



## **DRAFT *Joint County-City Climate Commitments***

For Discussion at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Elected Official Working Summit on Mercer Island  
Version 6/4/14 – drafted by staff of the [King County-Cities Climate Collaboration](#) (K4C)

Note from King County staff: we are planning to add clarifying language to both the sign-on letter that we plan to accompany and introduce the *joint commitments* as well as insert relevant clarifications in the “principles for collaboration” that are the preamble to the *joint commitments*. This language or something similar will be included in the next draft document that will be shared as follow up from the June 12 summit.

*Our cities support the shared vision that the Joint County-City Climate Commitments represent, but it is not the intention that each city will pursue every catalytic action. Cities and King County will actively engage on strategies where they have the most interest, impact and influence.*

### **PURPOSE**

This document lays out joint county-city commitments that would help achieve significant reductions in regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Commitments identified are focused on practical, near-term collaborative opportunities between cities and King County. To achieve countywide GHG reduction targets, additional action will be needed by the County, cities and diverse partners – businesses, community groups, utilities, individuals, and federal and state partners. Commitments identified in this document are not a comprehensive catalogue of potential actions- but instead represent a formal and powerful shared vision.

### **BACKGROUND**

Building on the work of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) - a partnership between the County and nine cities to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability efforts - King County Executive Dow Constantine and Mercer Island Mayor Bruce Bassett convened officials in February 2014 at the first *K4C Elected Official Working Summit* to begin to discuss opportunities for King County and King County cities to work together to create a low-carbon future.

Information presented at the Summit demonstrated that getting to an 80 percent GHG emissions reduction target by 2050 is possible. There are diverse strategies – from building standards, to transit oriented development, to clean fuels – that can be packaged together and carried out in phases to get the region on track to achieve deep GHG reductions. Participants at the Summit discussed how strategies need to be tailored to the King County context.

At the Summit’s closing, Executive Constantine proposed that K4C staff work to develop a statement of principles and joint county-city commitments that identify the most highly leveraged strategies for the county and cities to work together to implement. To inform the GHG emissions target-setting process underway through the Growth Management Planning Council,



Executive Constantine proposed to focus this work during the Spring of 2014 and consider a recommended package of principles and joint commitments by June, and potentially announce a shared vision soon thereafter.

## **HOW DOES THIS WORK FIT IN WITH LOCAL CLIMATE TARGETS**

The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) adopts Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) that provide a countywide vision and serve as a framework for each jurisdiction to develop its own comprehensive plan. New CPPs were adopted in 2012, including policy EN-17, which directs the GMPC to establish a countywide GHG emissions reduction target that meets or exceeds statewide GHG emissions reduction requirements. The long term GHG reduction requirement for Washington State is to achieve a 50% reduction in statewide emissions compared to 1990 levels by 2050. King County and the cities of Kirkland, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Shoreline and Seattle have adopted stronger targets that align with an at least 80% reduction below 2007 levels by 2050. Implementing identified joint commitments will support county and city progress towards local targets.

## **DRAFT - JOINT COUNTY-CITY CLIMATE COMMITMENTS**

### **Principles for Collaboration**

1. Climate change is the paramount challenge of our generation, and has fundamental and far-reaching consequences for our economy, environment, and public health and safety.
2. Strong action to reduce GHG emissions is needed, and the time is now.
3. Local governments can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through many decisions related to transportation and land use, energy and green building, forests and farms, and consumption and materials management.
4. Many cities in King County have set individual climate goals and are taking steps to reduce local GHG emissions, and we need to build on this leadership.
5. Local solutions need to be implemented in ways that build a cleaner, stronger and more resilient regional economy.
6. Federal and state policies and laws can help us achieve our goals, but countywide and local policy, programs and partnerships are needed to fill the existing gap to achieve local GHG targets.
7. Progress will require deep partnerships between the County, cities, utilities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other public sector agencies.
8. King County and nine cities have formed the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), and we will work to build on this initial pledge, both in increased action and increased participation from additional cities.

9. We can accomplish more with a shared vision and coordinated action; collaboration will increase the efficiency of our efforts and magnify the impact of our strategies beyond what each of us could achieve on our own.
10. We will reconvene at least annually to share progress. We also dedicate a staff point person from our cities and from the County to help coordinate implementation of the following joint county-city commitments, and to serve as a point person to the K4C.

## Commitments

### I. Shared Goals

**Pathway:** Adopt science-based countywide GHG reduction targets that help ensure the region is doing its part to confront climate change.

