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## CHAPTER 9

# SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND UTILITIES

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The Growth Management Act requires coordinated planning so that the services required by new residents and their homes and businesses are available as growth occurs. Needed services include many that are not provided by King County, such as water supply, local sanitary sewers, fire protection, schools, energy facilities, and telecommunications.

King County does provide services such as regional wastewater treatment, regional solid waste management, and local stormwater management. ~~((The County also has a regional human services role, which is described in Chapter 4: Housing and Human Services.))~~ This chapter contains policies that guide service provision.

8  
9

## 10 ~~((F-))~~ Regional Services

11 King County government is a regional and local service provider. Types of regional services provided include  
12 transit, wastewater treatment, human services, and solid waste management. Local services provided to  
13 residents of unincorporated urban areas, the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands in King County may  
14 include police, building permits, water, sewer, and health services. As annexations and incorporations of  
15 unincorporated urban areas continue, King County government will focus more on its role as the coordinator  
16 and provider of regional services and protector of the county's Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. As  
17 annexations of unincorporated urban areas continue, King County will transition out of the role of coordinating  
18 with local service providers on how to best provide local services to those areas, and transition to lead for that  
19 coordination role to the cities, through collaboration with current service providers, as those former  
20 unincorporated areas become part of city limits. The following policies direct King County's evolving role as  
21 regional service provider. Provisions related to housing and human services are found in Chapter 4, Housing  
22 and Human Services.

23  
24 **F-101** King County, the cities, special purpose districts ~~((or)),~~ and local service  
25 providers shall plan as partners. King County's planning ~~((will))~~ shall focus on  
26 unclaimed urban unincorporated areas and cities' Potential Annexation Areas.

27  
28 **F-101a** King County agencies ~~((will))~~ shall engage communities in a culturally~~((-))~~ and  
29 audience-appropriate manner, including language access. King County agencies  
30 ~~((will))~~ shall also engage communities that are most affected by proposed  
31 projects.

32  
33 ~~((F-101b) King County shall adhere to the Executive Order on Written Language  
34 Translation Process and other applicable policies for those with limited English  
35 proficiency.))~~

36  
37 **F-102** King County shall work with cities, special purpose districts, other local service  
38 providers, and residents to ~~((identify and distinguish))~~ provide local, countywide,  
39 and regional services. ~~((Over time,))~~ As cities ~~((will))~~ assume primary  
40 responsibility for coordinating the provision of local services delivery in urban  
41 areas~~((-In general)),~~ the ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to provide local  
42 services delivery within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, consistent  
43 with rural standards and needs. Special purpose districts may still provide  
44 services, where appropriate. The ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall also assume primary  
45 responsibility for coordinating the provision of countywide services, including  
46 countywide services that must be delivered within city boundaries. The  
47 ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall also work with cities, special purpose districts, and other

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48 counties to identify regional service and facility needs and develop strategies to  
49 provide them.

50

51 **F-103** King County ~~((will))~~ shall provide or manage countywide services which include  
52 but are not limited to:

- 53 a. Affordable housing;  
54 b. Economic development;  
55 c. Flood warning and flood hazard management;  
56 d. Harborview Hospital;  
57 e. Hazardous waste management;  
58 f. Human services;  
59 g. Protection and preservation of natural resource lands;  
60 h. Public health;  
61 i. Regional law and criminal ~~((justice))~~ legal services;  
62 j. Regional park, trails and open space systems;  
63 k. Regional wastewater collection ~~((and))~~, treatment, and ~~((reclamation))~~  
64 resource recovery;  
65 l. Solid waste management, including recycling;  
66 m. Stormwater management;  
67 n. Transit; and  
68 o. Water resource management.

69

70 ~~((F-107) King County will, in cooperation with special purpose districts or local service  
71 providers, continue to plan for and provide public services to the Rural Area and  
72 Natural Resource Lands, consistent with rural standards and needs.))~~

73

74 **F-108** ~~((To support the intent of the Growth Management Act,))~~ King County should  
75 work with cities and other service providers to establish priority areas for public  
76 funding of capital facilities, services, and infrastructure.

77

78 **F-108a** King County should address ~~((historic))~~ historical inequities and  
79 ~~((disadvantaged))~~ historically underserved communities both in rural and  
80 unincorporated urban areas in determining the priority areas for public funding  
81 of capital facilities, services, and infrastructure.

82

## 83 ~~((H.))~~ **Facilities and Services**

### 84 ~~((A.))~~ **Providing a Spectrum of Services**

85 King County and numerous service providers need to coordinate planning and funding activities to ensure that  
86 needed facilities and services are provided in the region.

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87

88 ~~((F-201~~ ~~—————~~ ~~All facilities and services should be provided in compliance with provisions and~~  
89 ~~requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the~~  
90 ~~Growth Management Act.))~~

91

92 **F-202** King County should seek to ~~((create quality communities))~~ support a high quality  
93 of life for county residents by ~~((defining))~~ identifying the needs and proposing  
94 strategies for a full range of public facilities and services, including physical  
95 infrastructure and health, human and public safety services. King County should  
96 strive to provide an adequate and equitable supply ~~((and appropriate level))~~ of  
97 public facilities necessary to support all communities at appropriate urban and  
98 rural service levels.

99

100 **F-202a** Results from ~~((the King County E))~~equity ~~((I))~~impact ~~((R))~~reviews ~~((Tool will))~~ shall  
101 be used as an important consideration in evaluating funding, capital project, and  
102 service delivery decisions, and the County’s equity and racial and social justice  
103 principles should be used to improve residents’ access to the determinants of  
104 equity.

105

106 **F-203** ~~((When service providers are planning and designing facilities,))~~ King County  
107 should ~~((encourage them to use sustainable development practices to achieve~~  
108 ~~net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in new buildings by 2030))~~ work with service  
109 providers to implement incentives that encourage green building, such as  
110 financial and development incentives, and allow more people to access healthier  
111 buildings with reduced utility bills.

112

113 ~~((F-204~~ ~~—————~~ ~~King County should work with the cities, special purpose districts and other~~  
114 ~~service providers to define regional and local services and to determine the~~  
115 ~~appropriate providers of those services.~~

116

117 ~~F-205~~ ~~—————~~ ~~King County shall work with its neighboring counties, the state, Puget Sound~~  
118 ~~Regional Council, special purpose districts, ports and the cities to identify areas~~  
119 ~~of shared need and adequate land supply for public facilities. The county’s~~  
120 ~~capital acquisition budget shall reflect the jointly agreed-upon priorities and time~~  
121 ~~schedule.))~~

122

123 **F-206** Public and private community service providers should be encouraged~~((, as~~  
124 ~~appropriate,))~~ to share or reuse facilities when appropriate to reduce costs,  
125 conserve land and provide convenience, access and amenity for the public and  
126 to reduce the generation of greenhouse gasses. Joint siting and shared use of  
127 facilities should be encouraged for schools, community centers, health facilities,

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128 cultural facilities, libraries, swimming pools, and other social and recreational  
129 facilities. Sharing of facilities may include providing meeting space that can be  
130 accessed by the community, as appropriate.

131

132 **F-206a** King County should make its public facilities and properties available for the  
133 following, when such use is compatible with the primary public use of the facility:

134 a. ~~((#))~~ Renewable energy production ((when such use is compatible with  
135 the primary use of the facility)), with particular emphasis on benefits to  
136 King County ratepayers and communities, such as Community Solar  
137 programs; and

138 b. Use as a P-patch or community garden.

139

140 ~~((F-207) King County should make its public facilities or properties available for use as a~~  
141 ~~P-patch or community garden when such use is compatible with the primary~~  
142 ~~public use of the facility.~~

143

## 144 **B.)) Urban and Rural Services**

145 Although growth will be directed to Urban Areas, it is recognized that Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands  
146 have facility and service needs also.

147

148 **F-208** Public spending to support growth should be directed to the Urban Growth Area  
149 and to maintain existing ~~((unincorporated))~~ infrastructure in the unincorporated  
150 area, and should be prioritized through the Capital Facility Plan to comply with  
151 the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act.

152

153 **F-209** In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, services provided by agencies  
154 ~~((should))~~ shall support a rural level of development and support service that  
155 meets the needs of the community and not facilitate urbanization.

156

157 **F-209a** King County ~~((will))~~ shall provide or manage local services for unincorporated  
158 areas, which include but are not limited to:

159 a. ~~((Building))~~ Development permits;

160 b. District Court;

161 c. Economic Development;

162 d. Land use regulation;

163 e. Law enforcement;

164 f. Local parks;

165 g. Roads;

166 h. Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands management assistance; and

167 i. Surface water management.

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168

169 ~~((F-209b) King County's local economic development services are provided in Rural Areas~~  
170 ~~and Natural Resource Lands through the Rural Economic Strategies Plan and in~~  
171 ~~unincorporated urban areas through joint partnerships with cities, including~~  
172 ~~annexation and governance transition services.~~

173

174 **~~C.)~~ Identifying Needs for Facilities and Services**

175 Public facilities and services are vital to protect public health, safety and welfare and to protect and enhance  
176 community and environmental quality. Inadequate sewage disposal, for example, could directly threaten public  
177 health. Inadequate groundwater protection could result in unsafe drinking water and threaten stream flow.  
178 Deficiencies in other services, such as police protection or parks, might not raise severe obstacles to any single  
179 new development, but over time could cause general threats to public health, safety and welfare and  
180 deterioration of community quality.

181

182 King County government is responsible for assuring that adequate facilities and services are available or can be  
183 made available to support planned growth. This responsibility is carried out by identifying needs for facilities  
184 and services based on the planned amount and location of growth. The mechanism for identifying needs is  
185 capital improvement programming.

186

187 The Growth Management Act requires the ~~((e))~~County to prepare a capital facility plan that includes an  
188 inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, a forecast of the future needs for capital facilities,  
189 including the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new facilities, ~~((and))~~ a six-year plan that will  
190 finance the expanded or new facilities, and direction for reassessment of land use if funding is unavailable to  
191 meet existing and future needs. These requirements are addressed through:

192 • Chapter 9, Services, Facilities, and Utilities, including policies such as F-210, F-210a, F-213, F-214, and  
193 F-221;

194 • Chapter 8, Transportation, including the "Revenue Shortfall" subsection of the "Financing Services and  
195 Facilities that Meet Local and Regional Goals" section and policy T-405; and

196 • Appendix A, Capital Facilities and Utilities.

197

198 ~~((The Capital Facility Plan Element for King County is comprised of the following four components:~~

199 ~~1. Technical Appendix A is an executive summary of documents containing inventories of facilities and~~  
200 ~~services provided by King County (health and human services and law, safety and justice,~~  
201 ~~transportation, stormwater and regional wastewater treatment and reclamation) and those provided by~~  
202 ~~other entities (drinking water supply, sanitary sewer collection and treatment, schools, fire protection,~~  
203 ~~libraries, natural gas, telecommunications, and electricity).~~

204 ~~2. Technical Appendix A is an executive summary of documents containing the forecast of future needs~~  
205 ~~for capital facilities, including the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new facilities:~~

206 ~~3. Six year plan that will finance the expanded or new facilities:~~

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- 207 a. ~~Technical Appendix A is an executive summary of the finance plans for facilities and services~~  
 208 ~~provided by the county and other entities.~~  
 209 b. ~~Technical Appendix A references the Transportation Needs Report, which includes an analysis of~~  
 210 ~~funding capability to judge needs against probable funding resources, and a 20-year financial~~  
 211 ~~forecast report based on identified needs.~~  
 212 ~~Current adopted King County Capital Improvement Program for facilities other than transportation.~~  
 213 4. ~~Requirement to reassess land use if funding is unavailable to meet existing and future needs:~~  
 214 a. ~~Policies of Chapter 9 Section II (Facilities and Services), subparts B through F.~~  
 215 b. ~~Chapter 8: Transportation, Section IV.~~

216

## 217 **D.) Capital Facility Planning**

218 King County and other service providers are required to prepare six-year capital facility plans that describe needs  
 219 for the six-year facility and propose funding to meet those needs.

220

221 **F-210**                    **The capital facility plans and capital improvement programs prepared by all other**  
 222 **agencies that provide services to unincorporated areas of the county should be**  
 223 **consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan.**

224

225 **F-210a**                    **King County shall engage in ongoing facilities planning to ensure that it has**  
 226 **sufficient work space to meet its operational needs on a going-forward basis.**  
 227 **Facilities planning shall include an assessment of current facilities and future**  
 228 **needs and shall promote equity, economic and operational efficiencies, and**  
 229 **environmental sustainability. This facilities planning policy shall be implemented**  
 230 **through the Real Property Asset Management Plan(~~, which shall be updated at~~**  
 231 **least every four years, but may also be updated, in whole or in part, when**  
 232 **proposals with significant impacts on county facilities are made.**

233

234 ~~**F-210b**                    **Consistent with K.C.C. 20.12.100, the Real Property Asset Management Plan shall**~~  
 235 ~~**consist of real property asset management policies, practices and strategies,**~~  
 236 ~~**including planning policies, locations of county agencies and implementation**~~  
 237 ~~**plans, planned moves and references to King County space standards.))** The  
 238 **Real Property Asset Management Plan shall guide facility planning processes,**  
 239 **decisions, and implementation.**~~

240

241 **F-210c**                    **King County shall take into account the equity and racial and social justice**  
 242 **opportunities for capital investments within a community when siting a facility or**  
 243 **changing locations to improve service delivery.**

244

245 **F-211**                    **To reduce overall public costs, noise, climate change impacts and disruption to**  
 246 **the local area during construction, installation of new, or maintenance of existing**

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- 247 utility facilities should be timed and coordinated with other projects that utilize  
248 public rights-of-way and easements, where possible.  
249
- 250 **F-212** King County’s capital facility plans ~~((should))~~ **shall** identify financing strategies to  
251 support ~~((its))~~ **the land use assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan, including**  
252 **adopted ~~((20-year))~~ growth targets ~~((and land use plan))~~ and allocated housing**  
253 **needs.**  
254
- 255 ~~((F-205))~~ **F-212a** King County shall work with its neighboring counties, the state, Puget Sound  
256 Regional Council, special purpose districts, ports, and the cities to identify areas  
257 of shared need and adequate land supply for public facilities. The ~~((c))~~ **County’s**  
258 capital acquisition budget shall reflect the jointly agreed-upon priorities and time  
259 schedule.  
260
- 261 **F-213** King County’s capital improvement program shall demonstrate that projected  
262 needs for facilities and services can be met within the Urban Growth Area and  
263 can be served in compliance with the concurrency requirements of the Growth  
264 Management Act ~~((or, if))~~. **If** that is not possible, King County shall determine  
265 where and when deficits may occur and how needed facilities and services might  
266 be phased in and ~~((-))~~ **or** financed to serve such deficit areas. Alternative phasing  
267 and financing strategies must be identified and determined to be infeasible prior  
268 to triggering a land use and zoning reassessment under Policy ~~((F-223))~~ **F-221**.  
269
- 270 **F-214** School districts that choose to have the ~~((e))~~ **County** collect impact fees for them,  
271 and water and sewer utilities that provide their services to unincorporated King  
272 County, shall prepare capital facility plans consistent with requirements of the  
273 Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies and King County  
274 Code.  
275
- 276 **F-215** Provision of an adequate supply of kindergarten through twelfth grade public  
277 schools and public school facilities is essential to avoid overcrowding and to  
278 enhance the educational opportunities for children. King County shall adopt  
279 regulations that are supportive of the permitting of kindergarten through  
280 ~~((twelfth))~~ **12th** grade public schools and facilities in a manner consistent with the  
281 goals of the Growth Management Act and as provided in policies R-326 and R-  
282 327.  
283
- 284 **F-215a** King County should plan to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions  
285 associated with new residential and commercial buildings built in King County by  
286 ~~((2030))~~ **2031**.  
287



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288 **F-215b King County shall strive to provide services and build and operate public buildings**  
 289 **and infrastructure that are ~~((carbon neutral))~~ fossil fuel free and to eliminate fossil**  
 290 **fuels in new construction.**

291

292 It is the goal of King County to work toward a model sustainable community to balance growth with natural  
 293 resource protection while addressing climate change. Sustainable development seeks to achieve this goal by  
 294 addressing the impacts of the built environment in which people live and work.

295

296 Traditional development practices can contribute significantly to the adverse impacts that buildings and  
 297 associated infrastructure have on the environment and people's health. These impacts include heavy  
 298 consumption of material resources, energy and water, large-scale production of wastes, water pollution,  
 299 degradation of habitats and other ecological resources, and contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

300 Implementing sustainable development includes incorporating green building practices into policies through  
 301 education, incentives and regulations that help reduce negative impacts.

302

303 The elements of green building include:

- 304 • siting the project (to take advantage of existing services, to retain existing landscaping and natural  
 305 features and to increase building energy performance);
- 306 • requiring energy efficiency (to reduce energy consumption, to increase occupants' comfort, and to  
 307 reduce greenhouse gas emissions);
- 308 • managing building construction and demolition materials efficiently to reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
 309 and to increase the life-cycle of the building);
- 310 • increasing water efficiency (to reduce water consumption and to reduce wastewater treatment) and use  
 311 of onsite non-potable water systems for appropriate commercial buildings to foster reuse of water  
 312 (including blackwater, stormwater, and rainwater);
- 313 • improving water management to reduce stormwater runoff and produce less pollution and damage to  
 314 water bodies;
- 315 • using sustainable materials to improve indoor air quality, minimize toxic materials, reduce material  
 316 consumption and foster sustainable manufacturing;
- 317 • addressing equity and racial and social justice to ensure equitable access to sustainable development,  
 318 services and community amenities; and
- 319 • implementing universal design to ensure potential for aging in place and to service diverse occupancy  
 320 opportunities.

321

322 The incorporation of sustainable practices into the design, construction and operation of King County capital  
 323 improvement projects can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, reduce the use of natural

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324 resources, reduce energy and other operating costs, enhance asset value, optimize performance, promote cultural  
 325 sustainability by preserving historic resources and create healthier and more appealing environments for the  
 326 visiting public and for King County employees. The strategic energy management, efficiency and conservation  
 327 program called for in F-312 will enable King County to monitor the effectiveness of sustainable development  
 328 practices in improving energy efficiency. The Green Building and Sustainable Development Ordinance  
 329 ~~((17709)) 19402~~, adopted in ~~((2013)) 2022~~, requires that new ~~((e))~~County capital projects ~~((set a goal to))~~ must  
 330 achieve a platinum level certification using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating  
 331 system ~~((e))~~ or the King County Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or the highest certification level using an  
 332 approved alternative rating system~~((, when the incremental costs do not exceed the maximums allowed by the~~  
 333 ~~King County Code))~~. Minimum performance requirements include: implementing energy and emission  
 334 reduction targets as instructed by the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan; diverting 80~~((%))~~ percent of  
 335 demolition and construction materials by 2016 and 85~~((%))~~ percent by 2025, and zero waste of resources by  
 336 2030; integrating equity and racial and social justice efforts; and implementing the King County ~~((Stormwater))~~  
 337 Surface Water Management Design Manual or more stringent guidelines required by jurisdiction.

338

339 The LEED rating system is a voluntary, consensus-based nationally standard for developing high-performance,  
 340 sustainable buildings and to guide project design. The LEED rating system components include sustainable site  
 341 design; water efficiency; energy and atmosphere; indoor environmental quality; materials and resources;  
 342 innovation in design and regional priorities. For those projects that are not eligible for LEED certification, the  
 343 ~~((e))~~County's Green Building Team, comprised of representatives from the various ~~((e))~~County department that  
 344 have capital projects, developed a Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard and guidelines to help such projects  
 345 achieve measurable green building goals.

