



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**February 28, 2012**

**Ordinance 17270**

**Proposed No. 2012-0049.2**

**Sponsors Phillips and Ferguson**

1           AN ORDINANCE requiring the King County executive to  
2           develop a strategic climate action plan by June 29, 2012;  
3           amending Ordinance 17166, Section 2, and K.C.C.  
4           18.50.010 and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 18.

5           **PREAMBLE:**

6           There is consensus among the world's leading scientists, including the  
7           National Academies and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,  
8           that human sources of climate pollution such as carbon dioxide and  
9           methane are causing unprecedented and severe changes in global and local  
10          climate systems, and the related impacts are among the most significant  
11          environmental challenges facing the world. Climate scientists at the  
12          University of Washington report that significant changes to the Pacific  
13          Northwest climate are causing environmental changes including  
14          decreasing mountain snowpack and increasing flooding, and are  
15          negatively impacting infrastructure, forests, salmon, human health and  
16          Puget Sound. Climate change is causing increased stress and changes in  
17          distribution of plant and animal species due to vegetation range shifts,  
18          streamflow changes, invasive species invasions and increased freshwater  
19          and marine water temperatures.

20 Climate change can impact King County residents through increased  
21 flooding, heavier rains and dramatic shifts in weather patterns that damage  
22 infrastructure and roads, disrupt economic activity and agricultural  
23 production and threaten public safety. Given the interdependence of  
24 global economy, effects of climate change, such as impacts to the food  
25 supply, in other parts of the country or world can also affect King County  
26 residents. Climate change is also projected to have public health impacts  
27 as well. A 2009 report by the Climate Impacts Group at the University of  
28 Washington report that climate change can result in the following public  
29 health impacts: heat related illnesses, respiratory disease due to worsening  
30 air quality, injuries due to severe weather events, and infectious diseases.  
31 The 2010 King County Strategic Plan established environmental  
32 sustainability as one of King County's eight goals, and includes high-level  
33 objectives and strategies to reduce climate pollution and prepare for the  
34 effects of climate change on the environment, human health and the  
35 economy and to minimize King County's operational environmental  
36 footprint.

37 RCW 70.235.020 requires that by 2020 Washington state reduce overall  
38 greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels, and that by 2050 emissions are  
39 further reduced to fifty percent below 1990 levels. The King County  
40 Comprehensive Plan directs that the county collaborate with other local  
41 governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region to eighty  
42 percent below 2007 levels by 2050 and incorporate climate change

43 considerations into county plans, programs and projects among other  
44 related policies and goals. In September 2011, the King County Growth  
45 Management Planning Council ("GMPC") approved policies calling for  
46 establishment of a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target that meets  
47 or exceeds the statewide reduction requirement and development of a  
48 greenhouse gas emissions inventory and measurement framework for use  
49 by all King County jurisdictions to efficiently and effectively measure  
50 progress toward countywide targets. GMPC further directed that  
51 interjurisdictional work to develop the target and measurement framework  
52 be a priority for 2012.

53 The 2010 King County Energy Plan, adopted by Motion 13368, is  
54 intended to reduce energy use and emissions and expand the use and  
55 production of renewable and greenhouse gas-neutral energy. The Energy  
56 Plan establishes near-term goals for energy efficiency in county buildings  
57 and vehicles, promotes the use and production of renewable and  
58 greenhouse gas-neutral energy, and calls for integrated monitoring and  
59 reporting of climate, energy and green building outcomes.

60 Additionally, King County is carrying out a wide range of transportation,  
61 land use, open space and resource land protection, land management,  
62 energy efficiency, green building, waste reduction, recycling, emergency  
63 management, flood protection and outreach initiatives that can reduce  
64 climate pollution and address the inevitable impacts of climate change.

65 The climate and energy motion, Motion 12362, adopted in 2006, outlined

66 a series of near-term actions and opportunities related to climate change  
67 and should be updated.

68 The county is engaged in many activities to reduce climate pollution and  
69 address its impacts, related to both county operations and the community  
70 as a whole. Long-term and significant reductions in climate pollution and  
71 effective preparation for the effects of climate change will only be  
72 achieved through a strategic approach involving clearly prioritizing  
73 actions, identifying specific performance measures for implementation and  
74 effectiveness, and measuring our progress against these performance  
75 measures. The county should use performance measurement information  
76 to assess whether its actions having the intended effect in reducing climate  
77 pollution and preparing for the impacts of climate change and use the  
78 findings to inform future policy decisions, program priorities, and capital  
79 investments.

