



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**January 15, 2002**

**Motion 11364**

**Proposed No.** 2002-0020.2

**Sponsors** Sullivan and Phillips

1           A MOTION approving participation in the Cities for  
2           Climate Protection Campaign; supporting the executive's  
3           development of an action plan to reduce emissions of  
4           greenhouse gases and targeted air pollutants from King  
5           County operations.

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7  
8           WHEREAS, the world's leading climate scientists, serving on the United Nation's  
9           Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), project that the world's average  
10          surface temperature will increase by 2.6 to 10.4 degree Fahrenheit over the period 1990  
11          to 2100, and

12          WHEREAS, temperature changes of that magnitude would have enormous  
13          regional consequences, as evidenced by the fact that Seattle was under three thousand  
14          feet of ice when average temperatures were six to eight degrees Fahrenheit colder than  
15          today, and

16 WHEREAS, climate scientists at the University of Washington predict that  
17 average temperatures in the Northwest will increase approximately one degree Fahrenheit  
18 per decade in the Twenty-First Century; and

19 WHEREAS, this would result in reduced snowpack and summer water supplies,  
20 increased flooding and glacial outbursts, higher sea levels, the spread of infectious  
21 diseases, increased smog and breathing-related illnesses, significantly changed conditions  
22 for agriculture and faster changes in our ecosystems than many animals and plants can  
23 adapt to, and

24 WHEREAS, the IPCC finds that the large projected increases in global  
25 temperatures are predominantly due to emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly  
26 carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, and

27 WHEREAS, the IPCC finds that a significant reduction in current greenhouse gas  
28 emissions is necessary to stabilize the effects of such gases on the climate, because they  
29 remain in the atmosphere for centuries, and

30 WHEREAS, local governments across the world have proven that actions to  
31 reduce greenhouse gas emissions can also benefit local economies and improve the  
32 quality of life, which can be accomplished through increased energy efficiency,  
33 sustainable transportation, waste reduction, smart land use patterns, open space protection  
34 and other strategies that are already high priorities for King County, and

35 WHEREAS, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives has  
36 organized the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, which is mobilizing international  
37 action by local governments, including counties, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

38 WHEREAS, the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign provides technical  
39 assistance and opportunities for information-sharing to participants at no charge, but  
40 requires that participation be supported by a local government's legislative body, and

41 WHEREAS, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which affect the  
42 global climate, King County has an interest in reducing regulated air pollutants such as  
43 particulate matter or volatile organic compounds, which tend to have localized or  
44 regional effects on human health and the environment, and

45 WHEREAS, the central Puget Sound area currently meets federal standards for air  
46 quality, but is at risk of exceeding limits on ozone, which could trigger new regulations  
47 and the loss of important federal transportation funding, and

48 WHEREAS, airborne fine particulate matter, even when meeting federal  
49 standards, reduce visibility and include toxic chemicals that can be particularly harmful  
50 to children, asthmatics and the elderly; and

51 WHEREAS, King County government can reduce greenhouse gases and regulated  
52 air pollutants both through its direct operations and through the effects of its programs  
53 and policies on the region, as recognized in the attached Executive Policy;

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

55 1. The metropolitan King County council supports King County's participation in  
56 the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

57 2. The metropolitan King County council supports the Executive Policy to  
58 inventory emissions of the most important greenhouse gases and regulated air pollutants  
59 from King County operations, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fine  
60 particulate matter and volatile organic compounds.

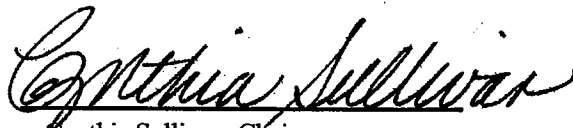
61           3. The metropolitan King County council supports the Executive Policy to  
62           develop an action plan by October 1, 2002, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other  
63           pollutants from King County operations. The action plan would specify reduction targets  
64           for these emissions, identify actions to meet those targets, and include a mechanism for  
65           monitoring results and reporting them on an annual basis. The plan would also  
66           recommend changes to King County policies and programs to promote the reduction of

67 regional emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases, developed  
68 collaboratively with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the city of Seattle.  
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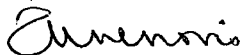
Motion 11364 was introduced on 1/7/02 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 1/14/02, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. Phillips

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      A. Clean Air Initiative Administrative Policies and Procedures