346

347 **F-216 King County capital facilities and ~~((e))~~County-funded projects should be**  
 348 **designed and constructed using sustainable development practices, with**  
 349 **consideration for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.**

350

351 **F-217 All eligible King County new capital projects shall ~~((plan for and should))~~ achieve**  
 352 **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification**  
 353 **level using the LEED rating system or the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard,**  
 354 **or achieve the highest certification level using an approved alternative rating**  
 355 **system~~((, and apply minimum performance standards when the incremental cost~~**  
 356 **impacts do not exceed the maximums allowed by King County code)).**

357

358 **F-217a All eligible King County major remodels and renovations shall ~~((plan for and~~**  
 359 **should))** achieve LEED Gold certification level using the LEED rating system or  
 360 the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or achieve a similar certification level  
 361 using an approved alternative rating system~~((, and apply minimum performance~~

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- 362 standards when the incremental cost impacts do not exceed the maximums  
363 allowed by King County code)).
- 364
- 365 F-217b All King County owned new construction capital projects should achieve net-zero  
366 greenhouse emissions by 2030.
- 367
- 368 F-217c All King County capital programs ~~((will))~~ shall evaluate their project portfolio for  
369 opportunities to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through programs  
370 such as the Living Building challenge, Living Communities Challenge, Net Zero  
371 Energy, Envision, or EcoDistrict.
- 372
- 373 F-217d King County should build and operate public buildings and infrastructure that  
374 result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water,  
375 greenhouse gas emissions and other resources and, for private development,  
376 guide development practices to achieve these same benefits.
- 377
- 378 F-217e King County ~~((will))~~ shall increase water efficiency and conservation, and reduce  
379 purchased water consumption through appropriate and economically feasible  
380 reuse of wastewater effluent, recycled water, stormwater, and harvested  
381 rainwater.
- 382
- 383 F-219 King County should leverage its purchasing power related to capital  
384 improvement projects to help expand the markets for green building products,  
385 including recycled-content materials and clean, renewable energy technologies,  
386 including zero-emission buses and particularly for products and services that are  
387 locally produced.
- 388

### 389 ~~((E.))~~ Addressing Service Deficiencies

390 In the event that needed facilities and services are not available to support either existing development or growth,  
391 King County will work with other service providers, such as water, sewer or solid waste purveyors, to address  
392 the service deficiency.

- 393
- 394 F-221 ~~((King County shall consider the initiation of a subarea study, or other corrective  
395 action, with any))~~ If a service provider ((that)) declares, through their capital  
396 facilities plan, an inability to accommodate projected service needs inside their  
397 service area, King County and the service provider shall remedy the deficiency  
398 through a joint planning process addressing capital improvement programs,  
399 long-term funding strategies, or other appropriate corrective actions. If those  
400 actions cannot resolve the deficiency, King County shall not allow for expansion

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401 of the service provider's service area and shall consider regulations to mitigate  
 402 the effect of the deficiency.

403

404 ~~((F-221a Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an~~  
 405 ~~important consideration in evaluation funding and service delivery decisions~~  
 406 ~~when needed to address service deficiencies.))~~

407

408 **F-222 King County and ((its)) the cities in King County should coordinate planning for**  
 409 **health and human service facilities and services. County investments in health**  
 410 **and human service facilities should be targeted primarily to the designated Urban**  
 411 **Centers and secondarily to other locations in the Urban Growth Area and Rural**  
 412 **Towns.**

413

414 ~~((F-223 If a service deficiency is identified in a service provider's existing service area,~~  
 415 ~~King County and the applicable service provider shall remedy the deficiency~~  
 416 ~~through a joint planning process addressing capital improvement programs and~~  
 417 ~~long-term funding strategies. If financing and level of service remedies cannot~~  
 418 ~~solve the deficiency, King County shall not allow for expansion of the service~~  
 419 ~~provider's service area and shall consider regulations to mitigate the effect of the~~  
 420 ~~deficiency.~~

421

## 422 **((F-)) Financing Strategies**

423 King County, cities, and other service providers will work together to address the financing needs of facilities and  
 424 services.

425

426 **F-224 As part of pre-annexation or annexation agreements, King County shall work with**  
 427 **the cities to create a financing partnership for areas of the Urban Growth Area**  
 428 **that the cities will annex. This includes determining county/regional and**  
 429 **city/municipal facilities and services and then committing to a shared financing**  
 430 **strategy to build or provide these infrastructure improvements or services.**

431

432 **F-225 King County should, in cooperation with other jurisdictions, develop funding**  
 433 **strategies for governmental infrastructure that take into account economic**  
 434 **development goals and consider the costs to, and benefits for, the jurisdictions**  
 435 **and the region.**

436

437 **F-225a King County should ((consider)) identify, strengthen, and support equitable**  
 438 **discount or low-rate service fees ((for)) to reduce cost burden on households**  
 439 **with low((-)-incomes ((households)).**

440

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441 **~~((G-))~~ Essential Public Facilities**

442 The region ~~((will))~~ works cooperatively to site essential public facilities in an equitable manner. Essential public  
443 facilities are defined in the Growth Management Act and include large, usually difficult to site facilities such as  
444 regional transit authority facilities, prisons, solid waste facilities, wastewater facilities, and airports.

445

446 **F-226** Proposed new or expansions to existing essential public facilities should be  
447 sited consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan. Listed existing  
448 essential public facilities should be preserved and maintained until alternatives  
449 or replacements for such facilities can be provided.

450

451 **F-227** King County and neighboring counties ~~((, if advantageous to both,))~~ should share  
452 essential public facilities to increase efficiency of operation ~~((Efficiency of  
453 operation should take into account)), including consideration of the overall value  
454 of the essential public facility to the region and the county and ((the extent to  
455 which, if properly mitigated,)) whether expansion of an existing essential public  
456 facility ((located in the county)) might be more economical and environmentally  
457 sound.~~

458

459 **F-228** King County should strive to site essential public facilities equitably so that no  
460 racial, cultural, or socio-economic group is ~~((unduly))~~ disproportionately  
461 impacted by or benefits from essential public facility siting or expansion  
462 decisions. No single community should absorb an inequitable share of these  
463 facilities and their impacts. An assessment of existing facilities should be  
464 conducted when siting new facilities. Siting ~~((will))~~ shall consider equity~~((,))~~;  
465 environmental justice; and environmental, economic, technical, and service area  
466 factors. Communities with a disproportionate share of existing facilities should  
467 be actively engaged in the planning and siting process for new facilities. The net  
468 impact of siting new essential public facilities should be weighed against the net  
469 impact of expansion of existing essential public facilities, with appropriate  
470 buffering and mitigation. Essential public facilities that directly serve the public  
471 beyond their general vicinity shall be discouraged from locating in the Rural Area  
472 and Natural Resource Lands.

473

474 **F-229** A facility shall be determined to be an essential public facility if it has one or  
475 more of the following characteristics:

- 476 a. The facility meets the Growth Management Act definition of an essential  
477 public facility;
- 478 b. The facility is on a state, county, or local community list of essential  
479 public facilities;

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- 480 c. The facility serves a significant portion of the county or metropolitan  
481 region or is part of a countywide service system; or  
482 d. The facility is the sole existing facility in the county for providing that  
483 essential public service.  
484
- 485 **F-230** Siting analysis for proposed new or expansions to existing essential public  
486 facilities shall consist of the following:
- 487 a. An inventory of similar existing essential public facilities in King County  
488 and neighboring counties, including their locations and capacities;  
489 b. A forecast of the future needs for the essential public facility;  
490 c. An analysis of the potential social, equity, health, and economic impacts  
491 and benefits and burdens to ~~((jurisdictions and local))~~ communities  
492 receiving or surrounding the facilities;  
493 d. An analysis of the proposal's consistency with policies F-226 through  
494 F-229;  
495 e. An analysis of alternatives to the facility, including decentralization,  
496 conservation, demand management, and other strategies;  
497 f. An analysis of economic and environmental impacts, including  
498 mitigation, of any existing essential public facility, as well as of any new  
499 site(s) under consideration as an alternative to expansion of an existing  
500 facility;  
501 g. An analysis of potential climate change impacts on the essential public  
502 facility, including consideration of sea level rise, and options for  
503 reducing climate change impacts on the facility, including locating the  
504 facility outside of the mapped 500-year floodplain along the marine  
505 shoreline (unless water-dependent, such as wastewater treatment  
506 facilities and associated conveyance infrastructure);  
507 h. Extensive public involvement which strives to effectively engage a wide  
508 range of racial, ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic group, including  
509 communities that are the most impacted;  
510 ~~((h-))~~ i. Consideration of any applicable prior review conducted by a public  
511 agency, local government, or ~~((stakeholder group))~~ interested parties;  
512 and  
513 ~~((i-))~~ j. To the extent allowable under the Growth Management Act, the  
514 locational criteria in policies R-326 and R-327.  
515
- 516 **F-230a** For existing essential public facilities, King County should considerer potential  
517 impacts from climate change and identify and implement actions to improve  
518 resiliency and mitigate for impacts, including consideration of potential long-  
519 term relocation of facilities that are in the mapped 500-year floodplain along the

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520 marine shoreline (unless water-dependent, such as wastewater treatment  
521 facilities and associated conveyance infrastructure).

522

523 ~~((F-231 King County supports coordination of regional water supply planning, sales of~~  
524 ~~excess water supplies among municipalities in the region, water quality~~  
525 ~~programs and water conservation, reuse and recycled water programs. This~~  
526 ~~regional planning should support King County's goals of focusing growth in the~~  
527 ~~Urban Growth Area and ensuring water availability for resource lands.~~

528

## 529 **H.)) Water Supply**

530 King County is not a water utility that provides potable water to residents and businesses in the region.  
531 However, it plays an important role in the coordination or linking of water resources and growth and regional  
532 protection and management of water resources. This regional protection and management includes protection of  
533 the quantity and quality of groundwater, stormwater management, flood hazard management, protection of fish  
534 and wildlife habitat, and commitment to regional water strategies through such efforts as the Puget Sound  
535 Partnership, regional water supply planning, salmon recovery planning, and multiple groups engaged on climate  
536 change mitigation and adaptation. It carries out this role through its responsibilities for planning, permit  
537 issuance, and regulatory oversight. The King County Comprehensive Plan must demonstrate that projected  
538 needs for facilities and service can be met within the Urban Growth Area and can be served in compliance with  
539 the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act. Within Rural Areas and Natural Resource  
540 Lands, the Comprehensive Plan must provide for rural services, including domestic water service, needed to  
541 serve permitted densities and uses.

542

543 The Utilities Technical Review Committee, as authorized in King County Code ((e))Chapter 13.24, assures that  
544 water system and water supply planning by water utilities in King County meet the requirements of the Growth  
545 Management Act and other applicable statutory requirements, as well as determining consistency with the King  
546 County Comprehensive Plan. The Utilities Technical Review Committee is responsible for identifying the  
547 elements and provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations, adopted by the ((e))County  
548 under the Growth Management Act, with which water system plans must be consistent, as prescribed in Revised  
549 Code of Washington 43.20.260. The Utilities Technical Review Committee is also responsible for ensuring that  
550 the purposes of ((e))Chapter 13.24, as provided in King County Code 13.24.005, are carried out. Water system  
551 plans are ultimately approved by ordinance by the King County Council and King County Executive.

552

553 ~~((King County has been working with water utility representatives for the last several years on refinements to the~~  
554 ~~Utilities Technical Review Committee review process. The intent of the refinements has been to clarify the~~  
555 ~~County's interests in reviewing water systems plans, create more transparency in the review process, provide~~  
556 ~~clarity on what the County does with the information it gets from water purveyors and reduce overall processing~~  
557 ~~time. King County will continue coordinating with water utilities to help ensure successful implementation of~~  
558 ~~the Utilities Technical Review Committee review process refinements.))~~

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559

560 Water utility service areas in King County are described in Coordinated Water System Plans developed under  
561 the Public Water System Coordination Act (((e))Chapter 70.116 Revised Code of Washington) and individual  
562 water system plans developed under State Board of Health rules adopted under ((e))Chapter 43.20 Revised Code  
563 of Washington. Coordinated Water System Plans describe future service areas for water utilities within which  
564 they are provided the exclusive right to serve future customers, and are to include the means for meeting those  
565 needs in the most efficient manner possible. Other service providers may serve within the future service area of a  
566 designated water utility if the designated water utility is unable to provide service in a timely and reasonable  
567 manner.

568

569 ~~((Individual water system plans must include the water utility's retail service area, which includes existing  
570 customers and areas where the utility plans future service. Under state law (Revised Code of Washington  
571 43.20.260), the water utility is required to provide service within its retail service area, provided it can meet the  
572 conditions prescribed in state law, including the ability to deliver such service in a timely and reasonable manner.  
573 The planned provision of service must be consistent with local government comprehensive plans, land use plans,  
574 and development regulations.))~~

575

576 Washington State laws encourage the development and use of recycled water, require consideration of recycled  
577 water in wastewater planning, and recognize the importance of recycled water as a strategy for water resource  
578 management statewide (Chapters 90.46, 90.48, and 90.82 Revised Code of Washington)((9)). Recycled water is  
579 an important mechanism for improving water quality and reducing discharge of treated wastewater into Puget  
580 Sound and other sensitive areas. Safely re-using non-potable water within a building requires sufficient plan  
581 review and system inspection capacity. ~~((Recycled water is an important wastewater management tool that can  
582 also be used as a beneficial resource. King County has been producing and distributing recycled water since  
583 1997. Recycled water is used for treatment process water and onsite landscaping at the County's wastewater  
584 treatment plants. In addition, some of the recycled water from the South Treatment Plant is used off site for  
585 irrigation purposes and public works uses, such as street sweeping and sewer flushing. Recycled water from the  
586 Carnation Treatment Plant is sent to the wetlands at the Chinook Bend Natural Area in accordance with the  
587 County's commitment to use the wetlands as its primary discharge location rather than the Snoqualmie River.  
588 The Brightwater Treatment Plant started distributing recycled water to the Sammamish Valley for irrigating golf  
589 courses, nurseries, farms and for commercial and industrial uses.~~

590

### 591 **1.) Potable Water Systems**

592 Potable water is provided by Group A public water systems having 15 or more connections, Group B public  
593 water systems having ~~((three))~~ two to 15 connections, and individual private wells serving one connection.  
594 Exempt wells refer to wells that do not require obtaining a water right permit from the state for withdrawal of  
595 water. These exempt wells are subject to all other rules and regulations of the water code other than the  
596 requirement to get a permit from the state to withdraw water. ~~((Water withdrawn from an exempt well for  
597 individual or group domestic water supply cannot exceed 5,000 gallons per day, nor may the water be used to~~



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598 ~~irrigate more than a half acre of lawn or noncommercial garden.))~~ Issuance of a building permit or subdivision  
 599 approval that is interconnected with a permit exempt well requires the following measures: (a) a fee of five  
 600 hundred dollars; (b) maximum average withdrawal of groundwater in an amount not exceeding 950 gallons per  
 601 day per connection and not exceeding 5,000 gallons per day per well; (c) curtailment of withdrawal of  
 602 groundwater to an amount not exceeding 350 gallons per day per connection for indoor use only upon issuance  
 603 of a drought emergency order; (d) outdoor use limited to watering of a lawn or noncommercial garden not  
 604 exceeding one-half acre in area; and (e) management of stormwater runoff on-site to the extent practicable to  
 605 maximize infiltration, including use of low impact development techniques. The type of water system required  
 606 for new development will depend upon whether a proposed development is ~~((or is not located within the Urban~~  
 607 ~~Growth Area, is or is not))~~ within an approved service area of an existing public water system, and is or is not  
 608 able to provide an adequate water supply as required under Revised Code of Washington 19.27.097 and  
 609 58.17.110.

610  
 611 **F-232 Water utilities that obtain water from, or distribute water in unincorporated King**  
 612 **County, and water utilities formed as special purpose districts under Title 57**  
 613 **Revised Code of Washington are required to submit water system plans to the**  
 614 **((e))County for review and approval and shall describe in their plans how they**  
 615 **intend to meet their duty to provide service within their retail service areas, and**  
 616 **generally how they plan to meet water service needs in their future service.**

617  
 618 **F-233 In both the Urban Growth Area and Rural Areas of King County, all new**  
 619 **construction and all new subdivisions shall be served by an existing Group A**  
 620 **public water systems, except in the circumstance when no Group A public water**  
 621 **system can provide service in a timely and reasonable manner per Revised Code**  
 622 **of Washington 70.116.060 and 43.20.260 or when no existing system is willing**  
 623 **and able to provide safe and reliable potable water with reasonable economy and**  
 624 **efficiency per Revised Code of Washington 19.27.097.**

625  
 626 **F-234 In the Urban Growth Area, individual private wells are not permitted unless**  
 627 **application of Policy F-233 to a proposal for a single**~~((family residence))~~  
 628 **detached home on an individual lot would deny all reasonable use of the**  
 629 **property. In that case, the well would be allowed only as an interim facility until**  
 630 **service by a public water system can be provided. The individual well must meet**  
 631 **the criteria of the King County Board of Health Code Title 13.**

632  
 633 **F-235 ~~((In the Urban Growth Area, i))~~ If an existing Group A water provider cannot**  
 634 **provide direct or indirect service to new development under Policy F-233, a new**  
 635 **public water system may be established if it is owned or operated by the**  
 636 **following, in order of preference:**  
 637 **a. By a satellite management agency approved by the State Department of**  
 638 **Health under contract with the Group A system in whose service area the**

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- 639 system is located, provided that the existing Group A water system  
 640 remains responsible for meeting the duty to serve the new system under  
 641 Revised Code of Washington 43.20.260; ~~((or))~~  
 642 b. ~~((By a satellite management agency))~~ If approved by both the State  
 643 Department of Health and King County;  
 644 i. In the urban area, by a satellite management agency; or  
 645 ii. In the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, by a satellite  
 646 management agency or an existing Group B system; then  
 647 c. In the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, by the owners of the lots,  
 648 which are provided water by a new Group A or B system if not within the  
 649 service area of an existing Group A system or not within the area  
 650 covered by a satellite management agency. Approval for any such  
 651 system shall be conditioned for future ownership or management by a  
 652 satellite management agency, when such service becomes available, and  
 653 for periodic review of system operations, as required by Revised Code of  
 654 Washington 70.119A.060.

655  
 656 All new public water systems ~~((formed in the Urban Growth Area))~~ shall connect  
 657 to the Group A water system in whose service area the new system is located  
 658 when direct service becomes available. Such a connection shall be made by the  
 659 homeowner or association in a timely and reasonable manner.

F-236

660 ~~((In the Rural Area, King County land use and water service decisions support~~  
 661 ~~the long-term integrity of Rural Area ecosystems. Within the Rural Area,~~  
 662 ~~individual private wells, rainwater catchment, Group B water systems, and Group~~  
 663 ~~A water systems are all allowed. If an existing Group A water provider cannot~~  
 664 ~~provide direct or indirect service to new development per the exceptions in~~  
 665 ~~Policy F-233, a new public water system or private well may be established if it is~~  
 666 ~~owned or operated by the following, in order of preference:~~

- 667 a. ~~By a satellite management agency approved by the state Department of~~  
 668 ~~Health under contract with the Group A system in whose service area the~~  
 669 ~~system is located, provided that the existing Group A water system~~  
 670 ~~remains responsible for meeting the duty to serve the new system under~~  
 671 ~~Revised Code of Washington 43.20.260; and~~  
 672 b. ~~By a satellite management agency or an existing Group B system~~  
 673 ~~approved by both the State Department of Health and King County.~~

674  
 675  
 676 ~~If service cannot be obtained by means of the above stated options, then water~~  
 677 ~~service may be obtained by creation of a new system, use of private wells or~~  
 678 ~~rainwater catchment. All new public water systems formed in the Rural Area~~  
 679 ~~shall connect to the Group A water system in whose service area the new system~~  
 680 ~~is located when direct service becomes available.)) In the Rural Area or Natural~~

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681 **Resource Lands, if water service cannot be obtained by the options provided in**  
 682 **F-235, then use of private wells or rainwater catchment may be allowed.**

683  
 684 ~~((F-237~~ **New public water systems established in the Rural Area shall be owned and**  
 685 **operated by the following, in order of preference:**  
 686 **a. By the Group A public water system in whose service area the system is**  
 687 **located, by direct service or satellite management by the Group A**  
 688 **system,**  
 689 **b. By a satellite management agency approved by the State Department of**  
 690 **Health and providing service within the county and under contract with**  
 691 **the Group A system if it is located in a Group A system service area; or**  
 692 **c. By the owners of the lots, which are provided water by a new Group A or**  
 693 **B system if not within the service area of an existing Group A system or**  
 694 **not within the area covered by a satellite management agency. Approval**  
 695 **for any such system shall be conditioned for future ownership or**  
 696 **management by a satellite management agency, when such service**  
 697 **becomes available, and for periodic review of system operations, as**  
 698 **required by Revised Code of Washington 70.119A.060(2).))**  
 699

700 The State Department of Ecology has determined that the rivers and streams in the major river basins in King  
 701 County have no water available for further consumptive appropriation without harmfully impacting instream  
 702 values. For that reason, it has by regulation closed those basins to issuance of new water rights, and has directed  
 703 that the natural interrelationships between surface and ground waters should be considered in future water  
 704 allocation decisions ~~((in order))~~ to avoid adverse impacts to instream flows. The installation and use of wells that  
 705 are exempt from ecology's water rights permitting process may further harm those rivers and streams when the  
 706 wells are withdrawing groundwater that is directly connected to the water in the stream. The installation of new  
 707 exempt wells may also create health and safety problems by interfering with the water supplied by existing wells,  
 708 and by creating more holes in the ground that can lead to contamination of entire aquifers.

