



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**September 26, 2017**

**Motion 14962**

**Proposed No.** 2017-0321.1

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

1           A MOTION affirming King County's commitment to  
2           advance the Paris Climate Agreement and to collaborate  
3           with other governments, businesses and community groups  
4           to achieve climate change goals.

5           WHEREAS, On June 1, 2017, the President of the United States announced that  
6           the President would formally withdraw the country from the Paris Climate Agreement,  
7           and

8           WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is an international agreement to  
9           prevent the most severe impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions  
10          to limit global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to  
11          limit the temperature increase to even further to one and five-tenths degrees Celsius, and

12          WHEREAS, although only national governments can sign onto the Paris Climate  
13          Agreement, subnational governments may publicly declare their commitments to climate  
14          action, and

15          WHEREAS, climate change is one of the paramount challenges of our generation  
16          and will have near and long-term consequences for the economy, the environment and  
17          public health and safety in King County, and

18          WHEREAS, King County is already experiencing the impacts of a changing

19 climate: warming temperatures; acidifying marine waters; rising sea levels; increasing  
20 flooding risk; more-frequent heat events that impact health; decreasing mountain  
21 snowpack; and less water in the summer, and

22 WHEREAS, impacts of a changing climate will not affect all King County  
23 residents in the same way. Experiences will vary based on income, health, age and place  
24 of residence. Climate change impacts can magnify existing health issues and limited  
25 access to resources that are already experienced disproportionately by communities of  
26 color, and

27 WHEREAS, local governments play a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas  
28 emissions through their land use and transportation policy choices, building codes and  
29 investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean vehicles, and

30 WHEREAS, local governments have core responsibilities for protecting public  
31 health and safety, preparing for emergencies and sustaining critical infrastructure, and

32 WHEREAS, local government efforts to confront climate change have more  
33 impact when coordinated around shared goals and outcomes and when pursued through  
34 public, private and nongovernmental partnerships, and

35 WHEREAS, in 2014, King County and thirty-nine cities adopted shared regional  
36 targets to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions twenty-five percent by 2020, fifty  
37 percent by 2030 and eighty percent by 2050, against a 2007 baseline, and

38 WHEREAS King County and thirteen cities whose members represent seventy-  
39 five percent of the population of the county are partnering through the King County-  
40 Cities Climate Collaboration, and

41 WHEREAS, in 2015, the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration developed

42 specific, shared action commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across King  
43 County, and

44 WHEREAS, in 2015, the King County executive and council unanimously  
45 adopted a Strategic Climate Action Plan that establishes pathways, priority actions and  
46 commitments that the county will carry out in its operations and at the community scale  
47 to achieve emission reduction goals, and

48 WHEREAS, the Strategic Climate Action Plan maps specific pathways and  
49 actions needed to achieve the countywide climate goals of reducing greenhouse gas  
50 emissions by eighty percent by 2050, against a 2007 baseline, with interim goals of  
51 twenty-five percent reduction by 2020 and fifty percent reduction by 2030, and

52 WHEREAS, the Strategic Climate Action Plan sets renewable energy goals to use  
53 one-hundred percent carbon neutral energy in county operations by 2025, phase out coal  
54 by 2025, limit new natural gas development and increase renewable energy use to ninety  
55 percent by 2030 at the countywide scale, and

56 WHEREAS, King County has made significant progress against targets for  
57 energy efficiency and renewable energy in its operations, reducing energy use in  
58 buildings and facilities by twenty percent since 2007 while achieving more than three and  
59 one-half million dollars in annual savings and while producing renewable energy  
60 equivalent to its needs for operation of county buildings and facilities, and

61 WHEREAS, in 2017 the county committed to purchase wind-generated, carbon-  
62 free electricity from Puget Sound Energy beginning in 2019 that will reduce direct  
63 greenhouse gas emissions from King County government operations by twenty percent,  
64 and

65 WHEREAS, the county has committed to purchase one hundred twenty battery-  
66 electric buses by 2020, as part of the transition to a zero-emission fleet by 2034, and is  
67 focusing deployment of these buses in communities disproportionately impacted by poor  
68 air quality, and

69 WHEREAS, King County achieved its goal of carbon neutrality for the  
70 department of natural resources and parks more than a year ahead of schedule, and

71 WHEREAS, King County is integrating climate and social equity initiatives,  
72 engaging communities on coordinated approaches to health, access to clean energy  
73 resources and economic development benefits consistent with the goals of the county's  
74 Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, and

75 WHEREAS, King County convened the safe energy leadership alliance in 2014 to  
76 protect the health and economies of communities from the risks and impacts of oil and  
77 coal transport and of fossil fuel infrastructure siting, and

78 WHEREAS, today, the safe energy leadership alliance is a coalition of more than  
79 one hundred fifty-five elected leaders from four states and British Columbia that is  
80 bringing attention to the full risks and impacts of proposed crude oil and coal export to  
81 public health and safety, water quality, treaty rights and economic development, and to  
82 supporting renewable energy access and development, and

83 WHEREAS, regional, cross-sector collaboration reduces greenhouse gas  
84 emissions and strengthens the county's ability to prepare for the impacts of a changing  
85 climate on local communities, infrastructure, economy, public health and safety and the  
86 natural environment;

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

88           A. King County affirms its commitment to work collaboratively to advance the  
89 goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and to monitor and transparently report progress on  
90 goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

91           B. King County will continue to pursue the goals and priority actions in its  
92 adopted 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan as well as those developed in partnership  
93 with cities through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration.

94           C. King County will engage with national and international coalitions of local  
95 governments and businesses to share best practices and advocate for state and federal  
96 policy frameworks that advance energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change  
97 goals.

98           D. Consistent with its Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, King County will  
99 strengthen its engagement with communities facing the greatest impacts from climate  
100 change and create opportunities for shared leadership and decision-making to develop  
101 solutions and prioritize investments.

102           E. King County will continue to convene and support the Safe Energy Leadership

103 Alliance and work collaboratively to accelerate renewable energy access and  
104 development.  
105

Motion 14962 was introduced on 8/14/2017 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 9/25/2017, 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  
No: 0  
Excused: 0



ATTEST:

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

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Joseph McDermott", is written over a horizontal line.  
J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

Attachments: None