King County  
Administrative Policies and Procedures

11364  
Executive Orders,  
Policies & Procedures

Title  Clean Air Initiative	Document Code No.
Department/Issuing Agency Department of Natural Resources	Effective Date. January 1, 2002
Approved	

- 1.0 **SUBJECT TITLE:** Clean Air Initiative
- 1.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2002
- 1.2 **TYPE OF ACTION:** New
- 1.3 **KEY WORDS:** Air Quality, Emissions, Greenhouse Gas, Inventory
- 2.0 **PURPOSE:** The Clean Air Initiative establishes Executive Policy to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other significant air pollutants from King County operations and to use King County programs and policies to encourage their reduction from other sources in the region.
- 3.0 **ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED:** Applicable to all Executive Departments and Offices.
- 4.0 **REFERENCES:**
- 4.1 Federal Clean Air Act
- 4.2 Regulations I, II and III of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
- 4.3 County-wide Planning Policies CA-14 and FW-4
- 4.4 King County Comprehensive Plan, Policies E-110-115
- 5.0 **DEFINITIONS:**
- 5.1 "Air Pollutant" means an air pollutant identified in the Federal Clean Air Act and Regulations I, II or III of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. These include fine particulates, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead and a large number of toxic chemicals.
- 5.2 "Air Quality Steering Team" means the Directors of the Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation and the Office of Regional Policy and Planning, or their designees.
- 5.3 "Carbon Sequestration" means the binding of carbon atoms in soils or plant tissues, which results in their being unavailable for the creation of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases.

- 5.4 "Emission" means a direct or indirect release of any air pollutant or greenhouse gas into the ambient air.
- 5.5 "Fine Particulate" means any material, except water in an uncombined form, that is, has been or is likely to become airborne, which: exists as a liquid or a solid at a temperature of 68<sup>o</sup>F (20<sup>o</sup>C) and a barometric pressure of 29.92 inches of mercury (101.325 kPa); and has an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 2.5 micrometers, as measured according to applicable federal regulations. Fine particulates primarily originate from combustion, including vehicle exhaust, fireplaces and outdoor burning. Many different types of toxic air pollutants are in the form of fine particulates.
- 5.6 "Green Building Team" means the organization in King County government that oversees implementation of "Green Building" design and construction practices. This role is expected to be formalized through a separate Executive Policy.
- 5.7 "Greenhouse Gas" means a gas or aerosol that alters the balance of incoming and outgoing energy in the earth's atmosphere in a manner that tends to increase surface temperatures. The three most important greenhouse gases, with the greatest known tendency to increase surface temperatures, are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.
- 5.8 "King County emissions" means emissions from the direct operations of King County government of greenhouse gases and air pollutants that are targeted for reductions under this policy. It does not include emissions from other parties that may be influenced by King County programs or policies.
- 5.9 "Ozone" means O<sub>3</sub>, a molecular form of oxygen, which combines with other pollutants to form what is commonly referred to as "smog". It is a product of photochemical reactions by volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere on hot, sunny days. These chemicals primarily originate from vehicle exhaust. In the upper atmosphere, ozone is a protective layer, filtering ultraviolet radiation. In the lower atmosphere, near the earth's surface, it is a health hazard and is treated as an air pollutant.
- 5.10 "Volatile Organic Compound" means an organic compound with more than negligible photochemical reactivity, as determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Volatile organic compounds are the most important chemical source for the development of ozone in the Puget Sound area. They primarily originate from vehicle exhaust, but also come from gasoline-powered yard equipment, paints, solvents and boat motors. Many different types of toxic air pollutants are in the form of volatile organic compounds

## 6.0 POLICIES:

- 6.1 King County's commitment to improve regional air quality shall be met in part by strengthening existing county programs that are already furthering other regional goals. These include, but are not limited to: Smart Growth; providing transportation options to Single-Occupant Vehicles; energy conservation; recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled products; using biosolids and other organic amendments as fertilizer

for trees, crops and soil enhancements; and adopting "Green Building" design and construction practices. In addition, all Executive Departments and Offices are encouraged to initiate new cost-effective actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants as soon as practicable. Recent examples of such actions include the purchase of hybrid cars and buses for the county fleet, the installation of particulate traps on existing county buses and other diesel vehicles and conversion of county diesel fuels to an ultra-low-sulfur grade.