709  
 710 Under King County Code ~~((e))~~ Chapter 9.14, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks is to act as lead  
 711 agency in coordinating the activities of the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division and Public  
 712 Health – Seattle & King County ~~((in order))~~ to ensure that groundwater quality and quantity are protected, and  
 713 facilitate implementation of the plans that have been developed to protect groundwater in five groundwater  
 714 management areas within King County. In accordance with new water law requirements, King County has an  
 715 established a hierarchy of water service that restricts the creation of new permit-exempt wells in closed basins,  
 716 except in very limited circumstances, and as consistent with state law and the in-stream flow rules applicable to  
 717 permit-exempt wells.

718  
 719 **F-238 New subdivisions with more than six single~~((family)) detached residential lots on~~**  
 720 **Vashon-Maury Island and in basins with closed streams in the Rural Area (as**

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721 defined in Chapters 173-507, 173-508, 173-509, 173-510, and 173-515 Washington  
 722 Administrative Code ~~((173-507, 508, 509, 510, and 515))~~ may not be served by a  
 723 potable water system using an exempt well, or a combination of multiple exempt  
 724 wells. Exempt wells are allowed only in the Rural Area and only under the  
 725 following circumstances:

- 726 a. ~~((New subdivisions or short subdivisions with six or fewer lots;~~  
 727 ~~b-))~~ Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~((e-))~~ b. of this policy only  
 728 one exempt well per subdivision or short subdivision ~~((will))~~ may be  
 729 permitted unless more than one exempt well is needed to meet the water  
 730 flow requirements for the subdivision or short subdivision;  
 731 ~~((e-))~~ b. Individual private wells may be used in a subdivision or short  
 732 subdivision when all lots in the subdivision or short subdivision are  
 733 twenty acres in area or larger; and  
 734 ~~((d-))~~ c. New developments in the Rural Area served by one or more exempt  
 735 wells shall not exceed one-half acre of irrigation of land area.

737 **F-239** King County shall work with water service providers, the State Department of  
 738 Ecology and the State Department of Health to ~~((track and measure))~~ ensure  
 739 groundwater use and to meet the County’s obligation to protect groundwater  
 740 quality and quantity in Rural Areas, while supporting uses of groundwater that  
 741 meet public health, resource protection, land use planning, and fish recovery  
 742 objectives and obligations.

744 ~~((F-240~~ King County shall require any new or expanding Group B water system to have a  
 745 ~~totalizing source meter and make information from the meter available upon~~  
 746 ~~request of King County.))~~

748 **F-241** King County shall encourage the adoption of state or local laws and codes to  
 749 limit the construction of new exempt wells, as well as encourage abandoning  
 750 existing exempt wells, within ~~((existing))~~ water utility service areas and promote  
 751 the safe and timely decommissioning of wells no longer in service.

753 **~~((2-))~~ Regional Water Supply Planning**

754 ~~((In recent years King County worked cooperatively with many of the larger water utilities in the region to gather~~  
 755 ~~information about regional water demand and supply. As a result of potential impacts from climate change on~~  
 756 ~~water demand and supply, this effort will become increasing important in future years. King County would like~~  
 757 ~~to use this information to help develop a regional water supply plan.~~

759 ~~F-234))~~ **F-241a** King County supports coordination of regional water supply planning, sales of  
 760 excess water supplies among municipalities in the region, water quality

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761 programs, and water conservation, reuse, and recycled water programs. This  
762 regional planning should support King County’s goals of focusing growth in the  
763 Urban Growth Area and ensuring water availability for resource lands.

764

765 **F-242**

King County should support((s)) initiation of a water planning process for the  
development of a regional or subregional water plan. ~~((The planning process  
should at a minimum cover all of King County, but may include a broader  
geographic area.))~~ The County ~~((will))~~ shall work in concert with water utilities,  
state agencies, Indian tribes, and other((s that participate)) key partners. ~~((Key  
components of this planning process should include:~~

771 a. ~~———— Involvement, oversight and support of elected officials in the region;~~

772 b. ~~———— Meaningful public participation including the involvement of the state  
and federally recognized tribes; and~~

773 c. ~~———— Recognition of, and making appropriate linkages with, other state,  
regional, or local planning processes.))~~

774

775 **F-243**

King County recognizes that a regional water planning process will be a  
collaborative process. King County’s objectives for the process and a resulting  
plan are that it:

780 a. Be consistent with, and support, growth management objectives and  
781 decisions made by local and regional jurisdictions under the Growth  
782 Management Act;

783 b. Address the need for sufficient flows to achieve salmon recovery  
784 objectives of the approved regional recovery plan for species listed  
785 under the Endangered Species Act, and recognize Indian tribal water  
786 rights;

787 c. Be consistent with and support the approved water quality and quantity  
788 strategies adopted by the region, local governments, and other  
789 responsible entities (such as water utilities) in compliance with federal  
790 requirements under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and  
791 other authorities relevant to water quantity and quality;

792 d. Include provisions for the efficient use of water, including recycled  
793 water;

794 e. Consider the impacts of climate change on water demand and supply;

795 f. Address the water needs of other specific sectors of the local economy,  
796 including agriculture and other industries with significant water uses;

797 g. Include, to the extent possible, assigned accountability for implementing  
798 conservation and developing new supplies and related infrastructure;  
799 and

800 h. Identify, and develop a strategy for, any legislative changes necessary or  
801 desirable to implement the plan.

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802

803 ~~((F-243a) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an~~  
804 ~~important consideration to identify and assess the impacts of proposed service~~  
805 ~~changes, and the county's Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to~~  
806 ~~improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.~~

807

808 ~~F-244 King County shall participate in the development of a regional water supply plan~~  
809 ~~or plans addressing potable water supply service by multiple water purveyors to~~  
810 ~~ensure that uses of recycled water intended to augment or replace potable water~~  
811 ~~supplies will be considered in the development of any such plans, and for such~~  
812 ~~other purposes as are authorized in the underlying authority for such a plan.~~  
813 ~~King County's participation in the development of such plans shall be carried out~~  
814 ~~in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 90.46.120, and pursuant to~~  
815 ~~processes provided in the underlying planning authority.~~

816

817 ~~F-245 Prior to initiation of any process to develop a regional water plan as described in~~  
818 ~~Policy F-243, King County shall work with utilities to conduct a joint assessment~~  
819 ~~of the state of water planning and coordination in the region. Such an~~  
820 ~~assessment should identify where current planning and coordination efforts by~~  
821 ~~and among water utilities address County interests and where there are gaps.~~  
822 ~~The assessment should be used to guide any efforts related to development of a~~  
823 ~~regional water plan.~~

824

### 825 **3. Utility System Interties**

826 ~~Water utilities obtain water supplies from many varying sources. Some water utilities receive the vast majority~~  
827 ~~of their water supply from wells. Others receive substantial portions from municipal watersheds and reservoirs.~~  
828 ~~The varying water supply sources can differ substantially in terms of dependability of output, so that while one~~  
829 ~~water utility may have excess capacity, a neighboring water utility could be experiencing severe shortages and be~~  
830 ~~unable to adequately serve their customers.~~

831

832 ~~F-246 King County supports interties that allow the transfer of water resources among~~  
833 ~~water utilities to meet the projected demands for growth where such interties~~  
834 ~~meet the requirements of Revised Code of Washington 90.03.383 and are also~~  
835 ~~consistent with any applicable locally adopted comprehensive plans, regional~~  
836 ~~water supply plans, adopted groundwater management plans, watershed plans,~~  
837 ~~approved Coordinated Water System Plans, Endangered Species Act response~~  
838 ~~requirements and Clean Water Act requirements.~~

839

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840 **F-247** ~~King County supports the development of appropriate regional water intertie~~  
 841 ~~capital projects, subject to approval from appropriate local, state, and federal~~  
 842 ~~agencies and consistent with Policy F-246.~~

843

844 **4.)) Water Use Efficiency, Planning, and Management**

845 Water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource, which calls for commitments to improved planning, more  
 846 efficient water use, and better water management. The impacts of climate change on water demand and supply  
 847 adds to the need to make efficient use of this scarce resource. As part of its resource management and land use  
 848 planning responsibilities, the King County Utilities Technical Review Committee reviews water utility plans for  
 849 those water utilities serving unincorporated King County or otherwise subject to the planning requirements of  
 850 King County Code ((e))Chapter 13.24 and ensures the inclusion of elements related to recycled water, water use  
 851 efficiency, and water conservation in the plans as may be called for under state law, the King County Code, or  
 852 the King County Comprehensive Plan. As part of its evaluation process, the Utilities Technical Review  
 853 Committee also encourages water purveyors to include conservation and reuse measures, where applicable, as  
 854 well as development of new sources to support planned land use with reliable service at a reasonable cost.

855

856 Under Revised Code of Washington 43.20.310, larger water systems will be required to address the impacts of  
 857 climate change in future water system plans. Water systems that serve more than 1,000 connections will be  
 858 required to include a climate resilience element in plans initiated after June 30, 2025. This new plan element  
 859 must 1) determine the types of extreme weather events that would significantly challenge the system and build  
 860 scenarios to identify potential impact, 2) identify critical assets and steps necessary to protect the system from the  
 861 weather events on the systems operations, and 3) describe the costs and benefits of system’s risk reduction  
 862 strategies and capital project needs.

863

864 The Reclaimed Water Act of Washington State (Revised Code of Washington 90.46) recognizes the value of  
 865 recycled water in the process to better manage, protect, and conserve water resources. In addition, measures to  
 866 increase water conservation and expand the use of recycled water for non-potable uses throughout the county are  
 867 important elements in preparing for potential climate change impacts, and to address water as a recognized  
 868 limiting factor for Puget Sound and salmon recovery efforts. The King County Code also directs ((e))County  
 869 programs to act as a clearinghouse for data related to groundwater quality and quantity ((in order)) to facilitate  
 870 implementation by King County and others of the groundwater management plans that have been developed for  
 871 major portions of King County.

872

873 **F-248** **King County shall partner with utilities to publicize water conservation and**  
 874 **encourage best management practices that conserve potable water supply**  
 875 **through measures that include use of alternative supplies such as recycled**  
 876 **water.**

877

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- 878 **F-249** ~~((Utilities with more than one thousand service connections required to submit~~  
 879 ~~water system plans for approval to King County shall include an evaluation of~~  
 880 ~~recycled water use opportunities by completing King County’s Water~~  
 881 ~~Reclamation Evaluation Checklist.)) Water system plans for large purveyors~~  
 882 ~~shall include an evaluation of recycled water use opportunities.~~  
 883
- 884 **F-250** King County shall ~~((encourage))~~ allow local developers with new projects in  
 885 unincorporated King County to ~~((explore the possibility of using))~~ use recycled  
 886 water for nonpotable purposes when ~~((a plan for))~~ recycled water ~~((has been~~  
 887 ~~approved for the area))~~ is available for use.  
 888
- 889 ~~((F-251~~ ~~—————~~ ~~In its review of water system plans, the Utilities Technical Review Committee~~  
 890 ~~shall consider the criteria provided in King County Code 13.24.010, 13.24.060,~~  
 891 ~~and 13.24.070, and determine the plan’s consistency with the following:~~  
 892 ~~a. ———~~ ~~Applicable provisions of the King County Comprehensive Plan, land use~~  
 893 ~~plans, and development regulations adopted under the Growth~~  
 894 ~~Management Act;~~  
 895 ~~b. ———~~ ~~Approved or adopted regional water resource plans, such as basin~~  
 896 ~~plans, groundwater plans, watershed-based conservation and recovery~~  
 897 ~~plans developed under Endangered Species Act, salmon recovery plans~~  
 898 ~~developed under chapter 77.85 Revised Code of Washington, water~~  
 899 ~~resource plans developed under chapter 90.54 Revised Code of~~  
 900 ~~Washington, watershed plans developed under chapter 90.82 Revised~~  
 901 ~~Code of Washington, and a regional water supply plan or water resource~~  
 902 ~~management plan;~~  
 903 ~~c. ———~~ ~~The county’s Regional Wastewater Services Plan; and~~  
 904 ~~d. ———~~ ~~Other applicable provisions of countywide plans managed by King~~  
 905 ~~County, as specified in Utilities Technical Review Committee guidance or~~  
 906 ~~checklists.~~  
 907
- 908 ~~The Utilities Technical Review Committee shall work with state agencies, water~~  
 909 ~~utilities, and other parties to develop any necessary rules, policies or checklists~~  
 910 ~~to provide clear information and guidance as to the county’s expectations for its~~  
 911 ~~reviews. For each plan submitted to the county for review, the Utilities Technical~~  
 912 ~~Review Committee should have the goal of providing an initial response and~~  
 913 ~~comments to the water utility within the same timeframes as the state~~  
 914 ~~Department of Health under Revised Code of Washington 43.20.250.))~~  
 915
- 916 **F-252** In reviewing proposals for modified and expanded service area boundaries for  
 917 municipal water suppliers, as defined under Chapter 90.03 Revised Code of



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- 918 Washington, the Utilities Technical Review Committee shall consider ~~((, in~~  
 919 ~~addition to Policy F-251))~~:
- 920 a. Compliance by the water system with its water system comprehensive
  - 921 plan, including water conservation elements;
  - 922 b. Whether it can meet its duty to provide service within its service area, as
  - 923 required under ~~((e))~~ Chapter 43.20 Revised Code of Washington; and
  - 924 c. Consistency with the service provisions of any applicable Coordinated
  - 925 Water System Plan, as adopted in King County Code Chapter 13.28.

926

927 The ~~((e))~~ County shall not approve a water system plan with a proposed retail  
 928 service area where the water system is unable to provide timely and reasonable  
 929 service for one or more of the reasons identified in Revised Code of Washington  
 930 43.20.260. King County accepts and encourages timely and reasonable service by  
 931 a water utility within its service area through the provision of satellite or remote  
 932 ownership or management of facilities that are not physically connected with the  
 933 water utility's other facilities. This does not preclude a modified or expanded  
 934 service area boundary for the water system ~~((in order))~~ to correct problems and  
 935 provide reliable potable water service to existing water users within the proposed  
 936 modified service area. The Utilities Technical Review Committee is responsible  
 937 for making determinations of timely and reasonable service, as provided for under  
 938 Chapter 70A.100 Revised Code of Washington ~~((70.146,))~~ and ~~((K.C.C.))~~ King  
 939 County Code Chapters 13.24 and 13.28.

940

941 **((5.)) Resource Management and Protection**

942 Water system reservoirs and watersheds often serve a number of functions. These functions can include open  
 943 space, recreation, forestry, and resource management. However, each function must be weighed against the  
 944 primary purpose of such reservoirs and watershed, which is to provide and protect supplies of potable drinking  
 945 water.

- 946
- 947 **F-253** ~~((Consistent with Countywide Planning Policies, p))~~ Public drinking water system  
 948 surface water reservoirs and their watersheds should:
- 949 a. ~~((b))~~ Be managed primarily for the protection of drinking water ~~((, but~~  
 950 ~~should))~~;
  - 951 b. ~~((a))~~ Allow for multiple uses, including recreation, when such uses do not  
 952 jeopardize drinking water quality standards ~~((, P))~~ and public watersheds  
 953 ~~((must be))~~ are managed to protect downstream fish and agriculture  
 954 resources.

955

956 **F-254** Groundwater-based public water supplies should be protected by preventing  
 957 land uses that may adversely affect groundwater quality or quantity to the extent  
 958 that the supply might be jeopardized. The ~~((e))~~ County shall protect the quality

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959 and quantity of groundwater used as water supplies through implementation of  
960 Policies E-493 through E-497 where applicable.  
961

962 **((6.)) Water Availability and ((New)) State Laws**

963 Water rights are generally regulated by the State of Washington. As part of project review, King County's has  
964 historically reviewed whether sufficient water was physically available. As a result of some litigation, ((4))in  
965 January 2018, the Washington State Legislature approved Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6091, now  
966 codified in ((e)) Chapters 19.27, 58.17, 90.03, and 90.94 Revised Code of Washington. The adopted statutes  
967 clarify the steps building permit and subdivision applicants must take to establish that water is "legally available"  
968 when proposing to obtain water from a new permit-exempt well.

969  
970 In King County, the ((new)) state water law requirements most directly affect development in the Rural Area and  
971 on Natural Resource Lands where new development may not be served by public water systems and applicants  
972 are proposing to use permit-exempt wells for a source of water supply. King County has a prioritization for  
973 water use that intends to limit permit-exempt wells and require new development to be connected to Group A  
974 water systems. Consistent with the ((new)) water law requirements, King County permitting processes ensure  
975 that the hierarchy of water service is fully implemented with the Comprehensive Plan policies and the King  
976 County Code. Additionally, consistent with ((new water law)) ESSB 6091, King County ((will participate)) has  
977 participated in the Washington State Department of Ecology's Watershed Restoration and Enhancement  
978 Committee process((, which may lead to the identification of new water planning provisions in future  
979 Comprehensive Plan updates)).

980

981 **((1.)) Public Sewers and On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal**  
982 **Systems**

983 King County protects water quality and public health in the central Puget Sound region by providing high  
984 quality and effective treatment to wastewater collected from 34 local sewer utilities. The ((e))County's  
985 Wastewater Treatment Division serves about ((1-6)) 1.9 million people within a ((420)) 424-square-mile service  
986 area, which includes most urban areas of King County and parts of south Snohomish County and northeast  
987 Pierce County. In addition to treating wastewater, King County also creates resources such as energy, recycled  
988 water and biosolids from byproducts of the treatment process.

989

990 The County's wastewater system includes:

- 991 • three large regional wastewater treatment plants (the West Point Plant in the City of Seattle, the  
992 South Plant in the City of Renton, and the Brightwater Plant in unincorporated Snohomish  
993 County),
- 994 • two small wastewater treatment plants (one on Vashon Island and one in the City of Carnation),
- 995 • one community septic system (Beulah Park and Cove on Vashon Island),

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- 996 • ~~((four))~~ five combined sewer overflow treatment facilities (Alki, Carkeek, Georgetown,  
 997 Henderson/Martin Luther King Jr. Way, and Mercer/Elliott West~~((, and Henderson/Norfolk))~~--all  
 998 in the City of Seattle),  
 999 • more than ~~((350))~~ 390 miles of pipes,  
 1000 • ~~((19))~~ 25 regulator stations,  
 1001 • ~~((42))~~ 48 pump stations, and  
 1002 • ~~((38))~~ 39 combined sewer overflow outfalls.

