

# WHAT WE ARE DOING

## TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE

King County government is a national leader on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The county is leading the way on assessing its own emissions and on collaborating with other entities to address the challenge. King County is establishing a “climate change lens” through which it views its policies, planning, education, programs, partnerships, advocacy, service delivery and infrastructure.

### Landfill gas-to-energy facility at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill

King County converts landfill gas at the Cedar Hills Landfill to electricity that can be used in the region. The project reduces energy costs and reliance on energy markets for electricity, generates revenue for the county through sale of the landfill gas, and meets a growing consumer demand for energy produced from renewable sources. It also reduces our carbon footprint.  
<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/landfill-gas.asp>



### Vehicle Electrification Program

We have increased the percentage of hybrid vehicles in the county's fleet to 6 percent and received a three-star Evergreen Fleets certification, and have led planning for a regional electric vehicle project. To learn more visit:  
[www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/keyinitiatives/ElectricVehicles.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/keyinitiatives/ElectricVehicles.aspx)



### Reducing and mitigating greenhouse gas pollution

To reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas pollution, we are working to lessen our dependence on fossil fuel for powering our plants and facilities.  
[www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/RespondingToClimateChange.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/RespondingToClimateChange.aspx)



## WHERE CAN I GO TO LEARN MORE?

For information on changes in air quality and climate pollution in King County, see:  
<http://your.kingcounty/dnrp/measures/indicators/atmosphere.aspx>

For information about how King County is doing at achieving its climate response goals and targets, see:  
<http://your.kingcounty/dnrp/measures/performance/en-climate-protection.aspx>

This information is available in alternative formats.  
Call 206-296-6500 or 711 (TTY Relay).



# WHAT CAN I DO?

## RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Green up your ride



Go native



Reduce, Re-use and Recycle



Eat and buy locally



Restore habitat



Buy healthy products

**CLIMATE CHANGE** is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity for each of us to show that we can change our habits and make a collective difference. Experts say American households can cut their climate pollution, such as carbon dioxide, by about 25 percent in six months through a few simple steps. Some of them save you money, and others keep you healthy.

**INSIDE ARE 10 STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TODAY  
TO START REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT!**

[www.kingcounty.gov/climate](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate)



## Here are 10 STEPS you can take today to start reducing your carbon footprint:



### Know your 'carbon footprint'

Your carbon footprint is the amount of climate pollution you produce, measured in units of carbon dioxide. Knowing which of your daily activities at home and work create greenhouse gas emissions is the first step to changing your habits. Bonneville Environmental Foundation provides a "carbon calculator" tailored to the Pacific Northwest at [www.greentagsusa.org/GreenTags/calculator\\_intro.cfm](http://www.greentagsusa.org/GreenTags/calculator_intro.cfm).

### Bus, bike or walk instead of driving

Transportation (driving alone in our cars) is our biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state. We know it's hard to give up your car, but why not try a new way of getting around for even just one or two trips a week? King County Metro Transit ([www.kingcounty.gov/metro](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro)) has more than 200 bus routes that you can use for commuting, running errands, or going some place fun. Metro also sponsors nearly a thousand vanpools and vanshares that people use for their daily commuting needs. King County supports bicycling in our region, with bike racks on buses, regional bike maps, ([www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/roads/bicycling.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/roads/bicycling.aspx)), and also supports Bike Port, a bicycle-transit center in Pioneer Square. If you need to use a car, try carsharing with ZIPCAR ([www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com)) located in convenient spots near home or work.



### Be energy efficient

Purchasing energy efficient products and appliances helps you save energy and money too! Compact fluorescent light bulbs save electricity and are safe to use, but be sure to recycle them properly through the Take it Back Network 206-296-4466 or [www.takeitbacknetwork.org](http://www.takeitbacknetwork.org). When looking for household appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR appliances and earn rebates from Puget Sound Energy, which provides rebates to qualified customers on such items as energy efficient clothes washers and dishwashers, compact fluorescent light fixtures and compact fluorescent light bulbs. For energy efficiency rebates, tips, and information, call an Energy Advisor at 1-800-562-1482.



### Become an EcoConsumer

King County's EcoConsumer program ([www.KCecoconsumer.com](http://www.KCecoconsumer.com)) offers resources to help balance consuming and conserving. These include tips on green household products and reducing junk mail, great seasonal ideas, and Tom Watson's EcoConsumer columns in the Seattle Times. Conserve water to reduce the amount of energy used to transport and treat it: [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/WaterConservation.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/WaterConservation.aspx) Protecting water quality starts with you: [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Education/ThingsYouCanDo.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Education/ThingsYouCanDo.aspx)



### Seek Zero Waste - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Compost

Reduce your emissions by your consumption and waste management choices. By reducing and reusing what you buy, and recycling and composting what you no longer need, you reduce greenhouse gases. See <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/what-can-you-do.asp> for many tips for businesses and residents on how to get to zero waste and reduce your carbon footprint. For more information, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/recyclemore](http://www.kingcounty.gov/recyclemore).



### Buy locally grown

Help keep local farmers farming and taste the freshness in food grown for flavor not shipping. Check out any of the county's 39 farmers markets (some are year round). Schedule not right for a market? You can sign up for weekly Community Supported Agriculture boxes of food delivered direct from a local farm or pick your own veggies and fruit. Visit [www.pugetsoundfresh.org](http://www.pugetsoundfresh.org) for all the details!



### Make your home and garden greener

Lower your greenhouse gas emissions during home remodeling projects by using the EcoCool Remodel Tool. You'll find tips and resources ranging from selecting healthy paint products, to what you should consider when replacing your furnace, upgrading your kitchen or landscaping your yard. Green home remodeling creates healthy, comfortable spaces that can increase your home's value and help protect the environment. [www.ecocoolremodel.com](http://www.ecocoolremodel.com). To learn how easy it is being green, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/beinggreen](http://www.kingcounty.gov/beinggreen).



### Restore habitat

Planting native trees and shrubs in parks, natural lands and your own backyard provides many ecological benefits including habitat for wildlife, shade to keep streams cool for salmon, improved water quality and reduced soil erosion. Volunteer to work on King County natural area restoration projects – your help is needed! Visit [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/volunteer.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/volunteer.aspx) or call 206-296-2990 for more details.



### Change your thinking

Our activities can have a positive effect. Green technology can save and even make money for us. We are living in one of the most challenging times in history, but it also presents some of the greatest opportunities for doing things differently and better for the future. To learn more about what King County is doing to combat climate change, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/climate](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate)



### Plug in...to the climate action community

King County is proud to be partnering with many regional organizations that are working to protect the region's economy and the environment. Recently, King County joined forces with the "Puget Sound Starts Here" campaign. This partnership of regional governments is dedicated to improving water quality in Puget Sound and our local lakes, rivers and streams. To learn more and get free coupons, visit: [www.pugetsoundstartshere.org](http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org).