



Signature Report

Ordinance 19041

Proposed No. 2019-0436.2

Sponsors Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, Gossett,
Upthegrove, Balducci and McDermott

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the King County Strategic
2 Climate Action Plan; requiring the 2020 Strategic Climate
3 Action Plan Update and all subsequent updates be
4 developed using an environmental justice framework and
5 the inclusion of a green jobs strategy and a sustainable and
6 resilient community strategy; and amending Ordinance
7 17270, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 18.25.010 and
8 Ordinance 17166, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C.
9 18.50.010.

10 PREAMBLE:

11 King County has a long record of innovation, leadership and investment in
12 reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of
13 climate change. The King County Strategic Climate Action Plan is the
14 blueprint that guides the county's actions in reducing greenhouse gas
15 emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change. The county's
16 first Strategic Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2012 and updated in
17 2015, consistent with K.C.C. chapter 18.25. As required by King County
18 Code, in June 2020 the executive will transmit an updated strategic
19 climate action plan. The executive has convened a climate equity task

20 force where leaders of frontline communities will develop goals and guide
21 priority areas for climate action based on community values and concerns.
22 Building on this existing work the 2020 King County Strategic Climate
23 Action Plan and subsequent updates should address the climate crisis
24 using a framework of environmental justice and in ways that create and
25 maintain quality jobs with a focus on those most impacted by change in
26 order to build sustainable and resilient communities and a more equitable
27 economy.

28 An environmental justice framework calls for environmental policies to
29 explicitly address racial and economic disparities exacerbated by climate
30 change. Across this country, including King County, historic
31 discriminatory policies have placed a disproportionate environmental
32 impact on the most marginalized communities. Furthermore, those most
33 impacted by climate change are often those with the fewest resources to
34 respond.

35 Using an environmental justice framework, the 2020 Strategic Climate
36 Action Plan update is an opportunity to consider the impact and benefits to
37 marginalized communities of policies to reduce emissions reductions,
38 prepare the county for climate change and access the job opportunities that
39 a new green economy will provide.

40 King County has convened the King County climate and equity
41 community task force to recommend community-driven goals and
42 priorities as part of the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan update.

43 Access to green jobs is a crucial element in developing sustainable and
44 resilient communities. Jobs in energy efficiency, renewable energy
45 development, electric vehicle maintenance, developing infrastructure for
46 electric vehicles and investing in carbon sequestration are a growing field.
47 According to the 2019 United States Energy and Employment Report,
48 there are over 2.3 million energy efficiency-related jobs in the United
49 States. Energy efficiency jobs pay more on average than the national
50 median wage. However, women and people of color are vastly
51 underrepresented in that sector. In 2018, the energy efficiency sector
52 continued to produce the most new jobs of any energy sector. Demand for
53 efficient technology and building upgrades has driven expansion across
54 many traditional industries, including construction trades and professional
55 services. As job growth in the energy efficiency sector increases, the
56 report noted fifty-two percent of energy efficiency construction employers
57 found it very difficult to hire new employees. There is much work to do to
58 make sure women and people of color have access to these well-paying
59 jobs.

60 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

61 SECTION 1. Ordinance 17270, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 18.25.010 are
62 hereby amended to read as follows:

63 A.1. The ~~((executive shall develop))~~ county developed a strategic climate action
64 plan in 2012 to establish long-term targets and guide actions within county services and
65 operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate,

66 consistent with the King County Strategic Plan. In accordance with this chapter, the
67 executive updates the strategic climate action plan. Each update to the strategic climate
68 action plan shall be developed with an environmental justice framework in partnership
69 with those communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and in a manner
70 consistent with Ordinance 16948, which establishes the county's fair and just principle.