1003

1004 relocated from "Water Supply" section above with edits

1005 Recycled water is an important wastewater management tool that can also be used as a beneficial resource. King  
 1006 County has been producing and distributing recycled water since 1997. Recycled water is used for treatment  
 1007 process water and onsite landscaping at the County's wastewater treatment plants. In addition, some of the  
 1008 recycled water from the South Treatment Plant is used off-site for irrigation purposes and public works uses, such  
 1009 as street sweeping and sewer flushing. Recycled water from the Carnation Treatment Plant is ~~((sent to the~~  
 1010 ~~wetlands))~~ is used for wetland enhancement at the Chinook Bend Natural Area in accordance with the County's  
 1011 commitment to use the wetlands as its primary discharge location rather than the Snoqualmie River. The  
 1012 Brightwater Treatment Plant ~~((started distributing))~~ distributes recycled water to the Brightwater Education  
 1013 Center for irrigation and toilet and urinal flushing, as well as to the Sammamish Valley ~~((for irrigating golf~~  
 1014 ~~courses, nurseries, farms and for commercial and industrial uses))~~ to irrigate turf and trees.

1015

1016 ~~((King County adopted the Regional Wastewater Services Plan in 1999 to make sure the regional wastewater~~  
 1017 ~~system keeps pace with growth and meets permitting standards. The Regional Wastewater Services Plan includes~~  
 1018 ~~a number of planned projects through 2030 to protect public health, the environment and the economy for both~~  
 1019 ~~present and future wastewater customers, such as:~~

- 1020 • ~~building the Brightwater Treatment System to accommodate growth in the northern portion of the~~  
 1021 ~~wastewater service area;~~  
 1022 • ~~improvements to the county's regional conveyance system to meet the 20-year peak storm design~~  
 1023 ~~standard and accommodate increased wastewater flows;~~  
 1024 • ~~improvements to reduce existing and future levels of infiltration and inflow into local collection~~  
 1025 ~~systems; and~~  
 1026 • ~~improvements to control combined sewer overflows so that an average of no more than one untreated~~  
 1027 ~~discharge occurs per year at each combined sewer overflow site by 2030.~~

1028

1029

1030 ~~The adopted policies that guide implementation of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan are in King County~~  
 1031 ~~Code 28.86.010 through 28.86.180.))~~

1032

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1033 The King County Regional Wastewater Services Plan establishes, or set direction to establish, a number of  
 1034 programs to guide long-term planning and investments in wastewater infrastructure. The Regional Wastewater  
 1035 Services Plan guides improvements to the regional wastewater system to ensure the continuation of wastewater  
 1036 treatment services in the future to sustain a healthy environment and economic development in the King County  
 1037 wastewater service area. Many of the major projects outlined in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan have  
 1038 been completed, are underway, or are planned to begin by 2030.

1039

1040 The Regional Wastewater Services Plan, codified in King County Code Chapter 28.86, and component plans  
 1041 (such as the Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan) serve as the most recent amendment to King  
 1042 County's general sewer plan until a new plan is developed. The County is working on a wastewater planning  
 1043 effort that is expected to result in a new plan that sets the direction beyond 2030.

1044

1045 In addition to King County's role as the regional wastewater treatment provider, Public Health – Seattle & King  
 1046 County is the agency responsible for permitting on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems (septic  
 1047 systems). In addition, the Utilities Technical Review Committee and the King County Council review and  
 1048 approve sewer utility comprehensive plans.

1049

1050 **F-255 In the Urban Growth Area, all new development shall be served by public sewers**  
 1051 **unless:**

- 1052 a. **Application of this policy to a proposal for a single- family residence on**  
 1053 **an individual lot would deny all reasonable use of the property; or**  
 1054 b. **Sewer service is not available for a proposed short subdivision of urban**  
 1055 **property in a timely or reasonable manner as determined by the Utilities**  
 1056 **Technical Review Committee. These on-site systems shall be managed**  
 1057 **by one of the following entities, in order of preference:**  
 1058 1. **The sewer utility whose service area encompasses the proposed**  
 1059 **short subdivision; ((ø))**  
 1060 2. **The provider most likely to serve the area; or((;))**  
 1061 3. **An Onsite Sewage System Maintainer certified by the Public**  
 1062 **Health – Seattle & King County.**

1063

1064 **The onsite system shall meet all state and county approval requirements. The**  
 1065 **approved short subdivision shall indicate how additional lots to satisfy the**  
 1066 **minimum density requirements of the zoning will be located on the subject**  
 1067 **property in case sewers become available in the future. There shall be no further**  
 1068 **subdivision of lots created under this policy unless served by public sewers.**

1069

1070 **F-256 In the Urban Growth Area, King County and sewer utilities should jointly**  
 1071 **prioritize the replacement of onsite systems that serve existing development with**  
 1072 **public sewers, based on the risk of potential failure. King County and sewer**  
 1073 **utilities should analyze public funding options for such conversion and should**

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- 1074 prepare conversion plans that will enable quick and cost-effective local response  
1075 to health and pollution problems that may occur when many on-site systems fail  
1076 in an area.  
1077
- 1078 **F-257** City-owned parks that are redesignated from Rural to Urban on or after  
1079 September 20, 2004, to allow future annexation by a city and that are  
1080 subsequently served by public sewers shall be tightlined. ~~((This policy applies to~~  
1081 ~~parks that were redesignated from Rural to Urban on or after September 20,~~  
1082 ~~2004.))~~  
1083
- 1084 **F-258** The existing public sewer system in the Rural Towns of Vashon and Snoqualmie  
1085 Pass shall not be expanded to serve land beyond the boundaries of the town,  
1086 except as provided in Policy ~~((F-264))~~ F-262a and as consistent with Title 57  
1087 Revised Code of Washington. Subject to F-262, ~~((O))~~ onsite systems, community  
1088 on-site systems or decentralized treatment systems may be used as appropriate  
1089 for planned growth in the Rural Towns of Fall City ~~((and Snoqualmie Pass))~~.  
1090
- 1091 **F-259** Sewer facilities such as pump stations, force mains, and trunk lines that do not  
1092 provide connections to the Rural Area may be located in the Rural Area only  
1093 when they are identified in a King County-approved comprehensive sewage  
1094 system plan and upon a finding by King County that it is technically necessary  
1095 ~~((in providing))~~ to provide service to the Urban Growth Area.  
1096
- 1097 **F-260** Onsite wastewater treatment systems in the Rural Area and Natural Resource  
1098 Lands that serve Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands should be designed,  
1099 built, and operated as permanent methods of sewage disposal.  
1100
- 1101 **F-261** King County should monitor onsite wastewater systems that have shown  
1102 evidence of failure or potential for failure. The data should be used to correct  
1103 existing problems and prevent future problems. King County should analyze  
1104 public funding options for correcting on-site wastewater system failures and only  
1105 as a last resort in Rural and Natural Resource Lands, and as otherwise  
1106 consistent with this plan, conversion to community sewage systems or  
1107 installation of public sewers.  
1108
- 1109 ~~((F-262a))~~ F-261a King County should work with landowners, other jurisdictions, the state  
1110 Department of Health, sewer districts, and the Puget Sound Partnership to  
1111 develop effective strategies and additional resources for working with  
1112 landowners to provide technical assistance and requested support regarding

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- 1113 managing onsite septic systems, and proactively addressing failing septic  
 1114 systems in ~~((environmentally))~~ sensitive areas.  
 1115
- 1116 **F-262** Developments using a ((Collective)) community on-site sewage system((s)) or  
 1117 large on-site sewage system may be ((used)) permitted only in the following  
 1118 circumstances in the Rural Area and **Natural** Resource Lands:
- 1119 a. Existing on-site systems are failing within an area and ~~((the Seattle/King~~  
 1120 ~~County Department of)) Public Health – **Seattle & King County** concurs~~  
 1121 ~~that long-term individual on-site sewage system repairs are not feasible~~  
 1122 ~~or water quality is threatened by the presence of or potential for health~~  
 1123 ~~hazards resulting from inadequate on-site wastewater disposal methods;~~  
 1124 b. An authorized public agency will manage the ~~((community))~~ system;  
 1125 ~~((and))~~
- 1126 c. The ~~((community))~~ system is designed only to serve existing structures  
 1127 and lots and cannot be used as a basis to ~~((increase))~~ exceed base  
 1128 density for the zone or applicable special district overlay(s) or p-  
 1129 suffix(es) ~~((or to expand permitted nonresidential uses))~~. Substandard  
 1130 vacant lots must be combined to the extent feasible to meet rural density  
 1131 policies~~((– Management of the community system must be by an~~  
 1132 ~~authorized public agency-))~~ and regulations;
- 1133 d. A system serving residentially developed lots cannot be used to: expand  
 1134 existing permitted nonresidential uses in size or scale; establish new  
 1135 permitted nonresidential uses; or serve commercially zoned properties;  
 1136 and
- 1137 e. For a system serving commercially developed lots: the system is used  
 1138 only to serve commercially zoned properties; property-specific  
 1139 development conditions are imposed that establish a range of allowed  
 1140 uses that can be adequately served by the system at the time of its  
 1141 construction; and the allowed uses are not more expansive than those  
 1142 allowed in the underlying zone.
- 1143
- 1144 **~~((F-264)) F-262a~~** Except as otherwise provided for in this policy, public sewer service shall be  
 1145 prohibited in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands.
- 1146 a. Public sewer service may be expanded to the Rural Area or to Natural  
 1147 Resource Lands, only:
- 1148 1. Where needed to address specific health and safety problems  
 1149 threatening the use of existing structures and the use of septic  
 1150 or other onsite wastewater systems has been determined by  
 1151 King County to be not feasible; or
- 1152 2. To serve a new school authorized to be located in the Rural Area  
 1153 by R-327.



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1194 management: system planning, policy priorities, waste prevention, recovery and recycling, solid waste collection  
 1195 and processing, the transfer system, landfill management ~~((and))~~, solid waste disposal, and system financing.  
 1196 The overall vision is for healthy, safe, and thriving communities in a zero waste county, working in partnership  
 1197 with communities, businesses, local jurisdictions, and residents to create a more circular economy through  
 1198 programs like Re+.

1199

1200 **F-265**                    **Regional solid waste planning should integrate the principles of environmental**  
 1201 **stewardship, circular economy, equity and racial and social justice, and**  
 1202 **sustainable development into all aspects of solid waste management.**

1203

1204 **F-266**                    **Solid waste should be collected, handled, processed, and disposed of in ways**  
 1205 **that reduce waste, conserve resources, and protect public health and the**  
 1206 **environment.**

1207

1208 **F-267**                    **King County should achieve ~~((Z))~~zero ~~((W))~~waste of ~~((R))~~resources by 2030 and a  
 1209 **85 percent construction and demolition diversion rate by 2025 by targeting areas**  
 1210 **of the waste stream that have the greatest potential for ~~((diversion))~~ prevention**  
 1211 **and reuse, product stewardship, recycling and composting, beneficial use, and**  
 1212 **recovery while regenerating natural systems.****

1213

1214 ~~**((F-268**                    **Solid waste management should be planned, and transfer and disposal capacity**  
 1215 ~~**provided, on a regional basis.))**~~~~

1216

1217 **F-269**                    **King County shall plan for and operate a regional transfer system that is**  
 1218 **dispersed throughout the county to ensure access to safe, reliable, efficient, and**  
 1219 **affordable solid waste services, and improves recycling opportunities for**  
 1220 **residents and businesses. King County should continue to provide facilities for**  
 1221 **self-haulers.**

1222

1223 **F-269a**                    **King County should ~~((consider demand management))~~ implement strategies that**  
 1224 **maximize the safety and efficiency of the transfer system and encourage use of,**  
 1225 **and equitable participation in, solid waste curbside collection services.**

1226

1227 **F-269b**                    **~~((In order to support achieving a 70% recycling goals))~~ To minimize the disposal**  
 1228 **of useful materials, King County should work with partners and jurisdictions to**  
 1229 **encourage implementation of frequency and separation policies for curbside**  
 1230 **collection of garbage, recyclables, and organics throughout the county, including**  
 1231 **in unincorporated areas.**

1232

1233 **F-269c**                    **King County shall collaborate with cities to achieve a circular economy and**  
 1234 **preserve landfill space by implementing policies and hauler contract**



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1235 amendments that harmonize recycling and compost standards countywide, such  
1236 as through the Re+ Program.

1237  
1238 **F-270** King County should maximize the capacity and lifespan of the Cedar Hills  
1239 Regional Landfill and plan for future disposal when Cedar Hills Landfill closes to  
1240 ensure no gap in service, subject to environmental constraints, relative costs to  
1241 operate, ~~((stakeholder))~~ partner and public interests, and overall solid waste  
1242 system optimization. A replacement landfill shall not be located in King County.

1243  
1244 **F-271** King County shall:  
1245 a. ~~((e))~~ Encourage sustainable development and development of markets for  
1246 reusable and recyclable materials~~((r))~~; and  
1247 b. ~~((p))~~ Provide consumer education in the public and private sectors  
1248 regarding green building practices, product stewardship, ~~extended~~  
1249 producer responsibility, circular economy, recycling, purchasing, and  
1250 consumption ~~((in order))~~ to reduce the amount of waste disposed.

1251  
1252 **F-271a** King County should consider ~~((whether))~~ opportunities to increase energy  
1253 recovery from select solid waste materials including organics, mixed plastics,  
1254 and the non-recyclable portion of the waste stream ~~((are beneficial in terms of~~  
1255 ~~cost,))~~ by factoring in the financial, ~~((natural environment))~~ environmental,  
1256 greenhouse gas ~~((emissions))~~, and community impacts~~((, as well as whether any~~  
1257 ~~such energy recovery facilities might be more appropriately located outside King~~  
1258 ~~County))~~.

1259  
1260 ~~((F-271b))~~ Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an  
1261 important consideration to identify and assess the impacts of proposed service  
1262 changes, and the county's Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to  
1263 improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.

## 1264 ~~K.))~~ Stormwater Management

1266 Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation runs off the landscape and picks up pollutants, including pesticides,  
1267 fertilizers, pet wastes, oils, metals, and many other chemicals. These pollutants enter surface and ground waters,  
1268 disrupt ecosystems, and threaten public health. Runoff can also cause erosion, create higher peak flows in  
1269 streams and rivers in winter and, because of reduced infiltration, create lower flows in summer.

1270  
1271 ~~((Early King County stormwater management strategies primarily focused on reducing the risk of localized~~  
1272 ~~flooding, without concern for potential adverse impacts on receiving water bodies. Over time, experts recognized~~  
1273 ~~the harm stormwater runoff was having on receiving waters and regulations have been put into place to address~~

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1274 those impacts. Current stormwater management programs and policies focus on protecting the quality and  
1275 beneficial uses of surface and ground waters and are a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act.))

1276

1277 Prevention or mitigation of flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and water quality and habitat degradation is  
1278 important for both the built and natural environments. Stormwater water management activities address the  
1279 quantity and quality of stormwater runoff entering the natural environment as well as its quality. ((As described  
1280 in Chapter 5: Environment, the management of stormwater runoff is generally driven by the National Pollutant  
1281 Discharge Elimination System Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit and the County's Stormwater  
1282 Management Program plan, which can be found online at:

1283 [http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/pollution-discharge-](http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)  
1284 [permit/annual-reports.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)))

1285

1286 Untreated stormwater runoff is the largest source of pollution to Puget Sound. The lack of stormwater controls  
1287 in older developed areas is one of the most significant problems impacting receiving water bodies in King County  
1288 and preventing Puget Sound recovery. Although King County has been developing and applying best available  
1289 stormwater controls to new development since the late 1970s, the application of water quality controls and more  
1290 effective flow controls did not occur until the early 1990s.

1291

1292 Consequently, nearly all development occurring prior to 1990 has little or no flow control and no water quality  
1293 control. In unincorporated King County, over two-thirds of the developed land was created prior to 1990. This  
1294 amounts to about 150 square miles of land on which native forest was converted to impervious surfaces, such as  
1295 roads, parking lots, rooftops, lawns, and landscape surfaces((, and pasture and crop land surfaces)) without  
1296 stormwater controls to mitigate the increased runoff and pollution generated by these surfaces.

1297

1298 The County ((is)) also ((working to)) promotes site development that preserves natural hydrologic processes by  
1299 protecting and enhancing native vegetation and soils, reducing impervious surfaces, and managing stormwater  
1300 onsite. This approach, termed ((L))low ((I))impact ((D))development, is used to reduce impacts on aquatic  
1301 resources. In the King County Surface Water Design Manual, King County provides a menu of ((L))low  
1302 ((I))impact ((D))development options for individuals planning new or re-development projects. King County  
1303 ((will)) continues to help minimize new impervious surfaces through code and incentive programs that keep  
1304 lands in forest and agricultural uses. Implementing ((L))low ((I))impact ((D))development satisfies requirements  
1305 of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, while helping to protect the region's streams,  
1306 rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound from harmful pollutants.

1307

1308 The County has identified watershed based management efforts as a strategy that simultaneously integrates  
1309 floodplain connectivity, salmon recovery, habitat restoration, stormwater flow control and water quality retrofits.  
1310 economic development, agricultural preservation, and principles of equity and racial and social justice. The  
1311 County will leverage alternative funding mechanisms, and engage in various partnerships with groups that  
1312 include, but are not limited to, the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitted

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1313 jurisdictions, Water Resource Inventory Areas, the Puget Sound Partnership, and Local Integrating  
 1314 Organizations to undertake a collaborative watershed-based approach to restoring aquatic ecosystems.  
 1315  
 1316 ~~((King County has been and will continue to be a leader in developing and implementing state-of-the-art  
 1317 stormwater management strategies including education and outreach, source control programs, basin or  
 1318 sub-basin planning for retrofitting in built-out areas with inadequate stormwater controls, and mapping and  
 1319 maintenance of stormwater infrastructure. Strategies for managing stormwater runoff are continuing to evolve.  
 1320 Development of regional, collaborative approaches, including the creation of watershed basin plans across  
 1321 multiple disciplines, will be the next evolution of stormwater management.))~~

1322  
 1323 **F-272 To reduce flooding, erosion, and sedimentation, prevent and mitigate habitat**  
 1324 **loss, enhance groundwater recharge, and prevent groundwater and surface water**  
 1325 **quality degradation, consistent with the Growth Management Act, King County**  
 1326 **shall manage stormwater through plans, programs, and regulations developed by**  
 1327 **~~((King))~~ the County in cooperation with affected jurisdictions and agencies**  
 1328 **whenever possible.**

1329  
 1330 **F-273 A watershed approach shall be taken for stormwater management, with**  
 1331 **responsibility shared between King County and affected jurisdictions. This**  
 1332 **approach should emphasize prevention of surface water and groundwater**  
 1333 **degradation through education programs, retrofits of existing stormwater**  
 1334 **controls or the placement of new controls, and implementation of best**  
 1335 **management practices to reduce pollution entering the region’s groundwater and**  
 1336 **surface waters, including Puget Sound. This approach should also support and**  
 1337 **build upon regional collaborative stormwater management planning and**  
 1338 **management approaches as outlined in Policy E-446.**

1339  
 1340 **F-274 In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County shall minimize the**  
 1341 **use of ~~((constructed facilities))~~ grey infrastructure for stormwater management**  
 1342 **and, through ~~((L))~~low ~~((H))~~impact ~~((D))~~development, maximize the use of natural**  
 1343 **systems, provided that the ecological functions of the natural systems are not**  
 1344 **harmed. The County should provide incentives to keep these natural systems**  
 1345 **intact. Low ~~((H))~~impact ~~((D))~~development is also preferred in the Urban Growth**  
 1346 **Area, but it is recognized that structural systems may be needed to realize urban**  
 1347 **growth and density goals in these areas.**

