, and mobility taking into consideration impacts to GHG emissions. Increase transit service and mobility with a goal of</p>	<p><b>2020 Legislative Agenda:</b>            Reliable and robust funding for the transportation budget to continue making investments in the state’s transportation infrastructure. Bellevue encourages the</p>	<p><b>Aligned with</b>            Bellevue            Transportation            policies and draft</p>

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<p>reducing countywide driving per capita by 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2050, compared to 2017 levels, understanding that different areas of the county have varying levels of transit access.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Partner to secure state authority for funding to sustain and grow transit service and support travel by walking and biking through development of dedicated trails and bike lanes in King County. Support increased mobility through land use and street planning that provides for faster travel times, easier connections, and broader reach of transit services. Work to ensure new mobility services supplement transit services and prioritize outcomes for communities where mobility needs are greatest.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Update and implement Vision 2050, the region’s growth strategy, to focus growth inside the Urban Growth Area cities and centers served by high capacity transit and create vibrant urban centers, protect natural resource lands and rural areas, and direct public investments in support of efficient land use. Implement land use strategies in ways that help us achieve shared climate goals, more closely link housing and jobs, and encourage dense, healthy, sustainably developed mixed-use neighborhoods near transit that minimize displacement. Increase mobility and accessibility options for biking, rolling, and walking so more people have fast, convenient, and low GHG emissions ways to travel.</p>	<p>Legislature to develop a revenue package using alternative funding sources given passage of Initiative 976.</p> <p><b>Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Policies:</b>            TR-139. Develop the transportation system in Bellevue to minimize environmental and neighborhood impacts, while addressing the city’s long-term transportation and land use objectives.            TR-140. Support means to reduce transportation-source greenhouse gas emissions.            LU-28.1 Provide for a mix of housing, office, service and retail uses in a compact walkable development pattern that optimizes the benefits of transit investment in Bellevue’s transit-oriented development areas.</p> <p><b>Draft ESI Strategic Plan Target:</b>            Reduce per capita vehicle miles travelled in Bellevue by 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2050.</p>	<p>ESI Transportation targets.</p>
<p><b>IV. Clean Fuels and Electric Vehicles</b></p> <p><b>Pathways:</b> (1) Protect Federal Vehicle Efficiency Standards. (2) Adopt a regional or statewide Clean Fuels Standard that reduces transportation fuel emissions intensities by at least 20% by 2030, compared to 2017 levels. (3) Increase use of electric vehicles such that 100% of light duty vehicles, and at least 60% of medium duty, and 40% of heavy-duty vehicles are electric by 2050.</p>	<p><b>Bellevue Comprehensive Plan policies:</b>            EN-54. Promote the use of alternative fuels such as electricity and compressed natural gas and evaluate the use of such fuels for the city’s vehicles.            EN-50. Support federal, state, and regional policies intended to protect clean air in Bellevue and the Puget Sound Basin.</p>	<p><b>Partial Alignment</b></p> <p>Electric vehicle targets align with the draft light-duty targets for the ESI plan. The city has</p>

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<p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Reduce climate pollution, build our renewable energy economy, and lessen our dependence on imported fossil fuels by supporting the adoption of a statewide or regional low carbon fuel standard that gradually lowers pollution from transportation fuels.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Support engagement and partnerships with utilities and organizations to develop regional pilots to incent the transition to electric vehicle ownership for all sectors, through development of infrastructure, education, and grants and incentives.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Enact local code and programs to incent or require electric vehicle charging within buildings or on development sites.</p>	<p>TR-140. Support means to reduce transportation-source greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p><b>Draft ESI Strategic Plan Target:</b> Strive to have 25% electric vehicles registered in Bellevue by 2030, and 100% by 2050.</p>	<p>not developed EV targets for medium and heavy-duty vehicles.</p> <p>Bellevue does not have a policy on a Clean Fuels Standard or on Federal or State Vehicle Efficiency Standards.</p>
<p><b>V. Energy Supply</b></p> <p><b>Pathway:</b> Implement the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act, which phases out coal-fired electricity sources by 2025 and requires 80% carbon neutral electricity by 2030, and 100% clean electricity by 2045; limit construction of new natural gas based electricity power plants, and seek to establish a more resilient energy system.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Build on existing state renewable energy commitments including the Washington State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) 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. This includes meeting future energy needs through deep energy efficiency improvements and improved management of peak demands, and supporting renewable generation and fuel resources while phasing-out fossil fuels.</p>	<p><b>2020 Legislative Agenda:</b> Bellevue supports an accelerated transition from coal to clean, renewable energy provided the transition results in minimal negative economic impacts to ratepayers.</p> <p><b>Draft ESI Target:</b> 80% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% Renewable energy by 2045.</p>	<p><b>Aligned</b></p> <p>The targets align with the draft renewable energy targets for the Environmental Stewardship Plan.</p>
<p><b>VI. Green Building and Energy Efficiency</b></p> <p><b>Pathways:</b> (1) Reduce energy use in all existing buildings 25% by 2030 and 45% by 2050 compared to 2017; (2) Implement</p>	<p><b>2020 Legislative Agenda:</b> The City supports green building technologies that save energy.</p>	<p><b>Partial alignment</b></p>