71 The strategic climate action plan shall include the following:

72 a. the identification of specific goals, strategies, measures, targets and priority
73 actions for county services and operations to reduce emissions consistent with the
74 countywide goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions twenty-five percent by 2020, fifty
75 percent by 2030 and eighty percent by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline. The strategic
76 climate action plan should address five goal areas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions:
77 transportation and land use; building and facilities energy; green building; consumption
78 and materials management, including the environmental purchasing program; and
79 forestry and agriculture. Each goal area shall address environmental justice and ensure
80 that the strategies promote an equitable distribution of any environmental benefit. The
81 strategic climate action plan should establish explicit and, whenever possible,
82 quantifiable connections between the overarching climate goals and specific strategies
83 and actions;

84 b.(1) a green jobs strategy. For purposes of this subsection A., a "green job"
85 means one that generates an income large enough to support a household in King County
86 and provides a benefit to the environment. The intent of the green jobs strategy is to
87 encourage the development of greens jobs along the career spectrum.

88 (2) The green jobs strategy shall be developed in consultation with members

89 of the King County climate and equity community taskforce identified in subsection
90 A.1.b.(2)(f) of this section, labor and workforce development organizations directed in
91 subsection A. 7 of this section, and representatives of an environmental justice and
92 climate equity organization, education, business, building managers, utilities, scientists
93 with knowledge of the latest research on strategies to reduce emissions, tribes, local
94 governments and regional groups such as the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
95 and the Puget Sound Regional Council, and shall include:

96 (a) specific actions King County and its partners can take to increase the
97 number of green jobs and apprenticeships throughout the region, including jobs in energy
98 efficiency, renewable energy, green vehicles and carbon sequestration, and King County
99 administrative, executive, policy and technical jobs;

100 (b) a proposal for and budget to develop a green job pipeline that focuses
101 especially on communities that have historically been underserved, and is informed by
102 recommendations of the climate and equity community task force;

103 (c) identification of the industry sectors and job types with high-demand
104 green jobs in King County;

105 (d) actions King County can take to develop the green energy skills of King
106 County's own workforce, such as collaboration on development of apprenticeship and
107 pre-apprenticeship programs in sectors including energy efficiency, electrification,
108 electric vehicle maintenance, the maintenance of electric vehicle infrastructure and
109 carbon sequestration technologies; and

110 (e) an initial green jobs strategy in the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan
111 update, with findings and recommendations along with recommended next steps for

112 refining the green jobs strategy as part of plan implementation, biennial budgets and
113 future plan updates; and

114 (f) a community-driven strategy to achieve sustainable and resilient
115 communities. In order to achieve a community driven strategy, the executive shall
116 convene and partner with the King County climate and equity community task force to
117 develop the sustainable and resilient community strategy. The King County climate and
118 equity community task force shall be a racially and ethnically diverse group representing
119 various communities in King County that are on the frontline of climate change. The task
120 force shall develop goals and guide priority areas for climate action based on community
121 values and concerns. The sustainable and resilient community strategy shall:

122 i. identify how climate change will impact communities of color, low-
123 income communities and those disproportionately impacted by climate change;

124 ii. identify opportunities to take actions to address those impacts that could
125 include increasing the number of affordable housing units, developing pathways to green
126 jobs, preventing neighborhood displacement, increasing access to green spaces, providing
127 access to zero emissions mobility options, improving food security, reducing pollution
128 and addressing health disparities; and

129 iii. based on assessment of climate impacts and extreme weather events
130 like heat waves on vulnerable communities, make recommendations for preparedness
131 strategies and actions to include in county emergency response plans, the flood hazard
132 management plan and the regional hazard mitigation plan;

133 c. the current assessment of climate change impacts in King County and
134 identification of goals, strategies, measures, targets and priority actions within county

135 services and county operations to address climate change impacts. Each goal and
136 strategy shall address environmental justice and ensure that the strategies promote an
137 equitable distribution of any environmental benefit;

138 ((e-)) d. performance measures and related targets for both operational
139 emissions and implementation of priority strategies, including the green job strategy, that
140 advance the strategic climate action plan and provide for assessment of progress relative
141 to overarching climate goals at the community scale; and

142 ((d-)) e. an assessment of cost effectiveness for key county services and
143 operations building on the pilot cost effectiveness assessment in the 2015 strategic
144 climate action plan update.

145 2. Consistent with the county's strategic planning cycle, updates will occur at
146 least every five years, unless more frequent updates are needed to respond to changing
147 information about emissions sources, performance relative to targets, new technologies,
148 or a changing regulatory context. The executive shall transmit updates to the strategic
149 climate action plan to the council for adoption by motion.