1348

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- 1349     **F-275**             King County ~~((will))~~ shall plan and manage stormwater by basin or sub-basin  
1350                             consistent with Policies E-463 and E-464. To accomplish this goal, stormwater  
1351                             runoff should not be diverted from one basin or sub-basin into another, unless  
1352                             no other reasonable alternative is available for managing run-off within the same  
1353                             basin or an analysis using best available science determines cross-basin  
1354                             diversion or mitigation actions for unavoidable impacts will have greater benefit  
1355                             to regional stormwater management. Where such diversions are permitted, King  
1356                             County ~~((will))~~ shall require environmental analysis and mitigation adequate to  
1357                             protect surface water and groundwater resources from significant adverse  
1358                             impacts.
- 1359
- 1360     **F-276**             In the Urban Growth Area, regional and shared surface water management  
1361                             facilities should be encouraged to support infill development to preclude the  
1362                             need for individual on-site facilities, provide development incentives, encourage  
1363                             efficient use of land, and reduce overall facility maintenance costs. These  
1364                             facilities should be planned and financed through public and private  
1365                             partnerships.
- 1366
- 1367     **F-277**             Stormwater programs including public education, stormwater system mapping,  
1368                             construction of regional and shared stormwater facilities, retrofitting developed  
1369                             areas, and operation and maintenance programs should be funded through an  
1370                             adequate and equitable funding mechanism. Stormwater facilities required for  
1371                             new development, redevelopment and retrofitting should be designed and built to  
1372                             improve regional water quality to the maximum extent possible, as well as for  
1373                             aesthetic value~~((, as well as for))~~ and low-cost, long-term maintenance.
- 1374
- 1375     **F-278**             King County shall continue to ~~((encourage, support and))~~ require the use of low  
1376                             impact development as a part of its strategy to mitigate stormwater impacts from  
1377                             new development to the maximum extent feasible and should consider additional  
1378                             supportive strategies, such as in lieu fee mechanisms which are determined  
1379                             through analyses according to best available science to result in overall benefits  
1380                             to regional stormwater management and water quality.
- 1381
- 1382     **F-279**             King County should incorporate state-of-the art stormwater management  
1383                             techniques ~~((including))~~ and ~~((L))~~ low ~~((H))~~ impact ~~((D))~~ development into the design,

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- 1384 construction and operation of all ((c))County facilities and ((c))County-funded  
 1385 projects to the maximum extent feasible.  
 1386
- 1387 **F-279a** **When scoping and designing flood risk reduction, fish passage, park, trails, and**  
 1388 **habitat restoration projects, the County should actively review and pursue**  
 1389 **opportunities to support stormwater retrofit projects.**  
 1390
- 1391 **F-280** King County shall continue to promote the preservation of native vegetation and  
 1392 soils and the restoration of disturbed soils on rural residential zoned parcels to  
 1393 the maximum extent feasible. Minimized impervious areas and the dispersion of  
 1394 stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces into native vegetation in accordance  
 1395 with the Surface Water Design Manual are the preferred methods of stormwater  
 1396 management in the Rural Area.  
 1397
- 1398 **F-281** King County should work with residential and commercial developers to  
 1399 incorporate state-of-the art stormwater management techniques, such as ((L))low  
 1400 ((H))impact ((D))development , that protect native vegetation and soils, restore  
 1401 disturbed soils by increasing the use of compost, facilitate reuse of resources  
 1402 such as recycled or harvested water, reduce the carbon footprint of the project,  
 1403 and minimize impervious surfaces.  
 1404
- 1405 **F-282** When King County provides technical assistance and incentives for the use of  
 1406 state-of-the art stormwater management techniques, it shall be at no cost to any  
 1407 private sector development.  
 1408
- 1409 ~~**((F-282a** King County should work with landowners, other jurisdictions, the state  
 1410 Department of Health, sewer districts, and the Puget Sound Partnership to  
 1411 develop effective strategies and additional resources for working with  
 1412 landowners to provide technical assistance and requested support regarding  
 1413 managing onsite septic systems, and proactively addressing failing septic  
 1414 systems in environmentally sensitive areas.))~~  
 1415
- 1416 **F-282a** **King County should continue to implement and support innovative stormwater**  
 1417 **management programs, such as the RainScapes Green Stormwater Infrastructure**  
 1418 **Incentive program for private landowners.**  
 1419
- 1420 **F-282b** **King County should work with regional partners to identify locations for stormwater**  
 1421 **parks, focusing first on communities with the most polluted water that lack easy**  
 1422 **access to green space.**  
 1423

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1424 **F-283** King County ~~((shall))~~ should identify and evaluate potential changes to land use  
1425 development regulations and building codes to support and promote state-of-the  
1426 art stormwater management techniques.

1427  
1428 ~~((F-284~~ King County ~~should work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to develop and~~  
1429 ~~implement plans and programs that address the appropriate recycling, reuse,~~  
1430 ~~reclamation and disposal of the materials generated from maintenance of~~  
1431 ~~stormwater infrastructure.))~~

1432  
1433 **F-285** King County shall work with jurisdictions to ensure that storm and surface water  
1434 management facilities are transferred from King County to the local jurisdiction  
1435 that annexes or incorporates that portion of King County.

1436

## 1437 ~~((L-))~~ Floodplain Management

1438 Six major river systems flow through King County – the South Fork Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Sammamish,  
1439 Cedar, Green and White. These rivers, and their ~~((major))~~ tributaries, pass through lands ranging in use from  
1440 forested to agricultural to urbanized cities. Each of these major river systems are unique in their geology and  
1441 geomorphology as well as the extent in which the hydraulics of the rivers have been altered by dams, levees, and  
1442 bank hardening. All of these rivers are used by federally listed endangered species of salmonid. Communities  
1443 along the marine shorelines of King County, including Vashon-Maury Island and in the Lower Duwamish, also  
1444 face flood risks from tidal flooding and storm surge.

1445

1446 Within unincorporated King County over 61 ~~((%))~~ percent of the mapped floodplain is within land zoned for  
1447 agriculture, forest or mining. Another 32~~((%))~~ percent is zoned as rural leaving just under seven percent within  
1448 the urban area, mainly contained within Potential Annexation Areas around the City of Carnation.  
1449 Consequently, much of the flood risk in unincorporated King County is to natural resource lands, primarily  
1450 agriculture, and rural lands with a lower relative risk to residential and resource based commercial activities.  
1451 Most of these rivers also pass through highly urbanized incorporated cities that are important economic centers  
1452 for King County and the Puget Sound region. These river segments are often constrained by levee systems that  
1453 provide varying level of flood risk reduction. More localized flooding from small tributary streams, lakes, and  
1454 closed depressions can also cause flood damage to homes, roads, farmland, and public and private infrastructure.

1455

1456 Both the Washington State Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A and Title 86 of the Revised Code of  
1457 Washington, Flood Control require interlocal coordination for effective flood hazard management. Counties are  
1458 directed to prepare comprehensive flood hazard management plans with participation of the cities. ~~((Once King~~  
1459 ~~County adopts the plan it is binding on all jurisdictions within the county.))~~ Flooding is a countywide issue  
1460 impacting public safety, regional economic centers, Agricultural Production Districts, transportation corridors,  
1461 and public and private properties. As such, King County is a regional service provider for floodplain  
1462 management.

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- 1463
- 1464 **F-286** King County shall participate with cities to prepare, update, and implement
- 1465 comprehensive flood hazard management plans that meet or exceed standards
- 1466 established by the National Flood Insurance Program and Washington State
- 1467 Flood Control statutes.
- 1468
- 1469 **F-287** King County shall include equity and racial and social justice principles in
- 1470 ~~((planning))~~ updating and implementing the King County Flood Hazard
- 1471 Management Plan to ~~((assure floodplain property owners and residents are given~~
- 1472 ~~equitable access to flood risk reduction services. Outreach should consider~~
- 1473 ~~vulnerable populations that may face barriers to accessing services and~~
- 1474 ~~programs based on age, income, disability, English language proficiency, race~~
- 1475 ~~and ethnicity, or other factors.))~~ assess flood risks, evaluate impacts of risk
- 1476 reduction actions, and work in partnership with the most impacted communities
- 1477 to develop and prioritize future actions.
- 1478
- 1479 ~~((In 2011 King County celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King County Flood Warning Program, which is~~
- 1480 ~~responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of flood data and forecasts to individuals and~~
- 1481 ~~organizations and for coordinating the response to flooding.))~~
- 1482
- 1483 **F-288** King County shall maintain a regional flood warning program in King County.
- 1484
- 1485 ~~((There is now evidence that climate change is resulting in significant changes in temperatures; sea level rise; and~~
- 1486 ~~timing and magnitude of stream and river flows, resulting in impacts on plant and animal species, water supply~~
- 1487 ~~and humans. King County's ability to adapt to these changing conditions will likely depend on the policy~~
- 1488 ~~decisions made today. King County can expect to see more frequent and severe flooding and a shifting of when~~
- 1489 ~~storm events occur during the winter months.))~~
- 1490
- 1491 **F-289** King County should continue to assess and revise current flood warning phases
- 1492 based on the most current data on hydrology and climate change ~~((predictions))~~
- 1493 projections and modify the King County Flood Warning Program, as needed, to
- 1494 reflect these revised flood phases.
- 1495
- 1496 **F-290** King County should assess the most appropriate level of service for flood risk
- 1497 reduction along river segments based on existing and predicted development
- 1498 density, land use, and hydrologic conditions, inclusive of climate change.
- 1499
- 1500 **F-291** King County ~~((will))~~ shall review available information on the potential impacts of
- 1501 climate change on ~~((winter floods))~~ flooding conditions and other natural hazards
- 1502 that may affect flooding, and consider those potential impacts when updating the
- 1503 flood risk reduction policies and capital improvement projects for the King

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1504 **County Flood Hazard Management Plan.**

1505

1506 King County works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct and maintain flood levees along the  
1507 Lower Green River. Under Public Law 84-99, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to provide  
1508 emergency assistance to cost-share and construct levee repairs following a flood disaster. However, eligibility for  
1509 this cost-sharing program requires that levee sponsors (often local jurisdictions) comply with the U.S. Army  
1510 Corps of Engineers Public Law 84-99 program standards as outlined in the Rehabilitation and Inspection  
1511 Program.

1512

1513 An Interim Policy for Determining Eligibility Status of Flood Risk Management Projects was issued in 2014 and  
1514 its primary effect was that vegetation no longer served as a criterion for determining a levee's eligibility for the  
1515 Public Law 84-99 program. So long as vegetation in the vicinity of Public Law 84-99 levees is maintained by  
1516 local sponsors to support levee inspections, the national levee vegetation standards for risk reduction no longer  
1517 affect the eligibility of King County's levees.

1518

1519 The Green River System Wide Improvement Framework Vegetation Plan provides recommendations for  
1520 vegetation planting and maintenance practices, in the vicinity of levees and floodwalls enrolled within the Public  
1521 Law 84-99 program. These recommendations acknowledge that, while vegetation may pose a risk in some  
1522 situations, King County has found through many years of experience that vegetation can be incorporated into  
1523 levee designs and when properly maintained, contribute to the resiliency of the levee system. King County  
1524 believes that bioengineered techniques provide a stronger, more sustainable levee and revetment system that will  
1525 reduce long-term maintenance and repair and contribute toward the recovery of endangered species.

1526

1527 ~~((F-293)) **King County shall continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the**~~  
1528 ~~**Puget Sound Partnership, and other regional partners to develop a**~~  
1529 ~~**science-based vegetation management framework that provides for safe and**~~  
1530 ~~**effective levees, functional riparian habitat, and cost-effective use of limited**~~  
1531 ~~**resources.**~~

1532

1533 ~~The September 2008 National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion on the Federal Emergency~~  
1534 ~~Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program raises specific concerns about the application of the~~  
1535 ~~Corps vegetation management standards in the Puget Sound region. The Biological Opinion directs the Federal~~  
1536 ~~Emergency Management Agency to recognize only those vegetation standards that "enable the riparian~~  
1537 ~~vegetation to function in support of salmon habitat forming processes.")~~

1538

1539 **F-294 King County ((will)) shall ((~~assess participation~~)) participate in the U.S. Army**  
1540 **Corps of Engineers Public Law 84-99 Program ((~~to ensure~~)) on a case-by-case**  
1541 **basis, provided compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Services**  
1542 **Biological Opinion on the Federal Emergency Management Agency National**



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1543 Flood Insurance Program standards for levee vegetation, as well as cost-effective  
1544 maintenance and repair of levees, is achieved.

1545

1546 ((The Biological Opinion for the National Flood Insurance Program established “reasonable and prudent  
1547 alternatives” that may be taken to reduce the adverse effects of development with the 100-year floodplain.  
1548 Compliance with the Biological Opinion is required in order to participate in the National Flood Insurance  
1549 Program.))

1550

1551 **F-295 King County ((will)) shall maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance  
1552 Program by:**

- 1553 a. Assessing the projects and programmatic actions recommended in the  
1554 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan for compliance with the  
1555 Biological Opinion prepared for the Program; and  
1556 b. Making necessary amendments to the Plan and its implementing  
1557 development regulations.

1558

1559 ((In 2007 King County established the King County Flood Control District to protect public health and safety,  
1560 regional economic centers, public and private properties and transportation corridors. The Flood Control District  
1561 adopted the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan as its comprehensive plan. A private firm,  
1562 ECONorthwest, was hired to study the economic benefits of implementing the plan. This report, the “Economic  
1563 Connections Between the King County Floodplains and the Greater King County Economy,” estimated that a  
1564 one-day shutdown of economic activity in the King County floodplain areas would result in at least \$49 million  
1565 in forgone economic output in the region (2007 dollars). The study also found that, 52,000 people in King  
1566 County commute into or out of the 100-year floodplain for work.))

1567

1568 Implementation of the ((2006)) King County Flood Hazard Management Plan has played a significant role in  
1569 protecting King County’s economic base. ((The 2006 Flood Hazard Management Plan was updated in 2013.))

1570

1571 **F-296 King County ((will)) shall work cooperatively with the King County Flood Control  
1572 District, cities and other ((stakeholders)) partners to implement the integrated  
1573 approaches to floodplain management outlined in the Flood Hazard Management  
1574 Plan, or successor plans, to protect public safety, prevent property damage, and  
1575 help protect the greater King County economy, consistent with the Growth  
1576 Management Act. Actions should advance King County’s equity and racial and  
1577 social justice goals, promote resiliency to the potential impacts of climate  
1578 change, and provide multiple benefits for the residents of King County.**

1579

1580 **F-297 Consistent with guidance from Federal Emergency Management Agency and the  
1581 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, King County’s flood risk reduction strategies  
1582 should focus first on risk avoidance, followed by actions intended to reduce**

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1583 vulnerability in at risk areas. New levees and other flood facilities should be the  
1584 last rather than the first line-of-defense.

1585  
1586 **F-298** King County shall continue to ~~((promote))~~ **encourage** the purchase of flood  
1587 insurance to ~~((businesses))~~ **owners and tenants of properties** located within ~~((the~~  
1588 ~~floodplain))~~ **flood hazard areas**, including those ~~((businesses))~~ **properties** located  
1589 behind accredited levees, to protect the ~~((economic))~~ value of the ~~((business))~~  
1590 **properties** and reduce the **economic** vulnerability ~~((to the region's economic~~  
1591 ~~activity from a larger but less frequent))~~ **from** flood events.

1592  
1593 **F-299** King County should continue to discourage new~~((, at-risk))~~ development in  
1594 mapped flood hazard areas.

1595  
1596 **F-299a** King County should seek to site new critical public facilities outside of the  
1597 **500-year floodplain**.

1598  
1599 Levee setbacks (moving levees away from the river channel) can provide a higher level of risk reduction, reduce  
1600 future maintenance costs, enhance habitat, and provide open space benefits. However, levee setbacks require  
1601 purchase of additional right-of-way and, in some cases, relocation of homes and businesses. The ~~((e))~~County has  
1602 **purchased homes and** relocated ~~((homes))~~ **residents** from high hazard residential areas along the Tolt, Raging,  
1603 Snoqualmie, Middle Green, and Cedar Rivers. Levee setbacks can be more challenging in urban areas with  
1604 higher land costs, well established businesses, and more extensive relocation needs.

1605  
1606 **F-299b** King County should work with cities, businesses, and landowners to evaluate the  
1607 **alternatives for levee setbacks that would provide a higher level of risk reduction,**  
1608 **reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enhance habitat while promoting**  
1609 **long-term economic resilience and vitality.**

1610

## 1611 ~~((H.))~~ **Energy and Telecommunications**

1612 King County's economy and quality of life depend on readily available, affordable and clean energy and  
1613 telecommunications resources. Energy and electronic communications systems provide important public  
1614 services and their implementation must be coordinated with land use planning. The sustainable development  
1615 and efficient use of energy resources can ensure their continued availability while minimizing long-term costs,  
1616 risks and impacts to public health and safety, air and water quality, and essential public infrastructure and  
1617 services.

1618  
1619 ~~((In order t))~~To help mitigate global climate impacts resulting from human energy use, King County is planning  
1620 its energy uses in ways that will improve energy efficiency; increase production and use of renewable energy;

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1621 reduce risk to public health, safety, critical services, and the environment; and reduce the release of greenhouse  
1622 gases and emissions. This includes rigorous and transparent review and regulation of fossil fuel facilities.

1623

1624 ~~((The 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan provides targets for reducing energy usage in operations and increasing  
1625 the amount of renewable energy that the County produces or uses. These targets are measured for the County  
1626 government as a whole; divisions are directed to make policies and plans consistent with the King County  
1627 Strategic Climate Action Plan and implement those as practical, considering the Plan and their other service  
1628 priorities. Some divisions may exceed the targets, while others may not meet them in given years—but all  
1629 divisions will use the Strategic Climate Action Plan as the basis for strategic energy planning and direction.~~

1630

1631 ~~King County divisions are taking steps to translate countywide energy targets into agency specific plans and  
1632 action. Agency specific plans are important steps that support progress towards countywide targets.~~

1633 ~~The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets the County's long term goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions  
1634 from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least at least 80% by 2050. In order to  
1635 accomplish this goal, the County is dedicated to reducing its energy use, which is the most cost effective  
1636 approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Energy reduction goals are included in the Strategic Climate  
1637 Action Plan. In its government operations, the County set buildings and facilities normalized energy use  
1638 reduction goals of five percent reduction by 2020 and 10% by 2025, as measured against a 2014 baseline. In its  
1639 vehicle operations, the County set a reduction goal of at least 10% of its normalized net energy use by 2020,  
1640 again measured against a 2014 baseline.))~~

1641

1642 Various local, state, and federal agencies regulate ~~((retail))~~ energy providers in King County. Gas and electric  
1643 utility resource and conservation plans are approved by the utilities and other agencies through a public process.

1644 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission reviews and accepts plans of investor-owned electric  
1645 and gas utilities, the Seattle City Council approves the plans of Seattle City Light and Snohomish Public Utility  
1646 District is governed by a utility board. Electric and gas utilities operate in King County under franchises with the  
1647 ~~((e))~~County for use of the public right-of-way. The Utilities and Transportation Commission also defines the  
1648 costs that investor-owned utilities can recover, approves rates, sets service standards and resolves customer  
1649 complaints.

1650

1651 Telecommunications services are regulated by several entities, including the Federal Communications  
1652 Commission and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. King County has some regulatory  
1653 authority over telecommunications services through franchises and the development approval process.

1654

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1655 **~~((A.))~~ Energy**

1656 **~~((1.))~~ Consistency with Land Use Plans**

1657 State law mandates that electric and gas public service companies provide the same level of service on a uniform  
1658 basis, regardless of location(~~(-)~~) (Revised Code of Washington 80.28.110). Policies in this chapter encourage the  
1659 utilities to prioritize capital improvements in a manner consistent with land use.