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<p>Washington State Energy Code which requires new buildings constructed to move incrementally towards stronger efficiency performance including a 70% energy reduction and net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2031; (3) Strengthen conservation, and use of renewable natural gas, and support the transition to electrical systems to reduce natural gas and other fossil fuel use in existing buildings by at least 20% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Participate in the Regional Code Collaboration and adopt code pathways that build on the Washington State Energy Code, leading the way to “net-zero carbon” buildings, reduced water consumption, and the use of building materials with low carbon emissions. Support efforts at state and national level to develop stronger residential energy codes that save energy and money and take supporting actions such as to adopt building energy benchmarking and disclosure ordinances for nonresidential and multi-family buildings within local jurisdiction, and residential energy disclosure at point of sale.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Support state legislation that advances conversion to clean energy sources in the built environment. Collaborate with stakeholders, including labor and utilities, to develop energy codes that support the transition to highly efficient and low carbon non-residential and multifamily buildings through the conservation of fossil fuels, use of renewable natural gas, and electrification.</p>	<p>Bellevue Comprehensive Plan: EN-45. Implement the city-wide use of low impact development techniques and green building practices. EN-48. Support the use of emerging best practices in the area of green building and site design through the use of pilot programs and model ordinances.</p> <p><b>Draft ESI Target:</b> Reduce energy use in buildings by 10% by 2030 and 30% by 2050.</p>	<p>K4C Targets are more ambitious than proposed Bellevue targets for energy efficiency.</p> <p>Bellevue does not have draft targets related to reducing fossil fuel use in buildings.</p> <p>Bellevue does not have any policies supporting the incremental improvements to the WA State Energy Code or reducing natural gas use in buildings.</p>
<p><b>VII. Consumption and Materials Management</b> <b>Pathway:</b> Achieve a 70% recycling rate countywide; by 2030, achieve zero waste of resources for materials that have economic value for reuse, resale, and recycling. <b>Policy Commitment:</b> Partner through the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee on policy, projects, and programs focused on (1) waste prevention and reuse, (2)</p>	<p><b>Bellevue Comprehensive Plan:</b> Promote the recycling of solid waste materials by providing opportunities for convenient recycling and by developing educational materials on recycling, composting, and other waste reduction methods. (UT-24) Discussion: Waste reduction and source separation are the city’s preferred strategies for managing solid waste.</p>	<p><b>Partial alignment</b></p> <p>Bellevue’s proposed 2030 goal is less ambitious than the K4C goal, with a 50% recycling rate</p>

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<p>product stewardship, recycling, and composting, and (3) beneficial use.</p>	<p>Materials remaining after effective waste reduction and source separation should be handled in accordance with the King County Solid Waste Plan.</p> <p><b>King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, 2019</b></p> <p>The Bellevue City Council approved the King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan in June of 2019, which has since been finalized through its approval by the Department of Ecology. This plan includes countywide waste reduction and recycling goals, including achieving an interim recycling rate of 70% and Zero Waste of Resources with economic value by 2030.</p> <p><b>Draft ESI Strategic Plan Waste Targets:</b></p> <p>Strive to achieve a 50% recycling rate by 2030 and zero waste by 2050.</p>	<p>rather than a 70% recycling rate. Long-term goal of zero waste is consistent with K4C goal.</p> <p>Bellevue adopted the Countywide Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.</p>
<p><b>VIII. Forests and Farming</b></p> <p><b>Pathway:</b> Reduce sprawl and associated transportation related GHG emissions, and sequester biological carbon by focusing growth in urban centers and protecting and restoring forests and farms.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Partner on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) initiatives to focus development within the Urban Growth Area, reduce development pressure on rural lands, and protect our most valuable and important resource lands as part of the Land Conservation Initiative.</p>	<p><b>Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Policies:</b></p> <p>EN-86. Facilitate the transfer of development potential away from critical areas and the clustering of development on the least sensitive portion of a site.</p> <p>LU-33. Preserve open space and key natural features through a variety of techniques, such as sensitive site planning, conservation easements, transferring density, land use incentives and open space taxation.</p> <p><b>Draft ESI Strategic Plan Waste Targets</b></p> <p>Achieve a 40% tree canopy by 2050.</p>	<p><b>Aligned.</b></p> <p>Note: The K4C Joint Commitments do not define a countywide tree canopy target.</p>
<p><b>IX. Operations</b></p> <p><b>Pathway:</b> Reduce GHG emissions from operations in support of countywide goals.</p> <p><b>Policy Commitment:</b> Develop operational GHG reduction targets that support shared countywide goals and implement actions that reduce each partners’ GHG footprint.</p>	<p><b>Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Policy:</b></p> <p>EN-2. Conduct city operations in a manner that ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, promotes an environmentally safe workplace for its employees, and minimizes adverse environmental impacts.</p>	<p><b>Aligned.</b></p>

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	<p><b>Draft ESI Strategic Plan Target:</b> Reduce GHG Emissions from Government Operations 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2040.</p>	
<p><b>X. Climate Preparedness</b> <b>Pathway:</b> Increase community resilience by planning and preparing for the impacts of climate change on K4C communities and the King County region. <b>Policy commitment:</b> Expand the K4C model for collaboration to include climate preparedness topics and issues.</p>	<p><b>Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Policy:</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Aligned.</b></p>
<p><b>XI. Collaboration</b> <b>Policy Commitment:</b> Participate in or join the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) – focused on efforts to coordinate and enhance local government climate and sustainability efforts – to share case studies, subject matter experts, resources, tools, and to collaborate on grant and funding opportunities.</p>	<p><b>King County Cities Climate Collaboration (Res. 8789)</b> Council joined the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) on August 4, 2014. K4C is a partnership among cities across King County working to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.</p>	<p><b>Aligned.</b></p>