



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16463

Proposed No. 2023-0315.3

Sponsors Dembowski

1 A MOTION relating to climate change funding, requesting
2 that the executive assess funding options to address the
3 climate crisis in consultation with a work group of
4 interested parties, and transmit a report, a proposed motion,
5 and, if recommended, a proposed ordinance.

6 WHEREAS, human activities have caused current levels of atmospheric
7 greenhouse gases to exceed any level measured for at least the past 800,000 years and
8 have already caused global warming of more than one degree Celsius over pre-industrial
9 levels, and

10 WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature's findings associated with RCW
11 70A.45.020 state that climate change is an existential threat to the livelihoods, health, and
12 well-being of all residents of the state, and that Washington is experiencing a climate
13 emergency in the form of increasingly devastating wildfires, flooding, drought, rising
14 temperatures and sea levels, lack of snowpack, and increases in ocean acidification
15 caused in part by climate change, and

16 WHEREAS, Washington's built environment, which includes buildings,
17 transportation infrastructure, water, wastewater, and energy systems, will face increasing
18 climate-related hazards due to rising seas, more intense heavy rains, river floods,
19 increasing temperatures, and more frequent wildfires, and

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20 WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature's findings associated with RCW
21 70A.45.020 state that the state, including its counties, cities, and residents, must engage
22 in activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, and
23 indicates that the effort to restore a safe and stable climate will require mobilization
24 across all levels of government, and that the longer the state delays in taking definitive
25 action to reduce emissions, the greater the threat posed by climate change to current and
26 future generations, and the more costly it will be to protect and maintain communities
27 against the impacts of climate change, and

28 WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature's findings in RCW 70A.65.005
29 state that actions to increase the resilience of Washington communities, natural resource
30 lands, and ecosystems can prevent and reduce impacts to communities and the
31 environment and improve their ability to recover, and

32 WHEREAS, King County has demonstrated leadership among local governments
33 nationwide through its focus on climate change, in 2012 adopting its first Strategic
34 Climate Action Plan ("SCAP") and becoming one of the first local jurisdictions in the
35 nation to comprehensively plan to address the threats of climate change, and

36 WHEREAS, the 2020 SCAP identifies the primary sources of greenhouse gases in
37 King County as fossil fuels used for transportation and energy used to heat, cool, and
38 power the region's homes and buildings, and

39 WHEREAS, the 2020 SCAP emphasizes investments in preserving open space
40 and forest lands not just as a means of increasing carbon sequestration by protecting trees
41 and vegetation, but also as a means of protecting vulnerable communities from the

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42 impacts of climate change, as open space lands can help to mitigate urban heat island
43 effect and other negative health impacts resulting from climate change, and

44 WHEREAS, the 2020 SCAP states "Frontline Communities are those that will be
45 disproportionately impacted by climate change; these are the populations that face
46 historic[al] and current inequities, often experience the earliest and most acute impacts of
47 climate change, and have limited resources and/or capacity to adapt," and King County
48 recognizes that that those communities are particularly vulnerable to excessive heat, poor
49 air quality, and flooding episodes, all associated with a changing climate, and

50 WHEREAS, King County must act to accomplish a systematic response to
51 climate change and its impacts by takings steps both to limit and sequester the
52 greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and to prepare for, mitigate,
53 adapt to, and respond to climate change impacts, and

54 WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 established a process by which counties can
55 increase regular property taxes in excess of one percent per year through a vote of the
56 people, known as a levy lid lift, and this mechanism would provide funding critical to the
57 county's systematic response to climate change and its impacts;

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

59 A.1. The executive is requested to assess funding options, which together or
60 individually, would secure one billion dollars over a six- or nine-year period for the
61 purpose of addressing the climate crisis through the reduction, prevention, and
62 sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions and the preparation for, mitigation of,
63 adaptation to, and response to the impacts of climate change. The options should include,
64 but not be limited to, a property tax levy proposal with collections beginning in 2025,

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65 revenues relating to solid waste disposal and wastewater treatment, and any other
66 potential revenue sources. The executive should consult with a work group of interested
67 parties as identified in section A.3. of this motion.

68 2. The proposal should give full consideration to, and center, concerns of equity
69 and social justice generally, and environmental justice specifically, including the
70 disproportionate impacts that climate change can have on frontline communities and
71 other vulnerable populations. The proposal should also seek a balance between long-
72 range greenhouse gas reduction goals and pressing equity needs.