80 Through the adoption of the 2010-2014 King County Strategic Plan, King  
81 County has embraced strategic planning as a valuable framework for the  
82 identification and achievement of the county's goals. The 2010-2014 King  
83 County Strategic Plan established environmental sustainability as one of  
84 King County's eight goals, and includes an objective to reduce climate  
85 pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change on the environment,  
86 human health and the economy. The King County Strategic Plan 2010-  
87 2014 establishes a strategic planning hierarchy working from high-level

88 goals and objectives to implementing strategies tied to performance  
89 measures.

90 King County's actions to reduce climate pollution and prepare for the  
91 impacts of climate change are carried out by multiple departments and  
92 agencies, and functionally related to efforts to improve energy efficiency.

93 The development of a strategic climate action plan can help to provide  
94 greater direction and specificity to guide county actions to reduce climate  
95 pollution and prepare for the impacts of climate change, unify actions  
96 across agencies, inform business and other operational plans, and  
97 uniformly evaluate performance in achieving King County government's  
98 climate change objectives.

99 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

100 SECTION 1. Section 2 of this ordinance should constitute a new chapter in the  
101 K.C.C. Title 18.

102 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2.

103 A.1. The executive shall develop a strategic climate action plan that uses the  
104 King County Strategic Plan 2010-2014, adopted by Ordinance 16897, as the organizing  
105 framework. The first strategic climate action plan shall be transmitted by June 29, 2012,  
106 with a motion adopting the plan. Given the relatively short timeframe for completion of  
107 the initial climate strategic plan, the scope will focus primarily on county operations and  
108 activities that the county can influence through its direct operations, and will integrate  
109 and refine current policies, plans, interlocal collaborations, and performance measures.

110 The strategic climate action plan shall include the following:

111 a. the identification of specific objectives, strategies and priority actions for  
112 reducing emissions and mitigating climate impacts. The list of strategies shall be  
113 sufficiently detailed to provide clear guidance on how King County can directly affect the  
114 outcomes of reducing emissions and addressing the impact of climate change in King  
115 County;

116 b. related strategies, program activities and targets from the 2010 Energy Plan  
117 adopted by Motion 13368, given the highly dependent relationship of reductions in  
118 climate pollution of both energy efficiency improvements and the strategic climate action  
119 plan; and

120 c. performance measures and related targets for both operational emissions and  
121 implementation of priority strategies that advance the strategic climate action plan.

122 2. In developing the King County strategic climate action plan, the executive  
123 shall review climate change related plans being developed by other municipalities,  
124 including the city of Seattle's climate action plan, and identify any opportunities for  
125 partnerships with cities or strategies or activities that could be incorporated as part of the  
126 King County climate strategic plan.

127 3. The council recognizes that the climate change related strategies identified in  
128 the King County Strategic Plan 2010-2014 may benefit from revision and thus the  
129 strategies identified for the climate action plan transmitted by June 29, 2012, should build  
130 upon and refine the strategies, activities, and performance targets identified as part of the  
131 King County Strategic Plan 2010-2014.

132 4. Subsequently, the executive shall transmit an update to the strategic climate  
133 action plan by June 29, 2015, for adoption by motion. Updates shall include the

134 requirements of subsection A. of this section and should also identify community-level  
135 actions the county can implement to reduce climate pollution and prepare for the impacts  
136 of climate change. Given the strong interdependence between climate emissions and  
137 energy use, the King County Energy Plan will be combined and integrated with the 2012  
138 update of the strategic climate action plan.

139           5. Consistent with the county's strategic planning cycle, updates after 2015 will  
140 occur at least every five years, unless more frequent updates are needed to respond to  
141 changing information about emissions sources, performance relative to targets, new  
142 technologies, or a changing regulatory context.

143           6. Progress in achieving strategic climate action plan performance measure  
144 targets and accomplishment of priority actions identified in subsection A.1.c., as well as  
145 findings outlining recommendations for changes in policies, priorities and capital  
146 investments, shall be reported and transmitted to council annually. The progress report  
147 shall be included as part of the report required in K.C.C. 18.50.010.