1660

1661 **F-301 Energy providers' resource and facility plans should be consistent with the King**  
1662 **County Comprehensive Plan and should provide for a reliable source of energy**  
1663 **in the event of natural disaster or other potential threats of disruption to service.**

1664

1665 ~~((Disruption of traffic due to public and private road projects frequently occurs in King County. Policies in this  
1666 chapter support existing programs to notify utilities of upcoming projects to build, expand, or maintain county  
1667 roads so utility and road construction can be coordinated. Distribution systems for gas, electric and  
1668 telecommunications installation in new construction now have separate permits. Permit consolidation is  
1669 desirable as a means to expedite review while protecting the environment.))~~

1670

1671 **F-302 King County should coordinate public road construction and maintenance**  
1672 **projects with utility construction and maintenance.**

1673

1674 ~~((Appropriate planning, such as increased housing density, transit-oriented development and walk-to-work  
1675 housing can significantly reduce regional energy use over time. Similarly, land use regulation can support  
1676 increased availability and use of renewable energy. For example, consideration of solar access in land use codes  
1677 and building siting can increase the potential for solar energy use. Policies in this chapter encourage such  
1678 energy-conscious development.))~~

1679

1680 **F-303 King County ~~((should))~~ shall encourage land uses and development that will**  
1681 **reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the improvement of energy efficiency,**  
1682 **and should support the expansion of renewable energy resources through**  
1683 **development regulations(~~(-prudent variances)~~) and active incentive programs**  
1684 **when the benefits of doing so outweigh the costs.**

1685

1686 **Environmental justice**

1687 The siting of hazardous utility infrastructure can have disproportionately negative impacts on communities  
1688 already experiencing other existing and historical social, environmental, and economic inequities. King  
1689 County's permit review process creates an opportunity to advance more equitable outcomes.

1690

1691 **F-303a Results from an equity impact review shall be used as an important**  
1692 **consideration to identify impacts and opportunities of adding, expanding, or**

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1693 upgrading transmission and distribution lines; siting new gas or hazardous liquid  
 1694 transmission pipelines; or new modified, or expanded fossil fuel facilities. The  
 1695 County's equity and racial and social justice principles should be used to  
 1696 improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.  
 1697

1698 **((2.)) Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Alternative Energy Sources**

1699 ~~((King County Countywide Planning Policy CO-6 states that "aggressive conservation efforts shall be~~  
 1700 ~~implemented to address the need for adequate supply for electrical energy and water resources, protect natural~~  
 1701 ~~resources, and achieve improved air quality.")) King County has a continued commitment to energy efficiency,  
 1702 conservation, use and production of renewable resources and quality enforcement of the energy code. Recent  
 1703 recognition of climate change and other negative impacts of energy infrastructure have brought the need to  
 1704 improve the ((e))County's energy use patterns and supplies into the forefront of policy discussions. King  
 1705 County's current energy use patterns and energy supplies could be modified and improved to reduce air pollution  
 1706 (including greenhouse gas emissions), conserve non-renewable resources important to future generations, and  
 1707 help to limit the growth in energy costs.  
 1708~~

1709 **F-304 All King County departments and divisions shall use the Strategic Climate Action**  
 1710 **Plan, or successor plans, as the basis for strategic energy planning and**  
 1711 **direction.**  
 1712

1713 The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets the ((e))County's long term goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions  
 1714 from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least at least 80((%)) percent by ((2050)) 2030.  
 1715 ~~((In order to))~~To accomplish this goal, the ((e))County is dedicated to reducing its energy use, which most heavily  
 1716 contributes to its greenhouse gas emissions. Included in the Strategic Climate Action Plan ~~((were))~~ are short  
 1717 term goals for energy reduction. ~~((For 2015, i))~~In its government operations for buildings and facilities, the  
 1718 county set a reduction goal of ~~((15%))~~ 25 percent by 2030 and 45 percent by 2050 for normalized net energy use  
 1719 as measured against the ~~((2015))~~ 2017 baseline. In its vehicle operations, the county set a ~~((reduction goal of at~~  
 1720 ~~least 10% of its normalized net energy use, again measured against a 2007 baseline))~~ goal to reduce greenhouse  
 1721 gas emissions by 45 percent by 2025 and 70 percent by 2030, compared to a 2017 baseline.  
 1722

1723 To measure its progress in reducing facility energy consumption, the county uses the process of "normalizing"  
 1724 energy use, which provides a measure of the energy use per unit of service value delivered (units of energy / units  
 1725 of service delivered). Application of this methodology is typically adjusted for weather, with the Wastewater  
 1726 Treatment Division making adjustments according to weather and wastewater flow. Normalization is intended  
 1727 to reflect actual energy use reductions given varying weather conditions compared to the baseline.  
 1728

1729 King County is a large producer of methane gas associated with landfills and wastewater treatment facilities it  
 1730 owns and operates. Because such gas can serve as a greenhouse gas-reducing substitute for fossil fuel natural gas,  
 1731 and become a feedstock for aviation fuels, maritime fuels, the generation of green hydrogen and for other

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1732 beneficial purposes to help de-carbonize various industries, several of the energy policies in this subsection relate  
1733 to this energy source.

1734

1735 ~~((Reaching the specified energy reduction targets directly reduces the county's greenhouse gas emissions.))~~

1736

1737 **F-305** King County shall plan for further reduction in its energy use from government  
1738 operations by setting near and long term energy use and fossil fuel use  
1739 reductions, consistent with its long term goals of working to continuously reduce  
1740 operating costs and environmental impacts, maximizing energy efficiency and  
1741 minimizing waste.

1742

1743 **F-306** King County shall maximize the ~~((production))~~ capture, use and marketing of  
1744 renewable energy at its wastewater treatment plants and Cedar Hills Landfill, to  
1745 the extent feasible and consistent with other County goals, and pursue other  
1746 renewable energy generation projects where cost-effective.

1747

1748 **F-307** King County should foster the development and increased use of clean,  
1749 renewable and alternative fuel and energy technologies, such as anaerobic  
1750 digestion and co-digestion of organic material to create energy sources that  
1751 result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, with a particular emphasis  
1752 on creating renewable natural gas.

1753

1754 ~~((F-308))~~ King County shall:

1755 ~~a. Continue to increase the energy efficiency of county buses and vehicles,~~  
1756 ~~through adoption and promotion of innovative technology vehicles and~~  
1757 ~~greenhouse gas reducing fuels with a focus on electric vehicles, all-~~  
1758 ~~electric battery buses and associated infrastructure, where appropriate;~~  
1759 ~~and~~

1760 ~~b. Consistent with policy E-203, collaborate with other local governments~~  
1761 ~~regionally, nationally and internationally to develop a common approach~~  
1762 ~~to accounting for the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the~~  
1763 ~~operation of its public transportation system, for offering carbon offsets~~  
1764 ~~or other environmental attributes for purchase and for claiming rights to~~  
1765 ~~any greenhouse gas emissions reduction attributes associated with its~~  
1766 ~~operation.))~~

1767

1768 **F-308a** Consistent with Ordinance ~~((47974))~~ 18106, King County Metro Transit ~~((should~~  
1769 ~~implement a strategy to sell transit carbon offsets and other environmental~~  
1770 ~~attributes to))~~ shall make carbon offsets or environmental attributes available for  
1771 purchase by individuals, public entities, and private entities, if doing so is likely  
1772 to be financially beneficial to the department. ~~((To reduce their greenhouse gas~~

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1773 **emissions, the King County wastewater treatment division and solid waste**  
 1774 **division should consider purchasing transit carbon offsets from King County**  
 1775 **Metro Transit.) Revenue from the sale of carbon offsets or environmental**  
 1776 **attributed shall be used by the department solely for the purposes of reducing**  
 1777 **greenhouse gas emissions through mobility services or investments that reduce**  
 1778 **greenhouse emissions from transit operations.**

1779  
 1780 ((In support of its environmental, long term sustainability and energy security goals, King County will provide  
 1781 leadership by shifting to the use of renewable resources. Renewable resources include those sources listed in  
 1782 Revised Code of Washington 19.285.030(20), now and as may be amended, as well as "service by products",  
 1783 such as including methane gas generated from the operation of the county's landfill and wastewater treatment  
 1784 plants. Although renewable energy sources can be more expensive than traditional power sources on a per unit  
 1785 basis, careful choices of technology and expanded economic considerations including "triple bottom line"  
 1786 life cycle cost analyses show that in proper applications the benefits of some renewable energy technologies  
 1787 already exceed their costs.

1788  
 1789 Additionally, subsidies and grants are available for some renewable power systems. For example, solar electric  
 1790 power is cost effective in some applications at county facilities and rapid cost changes in this technology will  
 1791 require regular reconsideration of its use as an addition or alternative to traditionally produced electricity.))

1792  
 1793 **F-309 King County shall maximize practical applications of renewable natural gas (such**  
 1794 **as from wastewater or landfill gas), renewable electricity, and renewable heat**  
 1795 **production ((from renewable resources)).**

1796  
 1797 **F-310 King County shall support the conversion of renewable resources and service**  
 1798 **by-products to energy for beneficial use ((consistent with E-208)). King County**  
 1799 **shall claim and/or generate economic benefit for any and all renewable energy**  
 1800 **and greenhouse gas reduction attributes resulting from renewable energy**  
 1801 **generation.**

1802  
 1803 ((King County, working with its utility partners, has a long and successful history of energy efficiency and  
 1804 conservation projects. The combination of generally increasing energy costs and climate change mitigation goals  
 1805 will require that the county continuously increase its energy efficiency for many years to come.))

1806  
 1807 **F-311 King County should encourage its energy utilities to provide energy efficiency**  
 1808 **services ((and)), renewable energy options, and fossil fuel use reduction**  
 1809 **strategies to all their customers. Additionally, the County should encourage the**  
 1810 **state and energy utilities to mitigate the environmental and greenhouse gas**  
 1811 **emissions impacts of energy and, as conservation and ((alternative energy)) no-**  
 1812 **and low-carbon sources demonstrate capacity to address energy needs, phase**

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- 1813 out existing coal and other fossil fuel based power plants, and replace such  
 1814 facilities with resource efficiency and renewable generation sources.  
 1815  
 1816 ((To achieve energy goals already set and more aggressive goals expected in the future, a coordinated, strategic  
 1817 approach to energy management and investment in energy efficiency is being implemented in the county.))  
 1818  
 1819 **F-312 King County shall develop and adopt strategic energy management, efficiency,**  
 1820 **and conservation programs in its own operations, including:**  
 1821 **a. Consolidated energy accounting of ((e))County facilities to establish**  
 1822 **baseline energy performance for the ((e))County, benchmarking of**  
 1823 **facilities against comparable best practices where possible, setting**  
 1824 **goals for facility efficiency improvements, and measuring and reporting**  
 1825 **progress toward ((e))County energy goals;**  
 1826 **b. Fossil fuel elimination action plans;**  
 1827 **c. Purchase of 100 percent greenhouse gas neutral electricity for**  
 1828 **operations;**  
 1829 **d. Energy efficiency audits of all ((e))County facilities over 20,000 square**  
 1830 **feet and the creation of action plans for reducing energy use at such**  
 1831 **facilities;**  
 1832 **((e-)) e. Energy management plans for energy-intensive or special-purpose**  
 1833 **((e))County facilities such as wastewater treatment plants, correctional**  
 1834 **facilities, and transit bases that focus on least-cost management and**  
 1835 **that include specific approaches for each facility's use, as well as the**  
 1836 **production and sale of energy where appropriate;**  
 1837 **f. Capital portfolios managed to maximize greenhouse gas emissions**  
 1838 **reductions, including no new natural gas or fossil fuel powered**  
 1839 **equipment installed, with minor exceptions allowed;**  
 1840 **((e-)) g. Mandatory energy efficiency and resource use guidelines for operation**  
 1841 **and maintenance of all ((e))County-occupied facilities, while recognizing**  
 1842 **the unique operating requirements of specialty facilities;**  
 1843 **((e-)) h. Programs to encourage employees to implement energy conserving**  
 1844 **measures at work; and**  
 1845 **((f-)) i. Incentives, including retaining a portion of energy cost savings, to**  
 1846 **((e))County agencies and departments for achieving energy efficiency.**  
 1847  
 1848 **F-313 King County should benchmark all applicable ((e))County buildings as a basis for**  
 1849 **measuring energy efficiency improvements, using the Environmental Protection**  
 1850 **Agency Portfolio Manager Tool, where applicable.**  
 1851  
 1852 **F-314 King County should purchase only certified energy efficient appliances and**  
 1853 **office equipment (such as ENERGY-STAR labeled equipment) when available for**  
 1854 **specific equipment and shall require consideration of energy efficiency and life-**



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1855 cycle costs in all procurement decisions as an element of determining the lowest  
1856 responsive bids.

1857

1858 ~~((Meeting the County's energy goals will require a commitment to pursuing multiple funding strategies. Grants,~~  
1859 ~~loans, and utility rebates provide essential seed money for up front investments in energy efficiency projects, and~~  
1860 ~~the County should seek them aggressively. County departments should use the county's Fund to Reduce Energy~~  
1861 ~~Demand loan program to fund cost effective energy and water efficiency projects that cannot otherwise be~~  
1862 ~~funded.))~~

1863

1864 **F-315 King County shall use its Resource Life Cycle Cost Assessment calculator to**  
1865 **evaluate energy projects to determine if the operations and maintenance cost**  
1866 **savings over the life of an energy project's assets exceed the implementation**  
1867 **costs, taking into account all identified costs associated with energy efficiency**  
1868 **and renewable energy projects.**

1869

1870 **F-316 Efficient energy consumption, conservation, the use of renewable technologies,**  
1871 **and energy responsible land use decisions should be a priority in King County.**  
1872 **King County promotes the maximum use of energy conservation and renewable**  
1873 **energy resources now, while leaving options for increasing conservation and**  
1874 **renewable technologies in the future.**

1875

1876 District energy systems provide space and water heating and/or cooling to multiple buildings, through pipes  
1877 originating from a central heating or cooling source – generally a central energy plant. ~~((King County~~  
1878 ~~government is unique in that it also has the ability to serve as a district heat supplier through the potential for~~  
1879 ~~buildings to utilize the energy value of the warmer than ambient water in the County's almost 400 miles of~~  
1880 ~~wastewater conveyance.)) Centralizing the generation of heat and/or cooling through a district plant and/or~~  
1881 ~~delivering energy content to multiple facilities through a distribution network can eliminate the need for~~  
1882 ~~equipment in each individual building.~~

1883

1884 District heating and cooling plants can be constructed with energy efficiency in mind. Central plants that  
1885 provide combined heat and power can offer increases in energy efficiency compared to on-site heat generation in  
1886 individual buildings, by sharing heating and cooling resources, and can be an effective method of cutting carbon  
1887 emissions.

1888

1889 ~~((The t))Technologies used to generate energy from wastewater are emerging, and offer the potential to achieve~~  
1890 ~~environmental and economic benefits through the recovery of resources from wastewater. King County~~  
1891 ~~government is unique in that it also has the ability to serve as a district heat supplier through the potential for~~  
1892 ~~buildings to utilize the energy value of the warmer-than-ambient water in the County's almost 400 miles of~~  
1893 ~~wastewater conveyance.~~

1894

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- 1895     **F-317**             King County should pursue district energy opportunities to maximize resource  
 1896                             recovery efforts, in ways that can offer economic and environmental benefits to  
 1897                             the county and community at large. This ~~((will))~~ shall be done by pursuing  
 1898                             opportunities such as encouraging the use of wastewater for heat extraction and  
 1899                             other forms of energy generation in the ~~((e))~~County's wastewater conveyance  
 1900                             system.
- 1901
- 1902     **F-318**             King County should pursue combined heat and power district energy  
 1903                             opportunities in its own facilities, as well as in partnership with other public and  
 1904                             private entities, that result in reduced energy consumption, greenhouse gas  
 1905                             reductions, and financial savings to the ~~((e))~~County.
- 1906
- 1907     ~~((F-319~~             ~~To implement the Countywide Planning Policy of aggressive conservation and~~  
 1908                             ~~promotion of regional air quality, King County should:~~
- 1909                             ~~a.             Effectively enforce the energy code as part of the general permit~~  
 1910   ~~process;~~
- 1911                             ~~b.             Provide density incentives through the zoning code for energy-efficient~~  
 1912   ~~developments;~~
- 1913                             ~~c.             Continue to improve the fuel efficiency and emissions of the~~  
 1914   ~~county-owned fleet of motor vehicles;~~
- 1915                             ~~d.             Work with utilities to become a model of energy efficiency in facilities~~  
 1916   ~~owned or operated by Metropolitan King County; and~~
- 1917                             ~~e.             Seek cost effective ways to capture energy from county operations~~  
 1918   ~~which other wise would be lost, such as methane gas from landfills and~~  
 1919   ~~sewage treatment.~~
- 1920
- 1921     ~~Methane generated from sewage treatment plants and landfills is a potential source of energy. In addition,~~  
 1922     ~~methane is a potent greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, capturing methane from these facilities and putting it~~  
 1923     ~~to a productive use provides a dual benefit.))~~
- 1924
- 1925     **F-320**             **King County should support new energy resources and technologies that reduce**  
 1926                             **energy use, decarbonize energy sources, and electrify energy use in the building**  
 1927                             **and transportation sectors. In supporting these efforts, King County should:**
- 1928                             **a.             Allow for siting of distributed energy resources, while considering**  
 1929   **appropriate use of land and associate impacts, including protection of**  
 1930   **designated Natural Resource Lands and open spaces;**
- 1931                             **b.             Accommodate the use of distributed energy resources in new and**  
 1932   **redeveloped properties;**
- 1933                             **c.             Reduce barriers to new and upgraded substations, transmission**  
 1934   **facilities, and the distribution system, for infrastructure that is needed to**  
 1935   **achieve County greenhouse gas reductions targets;**

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- 1936 **d. Encourage and support the integration of new technologies and fuel**  
 1937 **sources;**  
 1938 **e. Minimize negative impacts on and maximize benefits for frontline**  
 1939 **communities resulting from related projects;**  
 1940 **f. Support equitable engagement strategies during project planning to**  
 1941 **actively solicit public participation and input from impacted frontline**  
 1942 **communities;**  
 1943 **g. Support equitable opportunities for frontline communities to participate**  
 1944 **in distributed energy resources;**  
 1945 **h. Support efforts by utilities and other entities to advance these outcomes;**  
 1946 **and**  
 1947 **i. Review and update development regulations periodically to ensure that**  
 1948 **they appropriately support new energy resources and technologies and**  
 1949 **mitigate for associated impacts.**  
 1950

1951 The moderate climate of the Puget Sound region provides an opportunity for significant use of solar energy.  
 1952 Relatively low heating and cooling needs in much of the county allow for the potential for passive and active  
 1953 solar technologies to meet heating and cooling needs with proper building design. Similarly, the mild climate  
 1954 and available solar energy allows growing some food year((-)-round, potentially decreasing the use of fossil fuels  
 1955 for a portion of residents' food needs. This opportunity for local investments in passive and active solar design  
 1956 and in local food production can only be realized if building and neighborhood site design provides for solar  
 1957 orientation and through the development of regulations to protect solar access.

1958  
 1959 Although permit staff attempt to accommodate solar design, current regulations do not typically take into  
 1960 account solar orientation or solar access protection from development on neighboring properties. In addition,  
 1961 regulations, such as building height and building setback allowances, road access requirements, and protections  
 1962 for critical areas, stormwater, and native vegetation, may limit suitable locations for providing solar access.  
 1963 Requirements to create and maintain view corridors may or may not provide solar gain. ~~((In order to))~~To protect  
 1964 solar access, landowners or developers enter into voluntary solar easements. As an alternative, some  
 1965 municipalities have incorporated measures to protect solar access in their comprehensive plans and development  
 1966 regulations. King County ~~((should study these measures and))~~ continues to evaluate and implement best  
 1967 practices in this area in support of the ~~((e))~~County's larger sustainability goals.

- 1968 **F-321 King County encourages the:**  
 1969  
 1970 **a. ~~((the u))~~Use of solar energy;**  
 1971 **b. ~~((the s))~~Siting of roads, lots, landscaping and buildings for improved**  
 1972 **solar orientation;**  
 1973 **c. ~~((the u))~~Use of passive solar design and active solar technologies;**  
 1974 **~~((and))~~**  
 1975 **d. ~~((the p))~~Protection of solar access; and**

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1976 e. The pursuit and allocation of funds to support access to solar energy for  
 1977 frontline communities.