73 3.a. The executive should form a work group of interested parties for the
74 purpose of developing the proposal. The proposal development process should be
75 community driven, embody the principles of delegated power and community ownership,
76 and align with the Sustainable and Resilient Frontline Communities framework of the
77 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan.

78 b. The work group should include, but not be limited to, representatives of:

79 (1) the climate equity community task force;

80 (2) organizations concerned with topics such as climate change, low-emission
81 or no-emission transportation alternatives, energy conservation, environmental
82 protection, and equity and social justice; and

83 (3) frontline communities and other groups directly impacted by climate
84 change.

85 4. The proposal should take the form of a written report and should include, but
86 not be limited to, the following:

87 a. a summary of the development proposal process;

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88 b. if a property tax levy is recommended, recommendations for provisions to
89 be included in a proposed levy ordinance, including:

90 (1) an initial levy rate, time period for the levy lid lift, and limit factor to be
91 used, along with estimated annual proceeds from each year of levy collections, using the
92 most recent data from the office of economic and financial analysis;

93 (2) a recommendation for the categories of expenditures to be funded with
94 levy proceeds, including, at a minimum, the following:

95 (a) projects or programs to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions from
96 the transportation sector;

97 (b) projects or programs to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions
98 resulting from energy consumption in structures;

99 (c) the purchase or acquisition of open space land identified through the land
100 conservation initiative that will sequester greenhouse gases or mitigate urban heat island
101 effect or other climate impacts; and

102 (d) projects or programs to prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, or respond to the
103 impacts of climate change, including, but not limited to, extreme weather events and
104 wildfire smoke;

105 (3) a proposed percentage allocation of levy funding among the expenditure
106 categories; and

107 (4) any other recommendations of the executive and work group to be
108 included in the proposed levy ordinance;

109 c. an assessment of potential revenues relating to solid waste disposal and
110 wastewater treatment, and any other potential revenue sources for the purpose of

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111 addressing the climate crisis through the reduction, prevention, and sequestration of
112 greenhouse gas emissions and the preparation for, mitigation of, adaptation to, and
113 response to the impacts of climate change; and

114 d. a preliminary implementation plan, including, but not limited to:

115 (1) recommended subcategories of expenditures, such as grant programs and
116 specific projects or bodies of work;

117 (2) a proposal for overall administrative responsibility and management of
118 expenditures and functions relating to the levy proceeds and other funding sources; and

119 (3) proposed provisions for annual reporting to the council regarding
120 accomplishments, challenges, total expenditures, allocation of expenditures, and metrics
121 regarding greenhouse gas emissions reduced or prevented, greenhouse gases sequestered,
122 and impacts addressed.

123 B. No later than April 30, 2024, the executive should electronically file the
124 following with the clerk of the council, who shall retain an electronic copy and provide
125 an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for
126 budget and fiscal management committee or its successor:

127 1. The proposal report, as set forth in section A.4. of this motion;

128 2. A proposed motion acknowledging receipt of a proposal report; and

129 3. If recommended by the proposal report, a proposed ordinance providing for
130 the submission to the qualified electors of King County at the general election to be held
131 in King County on November 5, 2024, of a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in
132 excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, for the purpose of
133 addressing the climate crisis through the reduction, prevention, and sequestration of


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134 greenhouse gas emissions and the preparation for, mitigation of, adaptation to, and
135 response to the impacts of climate change, that is consistent with the recommendations of
136 the proposal report.


Motion 16463 was introduced on 9/12/2023 and passed as amended by the
Metropolitan King County Council on 11/7/2023, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry,
McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

E76CE01F07B14EF...
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelope Stamping: Enabled	Cherie Camp
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	SEATTLE, WA 98104
	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov
	IP Address: 198.49.222.20

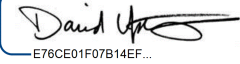
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Signer Events

Dave Upthegrove
dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov
Chair
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 11/13/2023 12:20:53 PM
ID: 635b71e9-941b-41b2-931b-1cb7eb6f2026

Melani Hay
melani.hay@kingcounty.gov
Clerk of the Council
King County Council
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	11/13/2023 12:24:13 PM
Completed	Security Checked	11/13/2023 12:24:13 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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