



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

November 8, 2016

Ordinance 18392

Proposed No. 2016-0489.1

Sponsors Upthegrove

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the Strategic Climate Action  
2 Plan; amending K.C.C. chapter 18.25, Strategic Climate  
3 Action Plan, in accordance with the 2015/2016 Biennial  
4 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 17941, Section 104, Proviso  
5 P1, as amended; and amending Ordinance 17270, Section  
6 2, and K.C.C. 18.25.010 and Ordinance 17166, Section 2,  
7 as amended, and K.C.C. 18.50.010.

8 PREAMBLE:

9 Climate change is one of the paramount challenges of our generation.  
10 King County is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate:  
11 warming temperatures, acidifying marine waters, rising seas, increasing  
12 flooding risk, decreasing mountain snowpack, and less water in the  
13 summer. Climate change will have long-term consequences for the  
14 economy, the environment and public health and safety in King County.  
15 King County has a long record of innovation, leadership and investment in  
16 reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of  
17 climate change. Consideration of climate change impacts and  
18 opportunities to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions are  
19 deeply embedded throughout the work plans and capital investments of

20 county departments and lines of business. Since 2007, the investments in  
21 energy efficiency and changes in operations have reduced normalized  
22 building energy use by more than twenty percent, generating over three  
23 million dollars in annual savings. King County Metro has pioneered the  
24 use of hybrid bus technology, and the county is on track to have an all-  
25 hybrid or electric bus fleet by 2018. King County is now producing  
26 renewable energy equivalent to more than one hundred percent of total  
27 operational energy use, excluding public transit vehicles.

28 The county's first Strategic Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2012 and  
29 updated in 2015, consistent with K.C.C. chapter 18.25. The 2015 update  
30 to the Strategic Climate Action Plan maps specific pathways and actions  
31 needed to achieve the ambitious countywide climate goals of reducing  
32 greenhouse gas emissions by eighty percent by 2050. It also integrates the  
33 county's energy efficiency and renewable energy commitments and  
34 outlines how the county will partner with cities, businesses and the civic  
35 sector to lead the nation in demonstrating successful climate solutions.

36 The 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan update responds to the 2014  
37 performance audit of the 2012 Strategic Climate Action Plan. The  
38 performance audit made four recommendations:

- 39 1. Ensure that the 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan update and its  
40 subsequent implementation and monitoring are informed by input from a  
41 broad representation of community stakeholders in King County;

- 42           2. Establish explicit, and whenever possible, quantifiable connections  
43           between the overarching climate goals and specific strategies and actions;  
44           3. Incorporate verifiable economic analysis of the cost-effectiveness of  
45           current and potential actions to reach Strategic Climate Action Plan  
46           targets; and  
47           4. Ensure there is an effective management structure and sufficient  
48           resources in place to conduct the 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan  
49           update.

50           In the report to the King County council dated August 4, 2015, the auditor  
51           noted that "...the county executive provided an effective management  
52           structure for strategic planning and that the updated Strategic Climate  
53           Action Plan established explicit connections between actions and goals  
54           based on rigorous technical analysis. The update has also made  
55           substantive progress in strengthening community engagement and cost-  
56           effectiveness analysis of climate actions."

57           The updated 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan was unanimously  
58           adopted by the King County council in November 2015.

59           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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

62           A.1. The executive shall develop a strategic climate action plan (~~that uses the~~  
63           ~~King County Strategic Plan 2010-2014, adopted by Ordinance 16897, as the organizing~~  
64           ~~framework. The first strategic climate action plan shall be transmitted by June 29, 2012,~~

65 with a motion adopting the plan. Given the relatively short timeframe for completion of  
66 the initial climate strategic plan, the scope will focus primarily on county operations and  
67 activities that the county can influence through its direct operations, and will integrate  
68 and refine current policies, plans, interlocal collaborations, and performance measures))  
69 to establish long-term targets and guide actions within county services and operations to  
70 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, consistent with the  
71 King County Strategic Plan. The strategic climate action plan shall include the  
72 following:

73 a. the identification of specific ~~((objectives))~~ goals, strategies, measures,  
74 targets and priority actions for ~~((reducing))~~ county services and operations to reduce  
75 emissions ~~((and mitigating climate impacts))~~ consistent with the countywide goal of  
76 reducing greenhouse gas emissions twenty-five percent by 2020, fifty percent by 2030  
77 and eighty percent by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline. The ~~((list of strategies shall be~~  
78 ~~sufficiently detailed to provide clear guidance on how King County can directly affect the~~  
79 ~~outcomes of reducing emissions and addressing the impact of climate change in King~~  
80 ~~County))~~ strategic climate action plan should address five goal areas for reducing  
81 greenhouse gas emissions: transportation and land use; building and facilities energy;  
82 green building; consumption and materials management, including the environmental  
83 purchasing program; and forestry and agriculture. The strategic climate action plan  
84 should establish explicit and, whenever possible, quantifiable connections between the  
85 overarching climate goals and specific strategies and actions;

86 b. ~~((related strategies, program activities and targets the 2010 Energy Plan~~  
87 ~~adopted by Motion 13368, given the highly dependent relationship of reductions in~~

88 ~~climate pollution of both energy efficiency improvements and the strategic climate action~~  
89 ~~plan))~~ the current assessment of climate change impacts in King County and  
90 identification of goals, strategies, measures, targets and priority actions within county  
91 services and county operations to address climate change impacts; ~~(and)~~

92 c. performance measures and related targets for both operational emissions and  
93 implementation of priority strategies that advance the strategic climate action plan and  
94 provide for assessment of progress relative to overarching climate goals at the community  
95 scale; and

96 d. an assessment of cost effectiveness for key county services and operations  
97 building on the pilot cost effectiveness assessment in the 2015 strategic climate action  
98 plan update.

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

104 3. In developing future updates to the ~~((King County))~~ strategic climate action  
105 plan, the executive shall continue to review climate change-related plans being developed  
106 by other municipalities, including the city of Seattle's climate action plan, and identify  
107 ~~((any))~~ opportunities ~~((for partnerships with cities or strategies or activities that could be~~  
108 incorporated as part of the King County climate strategic plan)) and strengthen  
109 recommendations for partnership with cities, businesses and nonprofit organizations to  
110 advance actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change

111 impacts. Future updates shall also continue to strengthen engagement of communities  
112 most impacted by climate change, review and address the disproportionate impacts of  
113 climate change, and develop solutions in a manner consistent with Ordinance 16948  
114 establishing the county's fair and just principle.

115 ~~((3.))~~ 4. The council recognizes that ~~((the climate change related strategies~~  
116 ~~identified in the King County Strategic Plan 2010-2014 may benefit from revision and~~  
117 ~~thus the strategies identified for the climate action plan transmitted by June 29, 2012,))~~  
118 science related to climate change and successful climate solutions is evolving, and the  
119 strategic climate action plan should build upon and refine the strategies, activities~~((;))~~ and  
120 performance targets ~~((identified as part of the King County Strategic Plan 2010-2014))~~ in  
121 accordance with best available science, practices and progress toward emissions  
122 reductions targets.

123 ~~((4. Subsequently, the executive shall transmit an update to the strategic climate~~  
124 ~~action plan by June 29, 2015, for adoption by motion.))~~

125 5. Future ~~((U))~~ updates shall include the requirements of subsection A.1. of this  
126 section ~~((and should also identify community level actions the county can implement to~~  
127 ~~reduce climate pollution and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Given the strong~~  
128 ~~interdependence between climate emissions and energy use, the King County Energy~~  
129 ~~Plan will be combined and integrated with the 2012 update of the strategic climate action~~  
130 ~~plan.~~

131 ~~5. Consistent with the county's strategic planning cycle, updates after 2015 will~~  
132 ~~occur at least every five years, unless more frequent updates are needed to respond to~~

133 ~~changing information about emissions sources, performance relative to targets, new~~  
134 ~~technologies, or a changing regulatory context)).~~

135           6. Progress in achieving strategic climate action plan performance measure  
136 targets and accomplishment of priority actions identified in subsection A.1.~~((e-))~~ of this  
137 section, as well as findings outlining recommendations for changes in policies, priorities  
138 and capital investments, shall be reported and transmitted to council ~~((annually))~~  
139 biennially. The progress report shall be included as part of the report required in K.C.C.  
140 18.50.010.