150 3. In developing future updates to the strategic climate action plan, the
151 executive shall continue to review climate change-related plans being developed by other
152 municipalities, including the city of Seattle's climate action plan, and identify
153 opportunities and strengthen recommendations for partnership with cities, businesses and
154 nonprofit organizations to advance actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
155 prepare for climate change impacts. ~~((Future updates shall also continue to strengthen~~
156 ~~engagement of communities most impacted by climate change, review and address the~~
157 ~~disproportionate impacts of climate change, and develop solutions in a manner consistent~~

158 ~~with Ordinance 16948 establishing the county's fair and just principle.))~~

159 4. The council recognizes that science related to climate change and successful
160 climate solutions is evolving, and each update to the strategic climate action plan should
161 build upon and refine the strategies, activities and performance targets in accordance with
162 best available science, practices and progress toward emissions reductions targets.

163 5. Future updates shall include the requirements of subsection A.1. of this
164 section.

165 6. Progress in achieving strategic climate action plan performance measure
166 targets and accomplishment of priority actions identified in subsection A.1. of this
167 section, as well as findings outlining recommendations for changes in policies, priorities
168 and capital investments, shall be reported and transmitted to council biennially. The
169 progress report shall be included as part of the report required in K.C.C. 18.50.010.

170 7. The executive shall convene a strategic climate action plan labor advisory
171 council or seek input from county labor and workforce development organizations,
172 including the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council of Washington, the Seattle
173 Building and Construction Trades Council and the Workforce Development Council of
174 Seattle-King County, on recommendations for policies, programs and partnerships to
175 strengthen pathways to local green jobs and to provide guidance on each update.

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

178 C. The executive must transmit the legislation and reports required to be
179 submitted by this section in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the
180 clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all

181 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the transportation,
182 economy and environment committee or its successor.

183 SECTION 2. Ordinance 17166, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 18.50.010 are
184 hereby amended to read as follows:

185 The executive shall transmit by June 30 of every other year a report on the
186 county's major environmental sustainability programs intended to reduce energy use,
187 climate emissions, and resource use, and prepare for the impacts of climate change, as
188 required in subsections A., B. and C. of this section. The report shall also describe the
189 progress made throughout the region on developing of green jobs as defined in K.C.C.
190 18.25.010. The executive shall transmit the report to council, filed in the form of a paper
191 original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original
192 and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the
193 lead staff for the transportation economy and environment committee or its successor.
194 The report shall be structured in a way that links actual performance to established goals
195 and indicators and can inform policy choices, program priorities and investments in
196 capital projects. The report should address the following:

197 A. Greenhouse gas emissions reductions, including:

198 1. Progress towards achieving the overarching greenhouse gas emissions
199 reduction targets for both county government operations and the county as a whole;

200 2. Progress against targets and measures and updates on the implementation of
201 strategies and priority actions in five goal areas for the strategic climate action plan:
202 transportation and land use; building and facilities energy; green building; consumption
203 and materials management, including the environmental purchasing program; and

204 forestry and agriculture; and

205 3. A summary of major expenses associated with the climate impacts research,
206 community-scale emissions inventories, climate change community engagement, and
207 climate change and energy efficiency partnerships with businesses and cities;

208 B. An update on implementation of climate preparedness strategies and priority
209 actions recommended in the current strategic climate action plan;

210 C. An update on the strategies and priority actions identified in the green jobs
211 strategy as required by K.C.C. 18.25.010;

212 D. An update on the actions taken to achieve sustainable and resilient
213 communities as required by K.C.C. 18.25.010;

214 E. The green building program, as required in K.C.C. 18.17.020.M.1.; and

215 ((D:)) F. The program to fund city projects to reduce energy demand, as required
216 in Ordinance 18663, Section 3.
217

Ordinance 19041 was introduced on 10/16/2019 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/11/2019, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci



KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melani Pedroza", is written over a horizontal line.

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

RECEIVED
2019 DEC 19 PM 3:42
CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED this 19 day of DECEMBER, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine", is written over a horizontal line.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None