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Collaborate through the Growth Management Planning Council, Sound Cities Association, and other partners to adopt countywide GHG emissions reduction targets, including mid-term milestones needed to support long-term reduction goals.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** Build on King County's commitment to measure and report on countywide GHG emissions by sharing this data between cities and partners, establishing a public facing dashboard for tracking progress, and using the information to inform regional climate action.

### II. Climate Policy

**Pathway:** Support strong federal, regional, state, countywide and local climate policy.

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** 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.

### III. Transportation and Land Use

**Pathway:** For passenger vehicles and light trucks, reduce vehicle miles traveled by 20% below 2012 levels by 2030 and GHG emissions intensity of fuels by 15% below 2012 levels by 2030.



**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Partner to secure state authority for funding to sustain and grow transit service in King County.

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Reduce climate pollution, build our renewable energy economy, and lessen our dependence on imported fossil fuels, by supporting the adoption of a statewide low carbon fuel standard that gradually lowers pollution from transportation fuels.

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Focus new development in vibrant centers that locate jobs, affordable housing, and services close to transit, bike and pedestrian options so more people have faster, convenient and low GHG emissions ways to travel.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** As practical, for cities developing transit oriented communities around high capacity light rail and transit projects, adopt the Puget Sound Regional Council's Growing Transit Communities Compact. For smaller cities, participate in joint carpool and vanpool promotional campaigns.

#### IV. Energy Supply

**Pathway:** Increase countywide renewable electricity use 20% beyond 2012 levels by 2030; phase out coal-fired electricity sources by 2025; limit new natural gas based electricity sources.

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Build on existing state renewable energy commitments including the Washington State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to partner with local utilities, state regulators and other stakeholders on a countywide commitment to renewable energy resources, including meeting energy demand through energy efficiency improvements and phasing out fossil fuels.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** In partnership with utilities, develop a package of county and city commitments that support increasingly renewable energy sources, in areas such as community solar, green power community challenges, streamlined local renewable energy installation permitting, and renewable energy incentives.

#### V. Green Building and Energy Efficiency

**Pathway:** Reduce energy use in all existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030; achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2030

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Join the *Regional Code Collaboration* and work to adopt code pathways that build on the Washington State Energy Code, leading the way to "net-zero carbon" buildings through innovation in local codes, ordinances, and related partnerships.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** Develop a multi-city partnership to help build a regional energy efficiency retrofit economy, including tactics such as: partnering with utilities, expanding on existing retrofit programs, adopting local building energy benchmarking and disclosure ordinances, and encouraging voluntary reporting and collaborative initiatives such as the 2030 District framework.

## **VI. Consumption and Materials Management:**

**Pathway:** By 2020, achieve a 70% recycling rate countywide; by 2030, achieve zero waste of resources that have economic value for reuse, resale and recycling

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** Partner through the Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee on policy, projects and programs focused on (1) waste prevention and reuse, (2) product stewardship, recycling, and composting, and (3) beneficial use.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** Develop a regional strategy through the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan process to reach 70% recycling through a combination of education, incentives and regulatory tools aimed at single-family, multi-family residents, businesses, and construction projects in King County.

## **VII. Forests and Farming**

**Pathway:** Reduce sprawl and associated transportation related GHG emissions and sequester biological carbon by protecting and restoring forests and farms.

**Catalytic Policy Commitment:** 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.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** Partner on efforts to expand forest stewardship and protection, for example through the King Conservation District, and to expand our local food economy, for example through the Farm City Roundtable forum.

## **VIII. Government Operations**

**Pathway:** Reduce GHG emissions from government operations in support of countywide goals.

**Policy Commitment:** Develop and adopt near and long-term government operational GHG reduction targets that support countywide goals, and implement actions that reduce each local government's GHG footprint.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** As practicable, reduce building and facility energy usage, costs, and GHG emissions by conducting building efficiency retrofits,



implementing high-efficiency street and traffic light replacement projects, and constructing new infrastructure to at least LEED silver or equivalent green building standards.

**IX. Collaboration**

**Policy Commitment:** Participate in or join the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) – focused on efforts to coordinate and enhance city and County climate and sustainability efforts – to share case studies, subject matter experts, resources, tools, and to collaborate on grant and funding opportunities.

**Catalytic Project or Program:** Engage and lead government-business collaborative action through efforts such as the Eastside Sustainable Business Alliance.

For Discussion