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

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

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

150           The executive shall transmit by June 30 of ~~((each))~~ every other year a report on  
151 the county's major environmental sustainability programs intended to reduce energy use,  
152 climate emissions and resource use and prepare for the impacts of climate change, as  
153 required in subsections A., B. and C. of this section. The executive shall transmit the  
154 report to council, filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the  
155 clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all

156 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the transportation  
157 economy and environment committee or its successor. ~~((The report shall cover the  
158 climate change, energy, green building and environmental purchasing programs. For  
159 each of these programs, the executive shall describe the major accomplishments and  
160 include a summary of performance relative to key environmental goals and indicators,  
161 challenges and opportunities and recommendations.))~~ The report shall be structured in a  
162 way that links actual performance to established goals and indicators and can ~~((guide))~~  
163 inform policy choices, program priorities ~~((;))~~ and investments in capital projects. ~~((The  
164 report required in K.C.C. 18.25.010.A.6 shall be included as part of the report.))~~ The  
165 report should address the following:

166 A. ~~((The climate change program))~~ Greenhouse gas emissions reductions,  
167 including:

168 1. Progress towards achieving ~~((F))~~ the overarching greenhouse gas emissions  
169 reduction targets for both county government operations and the county as a whole ~~((and  
170 actions to reduce operational and community scale greenhouse gas emissions.))~~;

171 2. ~~((Specific climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, performance measures  
172 and targets))~~ Progress against targets and measures and updates on the implementation of  
173 strategies and priority actions in five goal areas for the strategic climate action plan:  
174 transportation and land use; building and facilities energy; green building; consumption  
175 and materials management, including the environmental purchasing program; and  
176 forestry and agriculture; and

177 3. ~~((All))~~ A summary of major expenses associated with the climate impacts  
178 research, community-scale emissions inventories, climate change ~~((program))~~ community



179 engagement, and climate change and energy efficiency partnerships with businesses and  
180 cities;

181 ~~((4. A cost-benefit analysis of the program;))~~

182 B. ~~((The energy program, including energy targets established in the 2010 Energy~~  
183 ~~Plan)) An update on implementation of climate preparedness strategies and priority  
184 actions recommended in the current strategic climate action plan; and~~

185 C. The green building program, ~~((including:~~

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

189 ~~2. The additional costs associated with achieving LEED certification;~~

190 ~~3. The total number of non-LEED projects that have completed a sustainable~~  
191 ~~development scorecard;~~

192 ~~4. The green strategies employed;~~

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

197 ~~6. The reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;~~

198 ~~7. The construction waste recycled; renewable resources used;~~

199 ~~8. The green materials used; and~~

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

203           D. ~~The environmental purchasing program, including:~~

204           1. ~~Quantities, costs and types of recycled and other environmentally preferable~~  
205 ~~products purchased, and quantities of computers and electronics recycled;~~

206           2. ~~A summary of savings achieved through the purchase of recycled and other~~  
207 ~~environmentally preferable products;~~

208           3. ~~A summary of program promotional efforts; and~~

209           4. ~~Recommendations for changes in procurement policies)) as required in~~

210 K.C.C. 18.17.020.M.1.

211           SECTION 3. This ordinance amends K.C.C. chapter 18.25, in accordance with

212 the 2015/2016 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 17941, Section 104, Proviso P1, as  
213 amended.  
214

Ordinance 18392 was introduced on 10/31/2016 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/7/2016, 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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON




J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Acting Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

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Attachments: None