- 6.2 The Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Green Building Team and under the direction of the Air Quality Steering Team, shall conduct an inventory of the following emissions from King County operations: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fine particulates, volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides. The inventory may also include other air pollutants or greenhouse gases, as determined by the Executive based on advice from the Air Quality Steering Team. All Executive Departments and Offices are to cooperate in this inventory.
- 6.3 By the first quarter of 2002, the Department of Natural Resources shall prepare a report on the results of the inventory for the Air Quality Steering Team to submit to the Executive. The report shall estimate total King County emissions of targeted greenhouse gases and air pollutants; identify the largest sources of these emissions; identify actions undertaken within the past five years to reduce these emissions; suggest possible future targets for these emissions; and identify possible actions that might achieve these targets. It shall also identify King County policies and programs that have significant effects on regional emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases.
- 6.4 Based on this inventory, by June 1, 2002, the Air Quality Steering Team shall develop an action plan to reduce King County emissions, working under direction of the Executive and in consultation with the Green Building Team and the Executive's Cabinet. The action plan shall set future targets for King County emissions included in the inventory. It shall propose strategies to achieve those targets, with estimates of the time and resources required for those strategies to be successful, and shall include a monitoring system to improve data quality and track results. It shall also recommend changes to King County policies and programs to reduce regional emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases and shall include recommendations for enhanced carbon sequestration from the county's biosolids, forestry and agriculture programs.
- 6.5 In conjunction with the above work and under the direction of the Air Quality Steering Team, the Department of Natural Resources shall develop educational programs and materials for county employees concerning the consequences of greenhouse gases and air pollution, including the projected effects of climate change on the Pacific Northwest.



7.0 PROCEDURES:

Action By:

Department of  
Natural Resources

Action:

- 7.1 Prepare to conduct inventory (identify necessary data and existing data sources, create form of database to maximize usefulness and ease of administration, collaborate with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, City of Seattle and other potential partners on methodology, etc.)
- 7.2 Communicate data needs to all relevant Executive departments and offices, under the direction of the Air Quality Steering Team and in collaboration with the Green Building Team.
- 7.3 Develop educational programs and materials for county employees concerning the consequences of greenhouse gases and air pollutants, under direction of the Air Quality Steering Team.
- All Executive Departments and Offices
- 7.4 Cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources in conducting the inventory.
- 7.5 Take cost-effective actions to reduce emissions. If action is taken before inventory is complete, report emissions to the Department of Natural Resources on both a "before" and "after" basis.
- Department of Natural Resources
- 7.6 Draft report for the Executive on results of the inventory, under direction of the Air Quality Steering Team.
- Air Quality Steering Team
- 7.7 Finalize report and submit it to the Executive, with option of prior review by Executive Cabinet.
- Executive
- 7.8 Provide direction to Air Quality Steering Team for development of the action plan to reduce King County emissions of key greenhouse gases and air pollutants.
- Air Quality Steering Team
- 7.9 Develop proposed actions for plan, working with affected Executive departments and offices.
- 7.10 Review draft action plan with the Green Building Team and the Executive's Cabinet for comments.

- 7.11 Finalize proposed action plan and submit it to the Executive for review and approval.
- Executive
- 7.12 Determine need to transmit all or part of action plan to Council, or to amend this policy, to assist implementation of action plan.
- 7.13 Approve action plan and direct affected departments and offices to implement their responsibilities under it.

## 8.0 RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 8.1 Air Quality Steering Team: Responsible for providing overall direction to the initiative. Oversees development of inventory, educational materials and action plan, submitting the inventory report and the action plan to Executive.
- 8.2 All Executive Departments and Offices: Cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources and the Air Quality Steering Team in development of the inventory and drafting of the action plan. Take cost-effective actions to reduce emissions prior to completion of the action plan, where practicable. Implement recommendations of the action plan.
- 8.3 Department of Natural Resources: Conduct inventory, develop educational materials, and provide staff support to the Air Quality Steering Team.
- 8.4 Green Building Team: Assist the Department of Natural Resources and the Air Quality Steering Team in development of the inventory and action plan, serving as sources of advice and information and as liaisons to other sources within team members' departments and offices.
- 8.5 Executive: Provide direction for development of the action plan, approve final action plan and direct its implementation by affected departments and offices.
- 8.6 Executive's Cabinet: Review draft action plan and other key documents, as directed by the Executive or requested by the Air Quality Steering Team.

## 9.0 APPENDICES:

- 9.1 Website of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>. Site includes "Summaries for Policymakers" on the scientific basis for projections of climate change, the likely impacts climate change will have on the world's communities, and actions that parties can take to mitigate their contributions to climate change.