148           B. Future updates to climate-related objectives and strategies in the King County  
149 Strategic Plan should be informed by the strategic climate action plan.

150           C. The executive must transmit the legislation and reports required to be  
151 submitted by this section in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the  
152 clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all  
153 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the transportation,  
154 economy and environment committee or its successor.

155           SECTION 3. Ordinance 17166, Section 2, and K.C.C. 18.50.010 are each hereby  
156 amended to read as follows:

157 The executive shall transmit by June 30 of each year a report on the county's  
158 major environmental sustainability programs intended to reduce energy use, climate  
159 emissions and resource use. The executive shall transmit the report to council, filed in  
160 the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who  
161 shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council  
162 chief of staff and the lead staff for the transportation economy and environment  
163 committee or its successor. The report shall cover the climate change, energy, green  
164 building and environmental purchasing programs. For each of these programs, the  
165 executive shall describe the major accomplishments and include a summary of  
166 performance relative to key environmental goals and indicators, challenges and  
167 opportunities and recommendations. The report shall be structured in a way that links  
168 actual performance to established goals and indicators and can guide policy choices,  
169 program priorities((;)) and investments in capital projects. The report required in section  
170 2.A.6. of this ordinance shall be included as part of the report. The report should address  
171 the following:

172 A. The climate change program, including:

173 1. The greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for both county government  
174 operations and the county as a whole and actions to reduce operational and community  
175 scale greenhouse gas emissions;(( and))

176 2. Specific climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, performance measures  
177 and targets;

178 3. All expenses associated with the climate change program; and

179 4. A cost-benefit analysis of the program;



180 B. The energy program, including energy targets established in the 2010 Energy  
181 Plan;

182 C. The green building program, including:

183 1. The total number of capital projects for which a division is responsible, and  
184 the number of LEED projects and other sustainable development projects, such as  
185 historic restoration and adaptive reuse, and their status;

186 2. The additional costs associated with achieving LEED certification;

187 3. The total number of non-LEED projects that have completed a sustainable  
188 development scorecard;

189 4. The green strategies employed;

190 5. The operations and maintenance costs for all completed projects  
191 incorporating green building principles and practices and projects incorporating  
192 renewable energy or energy efficiency components, as well as the operations and  
193 maintenance costs that were projected before construction;

194 6. The reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;

195 7. The construction waste recycled; renewable resources used;

196 8. The green materials used; and

197 9. The fiscal performance of all projects incorporating green building principles  
198 and practices including an accounting of all project costs and benefits that can be  
199 quantified, documented and verified; and

200 D. The environmental purchasing program, including:

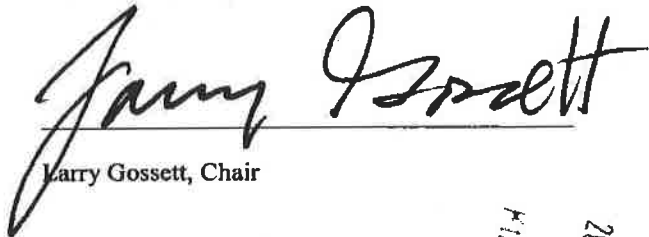
201 1. Quantities, costs and types of recycled and other environmentally preferable  
202 products purchased, and quantities of computers and electronics recycled;

- 203           2. A summary of savings achieved through the purchase of recycled and other  
204 environmentally preferable products;  
205           3. A summary of program promotional efforts; and  
206           4. Recommendations for changes in procurement policies.  
207

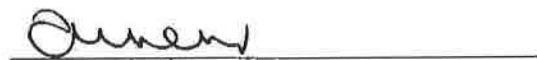
Ordinance 17270 was introduced on 1/30/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/27/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr.  
McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

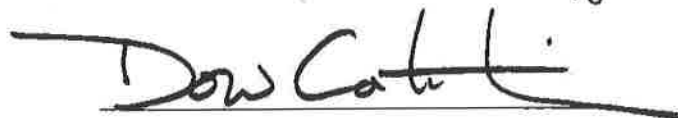
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 8 day of MARCH, 2012

  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

RECEIVED  
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KING COUNTY CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments: None