1978  
 1979 **F-322** King County should consider passive and active solar energy collection systems  
 1980 in all new facility designs and major rehabilitations. Solar electric generation  
 1981 systems interconnected with local utilities should be employed where  
 1982 cost-benefit analysis shows net benefits, considering emergency power potential  
 1983 and capitalizing on utility net-metering and power production credit programs.

1984  
 1985 Gas and electric utilities offer low-income energy assistance programs. All feasible actions to increase the  
 1986 availability of conservation measures to ~~((low-income residents))~~ frontline communities should be pursued, such  
 1987 as public-private cooperation and combining existing rehabilitation efforts with installation of energy efficiency  
 1988 measures.

1989  
 1990 **F-323** King County should expand the availability of energy efficiency, renewable  
 1991 energy, and fossil fuel use reduction and transition measures to ((low-income  
 1992 residents)) frontline communities most likely to be disproportionately impacted  
 1993 by climate change.

1994

1995 **((3.)) Electric Utilities**

1996 The four-state ~~((Seventh Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Plan (also called the 6th Power Plan)~~  
 1997 ~~produced in 2016))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council provides a  
 1998 blueprint for the development of electricity resources in the region. Bonneville Power Administration and other  
 1999 federal agencies, the region's utilities, state and local government, private businesses and the people of the  
 2000 Northwest all participate in implementing the council's goals. Electric utilities serving unincorporated King  
 2001 County include Bonneville Power Administration ~~((, Seattle City Light, Snohomish Public Utility District))~~ and  
 2002 Tanner Electric Cooperative. Puget Sound Energy provides both electricity and natural gas service.

2003

2004 A number of significant events in the past years have influenced the electric power business in King County's  
 2005 power markets. These include:

- 2006 1) Ongoing very large expenditures by hydropower utilities (notably Bonneville Power Administration) to  
 2007 mitigate salmon habitat losses caused by dams;
- 2008 2) The recognition of human-caused climate change, driven mostly by carbon dioxide release—a  
 2009 significant portion of which can be attributed to electric power generation; and
- 2010 3) The passage of ~~((State Initiative 937 codified at))~~ Energy Independence Act in Chapter 19.285 Revised  
 2011 Code of Washington ~~((chapter 19.285))~~, requiring utilities to acquire an increasing portion of their  
 2012 electric supplies from qualified renewable resources (a ~~((so-called))~~ renewable resource portfolio  
 2013 standard).

2014

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2015 Hydropower is the largest single source of the existing electrical power, with the county’s major electric resources  
 2016 located outside King County. These include the Grand Coulee, North Bonneville and Ross Dams. No new  
 2017 large dam sites are available in the region, making hydropower a very small part of projected new regional  
 2018 power-generating resources.

2019  
 2020 ~~((Existing hydropower facilities in King County include Snoqualmie Falls, Cedar Falls, Twin Falls, Weeks Falls,  
 2021 and Black Creek. Proposed projects include new facilities at Hancock Creek and Calligan Creek (both are  
 2022 tributaries of the North Fork Snoqualmie), Martin Creek near Stevens Pass, and Black Canyon on the North  
 2023 Fork Snoqualmie. Few if any additional projects beyond these listed are expected to be built in King County,  
 2024 and some of those listed above, although licensed, may not be built.))~~

2025  
 2026 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses such projects, but in doing so must consider existing plans  
 2027 and policies of public and private jurisdictions. While power generation benefits the public, care must be taken  
 2028 to ensure that small hydroelectric projects are constructed in an environmentally sound manner, directing new,  
 2029 small hydropower facilities, for example, to streams that do not have anadromous fish. Construction and  
 2030 operation must also be consistent with the intended functions and uses of forestlands, where most small  
 2031 hydroelectric projects are located.

2032  
 2033 The Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s ~~((seventh plan))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan indicates no  
 2034 significant addition of hydropower resources is projected. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council plan  
 2035 also identifies Protected Areas to protect some streams and wildlife habitats from hydroelectric development  
 2036 where such development would have major negative impacts that could not be reversed. In these areas, the  
 2037 Northwest Power and Conservation Council finds that mitigation techniques cannot assure that all adverse  
 2038 impacts of hydroelectric development on these fish and wildlife populations will be mitigated; that even small  
 2039 hydroelectric projects may have unacceptable individual and cumulative impacts on these resources; and  
 2040 protecting these resources and habitats from hydroelectric development is consistent with an adequate, efficient,  
 2041 economical, and reliable power supply.

2042  
 2043 Electrical utilities supplying King County are required by Washington State law to plan for their electric power  
 2044 resources in an integrated resource planning process very similar to the process that the Northwest Power and  
 2045 Conservation Council used for its ~~((6<sup>th</sup>))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan. ~~((County suppliers Puget Sound Energy,  
 2046 Seattle City Light and Snohomish County Public Utility District))~~ These are required by state law to regularly  
 2047 assess their power needs, supply strategies and impacts using Integrated Resource Plans.

2048  
 2049 ~~((The passage of the I-937 renewable resource portfolio standard has increased the demand (and attendant value  
 2050 of) qualified renewable resources. I-937, codified as the Energy Independence Act under 19.285 Revised Code of  
 2051 Washington, specifically excludes new freshwater hydroelectric projects from the definition of renewable for  
 2052 purposes of qualifying energy credits, with the exception of incremental efficiency improvements to certain  
 2053 existing facilities.))~~

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2054

2055 **F-324**

To address the cumulative effects of multiple energy facilities, King County should continue to participate in the state and federal processes for licensing, authorizing, or certifying, and any such renewals, of existing and proposed power generation projects within King County. King County’s review of individual projects in the state and federal processes should consider consistency with designated land uses and environmental protection goals. Specifically, power generation projects should:

2062

a. Have climate change impacts considered and mitigated to the greatest extent practical;

2063

2064

b. Be consistent with, and preferably directly incorporated in, utility integrated Resource Plans;

2065

2066

c. Use renewable resources to the greatest extent practical;

2067

d. Include public engagement;

2068

e. Not significantly interfere with commercial forestry operations;

2069

f. Be located and operated in a manner such that impacts to salmonid fish and wildlife are minimized;

2070

2071

g. Avoid unstable and erosion-prone areas;

2072

h. Include performance bonding to fund erosion control;

2073

i. Provide full mitigation for construction and operation impacts;

2074

j. Avoid, to the extent practicable, diminishing scenic values;

2075

k. Incorporate adequate public safety measures; and

2076

l. In the case of hydropower, not be located within a Protected Area as designated by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

2077

2078

2079 **F-325**

King County ~~((and the))~~ should work with utilities ~~((should))~~ to identify and preserve corridors, consistent with the Growth Management Act goal of focusing growth within the Urban Growth Area, to accommodate future electric power transmission and distribution lines. Corridor designation should include:

2080

2081

2082

a. Identification of appropriate shared uses and recognition of the values provided by nonutility uses, such as recreation;

2084

2085

b. Recognition of county roads as utility corridors; and

2086

c. Evaluation of proposed facility plans on a system-wide basis, rather than project-by-project.

2087

2088

2089

~~((F-325a) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an important consideration to identify and assess impacts and opportunities of adding, expanding or upgrading transmission and distribution lines and the county’s Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to improve residents’ access to the determinants of equity.))~~

2090

2091

2092

2093

2094

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2095 **F-326** When new, expanded or upgraded transmission is required, use of existing  
 2096 corridors that have above-ground utilities should be evaluated first. King County  
 2097 should facilitate appropriate corridor sharing among different utility types and  
 2098 owners.

2100 **F-327** New electrical distribution lines should be installed underground where  
 2101 reasonably feasible and not a health or safety concern. ~~((The county should  
 2102 encourage underground placement of existing distribution lines through such  
 2103 tools as local improvement districts.))~~

2104  
 2105 ~~((Public concern exists over the potential health effects of electrical power lines. The concern focuses on the  
 2106 effects of extremely low level electromagnetic fields. Seattle King County Department of Public Health currently  
 2107 responds to inquiries from residents about extremely low level electromagnetic fields and keeps abreast of current  
 2108 research. The following policy recognizes the inconclusive nature of the data concerning extremely low level  
 2109 electromagnetic fields and the need to have an informed citizenry through public disclosure of available research  
 2110 about the potential health risks. Scientific evidence to date does not support firm conclusions about the existence  
 2111 of adverse health effects related to extremely low level electromagnetic fields.~~

2112  
 2113 ~~**F-328** King County will monitor scientific research on potential human health effects of  
 2114 extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields. If federal or state agencies  
 2115 promulgate rules to reduce exposure to extremely low level electric and magnetic  
 2116 fields — through changes in the use of appliances, construction practices, the  
 2117 location of electrical infrastructure or other activities — the county shall inform  
 2118 its residents, in adherence with the Executive Order and other applicable policies  
 2119 on written language and translation processes, and take appropriate actions.~~

2121 **4.)) Natural Gas**

2122 ~~((Generally, the most thermally efficient use of natural gas is in "direct applications." The choice of fuel shall be  
 2123 based on market conditions and the prudently weighted greenhouse gas emissions impacts of using natural gas as  
 2124 compared with alternatives, with the customer comparing various fuels.)) King County works to reduce fossil  
 2125 fuel natural gas use in the built environment through a combination of energy use reduction, the use of renewable  
 2126 natural gas, and conversion to high-efficiency heating systems (such as heat pumps) that use electricity. Many  
 2127 homes and businesses in King County do not have the choice of natural gas, however, even within the Urban  
 2128 Growth Area.~~

2129  
 2130 King County has by far the largest resource of biologically produced methane in the region, from its wastewater  
 2131 treatment facilities and its solid waste landfills. King County should continue to develop and promote the  
 2132 development of biologically-derived sources of fuel gas ~~((i.e.))~~ renewable natural gas, research technologies and  
 2133 opportunities to utilize low methane concentration gas from closed landfills for beneficial uses, and support the  
 2134 efficient marketing and use of such gas. Any renewable energy production associated with methane or

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2135 biologically derived materials should consider other potential uses of relevant resources, such as the use of edible  
2136 food to reduce hunger.

2137

2138 **F-329 King County should work to remove barriers to the availability and efficient use**  
2139 **of renewable natural gas.**

2140

2141 **F-330 King County ((will)) shall provide leadership in and promotion of the use of**  
2142 **renewable natural gas to minimize climate change impacts, including that from**  
2143 **its own sources, as a substitute for fossil-sourced natural gas where practical,**  
2144 **while discouraging the use of human food feedstocks for the creation of**  
2145 **renewable natural gas.**

2146

2147 **~~(5.)~~ Hazardous Liquid and Gas Transmission Pipelines**

2148 Part of the fossil fuel system is the movement of hazardous liquid and gas by transmission pipelines. Hazardous  
2149 liquid and gas transmission pipelines, as defined by Revised Code of Washington 81.88.010 and Washington  
2150 Administrative Code 480-93-005, respectively, provide a vital service of transporting hazardous materials from  
2151 one location to another. Long-distance transmission pipelines move a variety of hazardous materials, including  
2152 crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas and hazardous liquids, such as anhydrous ammonia. Pipeline rupture  
2153 or failure can result in release of these materials, which are highly flammable, explosive or toxic. The policies in  
2154 this chapter identify public values and goals to assure that the transmission of hazardous materials by pipeline  
2155 address public health and safety.

2156

2157 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates the location, construction and operational conditions of  
2158 interstate natural gas pipelines through its certification process. The state and federal government regulate the  
2159 location, construction and operational conditions of hazardous liquid and intrastate gas pipelines through the  
2160 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. In its review of pipeline applications, however, the Energy Facility Site  
2161 Evaluation Council must determine whether the pipelines are consistent with ((e))County land use plans and  
2162 zoning codes. Thus, King County's authority to regulate the location of pipelines is through the comprehensive  
2163 plan and development regulations.

2164

2165 **F-331 King County recognizes that federal and state regulatory programs govern the**  
2166 **design, construction, and operation of hazardous liquid and gas transmission**  
2167 **pipelines. King County's land use designations, zoning classifications, and**  
2168 **development regulations should be focused on increasing safety and reducing**  
2169 **environmental impacts of transmission pipelines regulated by the federal and**  
2170 **state government. King County shall actively engage in federal and state review**



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- 2171 processes to identify local impacts and risks and advocate for safety and  
 2172 environmental protections.  
 2173
- 2174 **F-332** Any new, modified, or expanded hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines  
 2175 proposed for construction in King County shall meet the County’s development  
 2176 regulations, including but not limited to, King County’s zoning code, building  
 2177 code, grading code, and shoreline management code. Proposals for  
 2178 modifications, such as regular maintenance or changes required to address  
 2179 hazards or comply with federal or state safety requirements, shall be clearly  
 2180 distinguished from proposals to modify or expand facility capacity or uses.  
 2181  
 2182
- 2183 King County anticipates that few new hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipelines will be constructed in the  
 2184 near future. However, as existing pipelines age and the relationship between resources, refineries and markets  
 2185 changes over time, new pipelines will need to be constructed. Hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines  
 2186 are best constructed away from locations where large numbers of people assemble. King County recognizes  
 2187 however, that under some circumstances, new gas transmission pipelines may need to locate in densely  
 2188 populated areas as the only practical alternative to meet the demand for service.  
 2189
- 2190 ~~((F-332a Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an  
 2191 important consideration to identify impacts and opportunities of siting new gas  
 2192 or hazardous liquid transmission pipelines and the county’s Equity and Social  
 2193 Justice principles should be used to improve residents’ access to the  
 2194 determinants of equity.))~~  
 2195
- 2196 **F-333** New hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines should be located away  
 2197 from high-density residential zones, Urban Activity Centers, ~~((and B))~~business  
 2198 ~~((C))~~centers, ~~((Q))~~office ~~((P))~~parks, sports fields, schools and day care centers or  
 2199 other land uses where large numbers of people would assemble.  
 2200
- 2201 ~~((F-334 When new, expanded or upgraded hazardous liquid or gas transmission  
 2202 pipelines are required, use of existing corridors should be evaluated first. King  
 2203 County should facilitate appropriate corridor sharing among different utility types  
 2204 and owners.))~~  
 2205
- 2206 **F-335** Hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines should not be located in areas  
 2207 susceptible to soil disturbance or liquefaction or in aquifer recharge areas.  
 2208 When it is impractical to avoid such areas, special engineering precautions  
 2209 should be taken to protect public health, safety, and welfare.  
 2210

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2211 ~~((It is essential to map the location of existing hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines within King~~  
 2212 ~~County so that developers know where they are and who to call for information before construction begins.~~  
 2213 ~~Accurate maps will assist King County in reviewing land use applications for land uses located near pipelines.))~~

2214

2215 **F-336 King County should map the location of existing and new hazardous liquid and**  
 2216 **gas transmission pipelines. Maps shall not substitute the one-call locating**  
 2217 **system and shall not be used for any construction or maintenance activity.**

2218

2219 ~~((Risks to life and property can be minimized by keeping land uses a safe distance from hazardous liquid and gas~~  
 2220 ~~transmission pipelines. Pipelines transport a variety of materials, some of which flow under the force of gravity.~~  
 2221 ~~While standard setbacks do not assure protection from materials that have the ability to migrate, setbacks may~~  
 2222 ~~protect life and property from hazardous materials that are highly flammable, explosive or toxic. Limiting the~~  
 2223 ~~allowable uses within pipeline rights-of-way can further reduce risks to life and property.))~~

2224

2225 **F-337 Structures designed for human occupancy shall not be located within hazardous**  
 2226 **liquid or gas transmission pipeline rights-of-way and should be set back from the**  
 2227 **pipeline to protect public health, safety and property. No structures shall be**  
 2228 **located over the pipeline.**

2229

2230 **F-338 Land uses shall be restricted within hazardous liquid and gas transmission**  
 2231 **pipeline rights-of-way. Passive recreational uses, such as hiking trails, may be**  
 2232 **allowed if the risk to life and property is assessed and determined to be minimal.**

2233

2234 ~~((Pipeline failure can result from damage caused by excavation near existing pipelines. Many existing pipelines~~  
 2235 ~~initially were constructed in less populated areas with little development. As demand for land grows, the risk of~~  
 2236 ~~conflict between existing pipelines and land development increases.~~

2237

2238 ~~**F-339 King County should promote the safety and reliability of the hazardous liquid and**~~  
 2239 ~~**natural gas transmission pipeline systems by requiring developers, contractors,**~~  
 2240 ~~**and excavators to notify the state, pipeline operators and utilities through the**~~  
 2241 ~~**one-number locator service, before beginning excavation or construction.))**~~

2242

2243 **F-340 In the interest of safety and reliability of the hazardous liquid and natural gas**  
 2244 **interstate transmission pipeline systems, the ((e))County should take steps to**  
 2245 **protect and preserve the signs that mark pipelines.**

2246

2247 **~~((6.))~~ Natural Gas Distribution Systems**

2248 Natural gas pipelines fall into two major categories: gas transmission lines that transport natural gas from  
 2249 production fields to ~~((local))~~ distribution companies and distribution systems that deliver natural gas from  
 2250 transmission pipelines to retail customers. ~~((The federal government may define certain parts of the natural gas~~

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2251 ~~distribution system that serve large volume gas users as part of the transmission system.))~~ Distribution systems  
 2252 for transporting natural gas are fundamentally different from transmission gas pipelines, and should be regulated  
 2253 based on their design, use, and location.

2254

2255 Gas distribution systems are owned and operated by ~~((local))~~ distribution utilities. Such systems consist of the  
 2256 pipelines that deliver natural gas to end users together with intermediate supply lines. The distribution system is  
 2257 constructed incrementally, with addition of new segments and upgrading of existing lines in numerous small  
 2258 projects. The distribution system is a network that is primarily located in road rights-of-way, where service is  
 2259 available. ~~((Local))~~ Distribution companies are subject to the comprehensive safety regulations administered by  
 2260 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission under state law and regulations and by the ~~((federal))~~  
 2261 United States Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety under federal law and regulations. The  
 2262 rates and services of investor-owned utilities also are subject to comprehensive regulation by the Utilities and  
 2263 Transportation Commission under state law and regulations.

2264

2265 **F-341** King County ~~((recognizes that the))~~ shall use franchise agreements process to  
 2266 require gas distribution ((system is primarily located in road rights-of-way))  
 2267 utilities comply with county, state, and federal safety and health regulations.

2268

2269 **F-342** In the interest of safety and reliability of the natural gas distribution pipeline  
 2270 systems, the ~~((c))~~ County should take steps to protect and preserve the signs that  
 2271 mark pipelines.

2272

2273 **F-343** Structures designed for human occupancy shall not be located within gas  
 2274 distribution pipeline rights-of-way and should be set back from the pipeline to  
 2275 protect public health, safety, and property. No structures shall be located over  
 2276 the pipeline.

2277

2278 ~~((F-344))~~ ~~Permit requirements shall require excavators to ensure adequate protection of~~  
 2279 ~~any facilities that are encountered during their work. This shall include but not~~  
 2280 ~~be limited to adhering to the foreign facility owners requirements for separation~~  
 2281 ~~and backfill, developing joint plans when drilling or boring parallel to foreign~~  
 2282 ~~facilities, and potholing all facilities that will be crossed by drilling or boring.~~

2283

2284 **7-)) Crude Oil Transport by Rail, Truck and Vessel**

2285 Part of the fossil fuel system is the transport of crude oil by rail, truck and vessel. King County and local  
 2286 governments across the United States are facing rapid and significant increases in train traffic carrying crude oil.  
 2287 ~~((According to the Washington State Department of Ecology's 2014 Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study,~~  
 2288 ~~the volume of crude oil transported by rail across the US increased 42-fold from 2008 to 2013.~~

2289

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2290 In Washington State, shipments increased from zero in 2011 to approximately 19 unit trains a week in 2014,  
 2291 each carrying as much as 3 million gallons of Bakken crude, mostly destined to refineries in Washington and  
 2292 California. If the proposed facilities and refinery expansions to accommodate rail imports are permitted and fully  
 2293 built over the next few years, the weekly unit train number could jump to 137 or more. Congress's repeal of the  
 2294 export ban on U.S. produced oil in 2015 has the potential to further increase transportation of Bakken crude  
 2295 through our state.

2296  
 2297 ))Oil trains travel through densely populated areas of King County and pass through a century-old tunnel under  
 2298 downtown Seattle. Many of the trains carry highly volatile Bakken Crude oil, creating risks for catastrophic  
 2299 explosions and loss of life and property in the event of a derailment. The passage of mile-long unit trains delay  
 2300 traffic and emergency vehicle access at numerous at-grade crossing.

2301  
 2302 Oil train routes cross numerous rivers, streams, and aquifers and trace the Puget Sound shoreline, putting aquatic  
 2303 resources and Endangered Species Act-listed salmon at risk. Despite facing impacts and risks from oil transport  
 2304 by rail, and burdens for emergency planning and response, local governments like King County have almost no  
 2305 authority to require disclosure of hazards, establish safety standards for trains passing through their jurisdiction,  
 2306 or require railroads and shipper to pay for mitigation of impacts.

2307  
 2308 King County Office of Emergency Management acts as a regional convener of public and private emergency  
 2309 management entities to plan for, mitigate and respond to oil train spills and explosions. Additionally, King  
 2310 County convenes and leads a coalition of ~~((more than 160 elected))~~ local, state, and Indian tribal leaders known  
 2311 as the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance to advocate for assessment of the full costs and risks of oil and coal  
 2312 transport and coal export on our regional, local and Indian tribal economies, environment, health, and cultural  
 2313 resources.

2314

2315 **F-344a** King County ~~((Office of Emergency Management))~~ shall convene local emergency  
 2316 managers, first responders, railroads and others to prepare for and mitigate the  
 2317 increasing risk of oil spills, fire, and explosions posed by oil transport by rail,  
 2318 truck, and vessel. This work should consider potential risks from related fossil  
 2319 fuel facilities.

2320

2321 **F-344b** King County should advocate for environmental reviews of proposed oil  
 2322 terminals and other related fossil fuel facilities in Washington State to assess  
 2323 and mitigate for area-wide, cumulative risks and impacts to public safety,  
 2324 infrastructure, traffic, health, water supplies, and aquatic resources from  
 2325 increased oil transport by rail, truck, and vessel.

2326

2327 **F-344c** King County should collaborate with local and Indian tribal governments to  
 2328 jointly advocate for stronger federal and state disclosure requirements for  
 2329 hazardous materials being transported by rail, safety requirements and speed  
 2330 limits for tank cars, minimum liability coverage for railroads and oil shippers, and

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2331 financial support for increased local emergency planning and response to oil  
2332 spills, fires, and explosions.  
2333

2334 **((8.)) Fossil Fuels and Fossil Fuel Facilities**

2335 Fossil fuels are petroleum and petroleum products, coal, and natural gas, such as methane, propane and butane,  
2336 derived from prehistoric organic matter and used to generate energy. Fossil fuels do not include non-fuel  
2337 petrochemicals, fuel additives, or renewable fuels. Fossil fuel facilities are commercial facilities used primarily to  
2338 receive, store, refine, process, transfer, wholesale trade, or transport fossil fuels. They do not include individual  
2339 storage facilities for the purposes of retail or direct to consumer sales, facilities or activities for local  
2340 consumption, non-commercial facilities, and uses preempted by federal or state rule or law.

2341  
2342 New or expanded fossil fuel facilities may create significant public health risks, including air pollution causing  
2343 impaired respiratory functions from fine particulates, noise pollution affecting hearing loss and psychological  
2344 health, exposure to heavy metals, and contamination of drinking water sources. These risks may result in  
2345 cancer, premature death, and lung and heart diseases. Fossil fuel facilities also pose a threat to King County's  
2346 ecology through extensive land disturbing activities that cause adverse impacts to natural ecosystems,  
2347 contamination of surface water and groundwater, risks from impacts in areas with seismic and geological  
2348 instability, and destruction of critical habitat for wildlife. New and expanded fossil fuel facilities may create  
2349 congestion at vehicle/train crossings, increase noise levels through additional vehicle trips, and generate dust,  
2350 debris, and odor. Additionally, there have been multiple incidents across the United States and Canada in which  
2351 spills of crude oil from train derailments and tanker ships and natural gas pipeline explosions have caused  
2352 numerous fatalities and illnesses, substantial loss of property, and significant environmental damage.((<sup>†</sup>))  
2353

2354 Fossil fuel extraction, processing, infrastructure, transport, and end use as a fuel contribute significantly to  
2355 climate change and environmental pollution. According to the International Panel on Climate Change, the  
2356 combustion of fossil fuels is the largest human source of global greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2</sup> Washington state  
2357 and King County are also threatened by impacts resulting from climate change, including warming temperatures,  
2358 sea level rise on coastal communities, diminishing snowpack and water availability, ocean acidification, and  
2359 forest decline.<sup>3</sup>  
2360

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((<sup>†</sup>Ordinance 18866))

<sup>2</sup> (IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland.) IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi: 10.1017/9781009157926.004

<sup>3</sup> Ordinance 18866

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2361 Local regulations can address these impacts by ensuring comprehensive environmental review and permitting  
 2362 requirements, particularly for fossil fuel facilities such as terminals, storage facilities, and refining and handling  
 2363 facilities. Federal and State statutes also regulate components of the fossil fuel system, such as the location,  
 2364 construction, and operational conditions for pipelines and railroad lines.

2365

2366 **F-344d King County land use policies, development regulations, and permitting and**  
 2367 **environmental review processes related to fossil fuel facilities shall be designed**  
 2368 **to:**

- 2369 a. ~~((p))~~**Protect public health, safety, and welfare;**  
 2370 b. ~~((m))~~**Mitigate and prepare for disasters;**  
 2371 c. ~~((p))~~**Protect and preserve natural systems;**  
 2372 d. ~~((m))~~**Manage impacts on public services and infrastructure; and**  
 2373 e. ~~((r))~~**Reduce impacts of climate change.**

2374

2375 **F-344e King County shall thoroughly review the full scope of potential impacts of**  
 2376 **proposals for new, modified, or expanded fossil fuel facilities. Fossil fuel**  
 2377 **facilities include commercial facilities used primarily to receive, store, refine,**  
 2378 **process, transfer, wholesale trade, or transport fossil fuels, such as, but not**  
 2379 **limited to bulk terminals, bulk storage facilities, bulk refining, and bulk handling**  
 2380 **facilities.**

2381

2382 **F-344f When reviewing proposals for new, modified or expanded fossil fuel facilities,**  
 2383 **King County shall require comprehensive environmental assessment, and early**  
 2384 **and continuous public notice and comment opportunities. King County shall**  
 2385 **only approve proposals for new, modified, or expanded facilities when:**

- 2386 a. **The proposed facility can confine or mitigate all operational impacts;**  
 2387 b. **The facility can adequately mitigate conflicts with adjacent land uses;**  
 2388 c. **The full scope of environmental impacts, including life cycle greenhouse**  
 2389 **gas emissions and public health, have been evaluated and appropriately**  
 2390 **conditioned or mitigated as necessary, consistent with the County's**  
 2391 **substantive State Environmental Policy Act authority;**  
 2392 d. **The applicant ~~((must comply))~~ has complied with applicable federal and**  
 2393 **state regulations, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and**  
 2394 **Endangered Species Act;**  
 2395 e. **The applicant has demonstrated early, meaningful, and robust**  
 2396 **consultation with the public, surrounding property owners, and with**  
 2397 **Indian tribes to assess impacts to tribal treaty-protected cultural and**  
 2398 **fisheries resources; and**  
 2399 f. **Risks to public health and public safety can be mitigated.**

2400

2401 ~~**((F-344g Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool shall be used as an**~~  
 2402 ~~**important consideration to identify and mitigate impacts of new, modified, or**~~

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2403 ~~expanded fossil fuel facilities. The Equity Impact Review should take into~~  
 2404 ~~consideration the potential effects of a new, modified or expanded fossil fuel~~  
 2405 ~~facility on the health of a population, and how those effects may be different~~  
 2406 ~~within a population.))~~  
 2407  
 2408 **F-344h** King County shall ~~((establish))~~ **implement** a periodic review process for fossil fuel  
 2409 facilities. The periodic review shall be a part of King County’s ongoing  
 2410 enforcement and inspections of fossil fuel facilities, and to assure compliance  
 2411 with applicable conditions, mitigations, and the most up-to-date safety and public  
 2412 health standards. The periodic review process should, subject to applicable law:  
 2413 a. Provide opportunities for public review and comment;  
 2414 b. Evaluate whether the facility is in compliance with current federal, state,  
 2415 and County regulations and implementation of industry-standard best  
 2416 management practices; and  
 2417 c. Allow King County to modify, add, or remove permit conditions to  
 2418 address new circumstances and/or unanticipated fossil fuel  
 2419 facility-generated impacts.

2420  
 2421 **F-344i** Local distribution companies that convey fossil fuels in King County shall  
 2422 prepare and submit a greenhouse gas impact analysis when applying for a new  
 2423 utility franchise agreement or an extension or renewal of an existing utility  
 2424 franchise agreement.  
 2425

## 2426 **~~((B.))~~ Telecommunications**

### 2427 **~~((1.))~~ Telecommunications))**

2428 Various companies provide telecommunications services throughout unincorporated King County, including  
 2429 voice, data, and video on various mediums such as wire, fiber optic, or radio wave. Effective  
 2430 telecommunications services promote and enhance individual information exchange, contribute to a robust  
 2431 regional economy, and afford numerous public services, including delivery of emergency services, education,  
 2432 and opportunities for community involvement.

2433  
 2434 Telecommunication networks are privately owned, publicly regulated entities that are driven by market forces  
 2435 more than statutory requirements. The County has limited control of telecommunication service providers.  
 2436 However, its regulation of rights-of-way and associated franchise agreements with those companies help ensure  
 2437 technical quality, protect customer rights, and support public services.

2438  
 2439 Telecommunications systems will need to grow to continue to support government, business, resident,  
 2440 education, health, service sector, and mobile communication needs, as well as to respond to new technologies.  
 2441 Telecommunication technologies ~~((are changing))~~ change rapidly and will continue to change during the horizon  
 2442 of this plan. The future telecommunication system ~~((may make little distinction between cable, telephone and~~

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2443 ~~cellular)) will build off of the existing telecommunication infrastructure, while utilizing an expanded range of~~  
 2444 ~~radio frequencies transmitted through antennas to improve capacity and access. ((Telecommunication services~~  
 2445 ~~include voice, data, video and other communication services on various mediums including, but not limited to,~~  
 2446 ~~wire, fiber optic or radio wave. Effective telecommunications services are critical to residents in several ways.~~  
 2447 ~~They promote and enhance individual information exchange, contribute to a robust regional economy, and~~  
 2448 ~~afford numerous public services, including delivery of emergency services, education and opportunities for~~  
 2449 ~~community involvement.))~~

2450

2451 King County's 2020 Broadband Access Study states that, for "many in the region, King County is a great place to  
 2452 live, learn, work and play. Yet the region has deep, persistent, and widening inequities – most visible by race  
 2453 and place – that threaten the collective prosperity, where everyone's basic needs are met, and everyone has  
 2454 access to economic opportunity. This holds true for Digital Equity, in which everyone has the technological  
 2455 access and knowledge needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital Equity is  
 2456 increasingly necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential  
 2457 services. Regional collaboration on digital equity solutions with public, private, and civic partners offers an  
 2458 opportunity for change." Consistent with King County's equity and racial and social justice goals, the County is  
 2459 working to advance Digital Equity, such as increasing internet access as discussed later in this section.

2460

2461 **F-345** **Telecommunication services ~~((are to)) shall be encouraged ((as a means)) to~~**  
 2462 **mitigate the transportation impact of development and growth, including**  
 2463 **~~((G))greenhouse ((G))gas ((E))missions.~~**

2464

2465 **F-346** **King County ~~should encourage((s the)) telecommunication service providers to~~**  
 2466 **engage in long-term planning for telecommunications construction,**  
 2467 **reconstruction, and facility upgrades, including provisions to ensure that the**  
 2468 **system's capacity, design, and equipment will allow users to take advantage of**  
 2469 **innovative uses, services, and technology.**

2470

2471 **F-347** **Telecommunication companies and the ~~((e))County should coordinate activities~~**  
 2472 **when facilities are being installed or road construction projects are scheduled.**

2473

2474 **F-348** **~~((Long term planning for telecommunications systems by the)) King County~~**  
 2475 **regulations should encourage telecommunication service providers ((should**  
 2476 **allow)) to plan and provide for uninterrupted service during natural disasters.**

2477

2478 **F-349** **Co-location of telecommunication facilities is encouraged to reduce the**  
 2479 **unnecessary proliferation of individual, single-user towers. Co-location shall be**  
 2480 **required unless an applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the**



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- 2481 ((e))County that collocation on an existing tower is not feasible and not  
 2482 consistent with service quality and access.  
 2483
- 2484 **F-350** Although visual impacts are always an important consideration in the decision to  
 2485 approve or deny a proposal, King County shall give greater weight to the visual  
 2486 impacts of telecommunication facilities proposed to be located on  
 2487 residentially-zoned lands or in the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands. In  
 2488 addition, the visual impacts of proposals for an individual tower with a single  
 2489 user shall be given greater weight than proposals to collocate facilities.  
 2490
- 2491 **F-351** King County considers the placement of telecommunication facilities within  
 2492 street rights-of-way as the preferred alternative to the construction of facilities on  
 2493 private property. Regulatory standards shall require placement in street  
 2494 rights-of-way, especially within residential neighborhoods and Rural Areas,  
 2495 unless such a location is not feasible or not consistent with service quality and  
 2496 access.  
 2497
- 2498 **((2.)) Cable Services**  
 2499 ((King County Ordinance 10159 dictates current policy for cable services. It states in part: “it is the County’s  
 2500 policy to promote the widespread availability of cable service and diverse information to County residents and to  
 2501 encourage the development of cable systems and cable technology as a means of communication between and  
 2502 among members of the public and public institutions.” The county’s cable-related needs are expressed in the  
 2503 following policies:)) King County Code Chapter 6.27A establishes regulations for companies using County  
 2504 rights-of-way to provide cable television services to customers in unincorporated areas via franchise agreements.  
 2505 As of 2023, King County has franchise agreements with two cable companies, Comcast and WAVE Broadband.  
 2506  
 2507
- 2508 **F-352** Long-term planning for cable systems should include service to all areas of the  
 2509 county ((which)) that meets the minimum density established in the cable  
 2510 company’s franchise agreement and ((the county’s Cable Television Ordinance))  
 2511 King County Code Chapter 6.27A.  
 2512
- 2513 **F-353** Cable companies should provide services that meet the cable-related needs and  
 2514 interests of all segments of the community, taking into account the cost of  
 2515 meeting such needs and interests.  
 2516
- 2517 **F-354** Cable companies should take proactive steps to ensure that there is widespread  
 2518 availability of and equitable access to cable service. Cable companies should  
 2519 ensure information is culturally((-))\_appropriate and made available to ((residents  
 2520 of the county, especially low income and limited-English proficient

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2521 communities)) county residents, especially those with low incomes and/or that  
 2522 speak a language(s) other than English.

2523

2524 **F-355** ((The goal of I)) Long-term cable planning should ((be)) support:

2525 a. \_\_\_\_\_ ((a)) A high-capacity, state-of-the-art system((-);

2526 b. \_\_\_\_\_ Installation and activation of ((T)) two-way capacity ((should be installed  
 2527 and activated.))

2528 c. \_\_\_\_\_ Interconnection of ((C)) cable systems ((should be interconnected)) to  
 2529 other communications systems((- They should be designed to be)); and

2530 d. \_\_\_\_\_ ("open"; that is, the systems should be) Open systems, usable by  
 2531 many, for a variety of purposes.

2532

2533 **F-356** Public uses of the cable system should be expanded as the system is upgraded.

2534

2535 **((3.)) Internet Access**

2536 Increased high-speed (or broadband) internet access and ((R)) rapidly changing technologies ((are providing))  
 2537 provide opportunities for alternative work environments and lifestyles ((as more people transmit and receive  
 2538 information through the internet)). ((Although there is a growing interest in the use of computer technologies,  
 2539 few new developments are including high-speed internet access lines or home cabling. King County encourages  
 2540 private partnering between developers, builders and communication providers to expand the opportunities for  
 2541 access to the internet.)) In King County and nationwide, people without broadband internet service are at a  
 2542 growing disadvantage when it comes to education, health care, access to government services, the job market,  
 2543 and civic and cultural engagement. Equal access to technology can help improve the quality of everyone's life.

2544

2545 In 2020, the King County Broadband Access Study was completed, which evaluated the availability and  
 2546 accessibility of broadband internet services for King County residents. The study:

- 2547 1. Assessed the broadband infrastructure and services available and accessible to the community;
- 2548 2. Identified unserved locations (a location that does not have a broadband connection available) and  
 2549 underserved populations (residents who have broadband service available to them, but they cannot  
 2550 afford to buy it, or they have some other barrier to using broadband, such as lack of digital literacy or  
 2551 lack of access to broadband-enabled devices); and
- 2552 3. Included data collection, analysis, findings, and recommended solutions across multiple demographics.

2553

2554 King County is exploring and implementing actions to enable expansion of internet and broadband access to  
 2555 more county residents. For example, King County's Institutional Network (I-Net) provides broadband to eligible  
 2556 government agencies such as schools, libraries, courts, public safety groups, and public health facilities. King  
 2557 County's Institutional Network (I-Net) has over 2,000 miles of fiber installed, connecting to approximately 300  
 2558 public facilities. I-Net is expanding access to broadband to ensure all nonprofits, community, and educational  
 2559 organizations have the information technology capacity needed to deliver government services to effectively  
 2560 serve all communities so they can have full participation in society, democracy, and the economy. Focusing on

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2561 advancing Best Start for Kids and healthier communities, I-Net also continues working with nonprofits,  
 2562 government, and educational institutions to bring “last mile” connectivity, which continues to be a barrier.

2563

2564 In addition, the County understands the importance of state and other local organizations and their initiatives to  
 2565 expand broadband access within King County. The County is creating partnerships with these entities to help  
 2566 make high-speed broadband a reality for everyone in King County.

2567

2568 **F-357** **Developers should collaborate with major employers to create developments that**  
 2569 **facilitate and encourage telecommuting by installing high-speed internet lines**  
 2570 **during construction of the project.**

2571

2572 **F-358** **Builders and architects should work with the telecommunication industry to**  
 2573 **design and retrofit state-of-the art cable-ready homes and offices ((and)), as well**  
 2574 **as community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, and**  
 2575 **other buildings that serve low-income residents.**

2576

2577 **F-358a** **King County should explore opportunities to increase access to broadband**  
 2578 **internet services to underserved and unserved areas, such as expanding the I-**  
 2579 **Net network, pursuing grant funding to support infrastructure investments,**  
 2580 **partnering with service providers to expand coverage, supporting fiber optic**  
 2581 **cable installation in the Eastrail corridor, and marketing to underserved**  
 2582 **communities.**

2583

2584 ((Wireless internet connections, also referred to as “hotspots,” first conceived in 1993, now number over 300,000  
 2585 nationally. A hotspot is a location (park, coffee shop, airport, office building, etc.) that offers Wi-Fi access.  
 2586 Hotspots allow the public to use laptop computers, Wi-Fi phones or other suitable portable devices to access the  
 2587 Internet. Ninety percent of the hotspots in the nation are free. Of the estimated 150 million laptops and 14  
 2588 million personal digital assistants sold annually, most include Wi-Fi capability.))

2589

2590 **F-358b** **King County should increase wireless capabilities at County-owned facilities and**  
 2591 **sites, such as County parks, for public access, where appropriate.**

2592

2593 **F-359** **King County encourages public and private organizations to create wireless**  
 2594 **internet connections where the public can access the Internet, including in**  
 2595 **community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, libraries,**  
 2596 **schools, and other buildings that serve ((low-income)) residents with low**  
 2597 **incomes.**

2598