



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**October 10, 2006**

**Motion 12362**

**Proposed No.** 2006-0328.2

**Sponsors** Constantine, Ferguson, Phillips  
and Patterson

1                   A MOTION relating to county efforts to reduce greenhouse  
2                   gas emissions, mitigate their impacts and prepare for  
3                   climate change.

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WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that global  
7 warming pollution by humans is among the most significant problems facing the world  
8 today, and

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WHEREAS, climate scientists at the University of Washington predict that  
11 average temperatures in the northwest will increase approximately one degree fahrenheit  
per decade in the twenty-first century, and

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WHEREAS, climate change in the northwest is expected to result in reduced  
15 snowpack and associated drinking water supplies, changes in winter flooding patterns,  
16 reduced summer stream flows for fish and altered habitat for other wildlife, and

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WHEREAS, in September 1988, Proposed Ordinance 88-662 was introduced with  
the intent of creating an office of science and technology planning to address the issues of  
ozone depletion and global warming, and

18           WHEREAS, in 2002 the King County executive signed Executive Order PHL 10-  
19           1(AEO), by which the executive created a countywide initiative to inventory and reduce  
20           global warming pollution caused by greenhouse gas emissions ("carbon" or "carbon  
21           equivalents"), and

22           WHEREAS, in January 2002, the council adopted Motion 11364 that approved  
23           participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and supported the executive's  
24           development of an action plan to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and targeted air  
25           pollutants from county operations, and

26           WHEREAS, the county has created one of the most comprehensive emissions  
27           inventories, also known as a carbon inventory, of any local government in the United  
28           States, and this work has built organizational expertise and resources in the departments  
29           of King County for future emissions reduction planning and sale of carbon credits, and

30           WHEREAS, actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can also benefit local  
31           economies and improve quality of life through increased energy efficiency, sustainable  
32           transportation, waste reduction, water conservation and open space protection, and

33           WHEREAS, management practices at the Cedar Hills landfill prevent more than  
34           three hundred thousand metric tons of methane-based greenhouse gas emissions annually  
35           from entering the atmosphere, and

36           WHEREAS, the county has initiated a gas-to-energy project at Cedar Hills that  
37           will convert methane gas to energy and further reduce gas emissions, and

38           WHEREAS, the county has also undertaken innovative energy cogeneration  
39           projects at its wastewater treatment plants, and

40 WHEREAS, King County Metro Transit provides more than one hundred million  
41 trips annually with a fuel efficient, environmentally friendly alternative to the private  
42 automobile, and

43 WHEREAS, King County Metro Transit received a 2004 National Clean Bus  
44 Leadership Award from the Environmental and Energy Study Institute for its role in  
45 developing a market for ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, and

46 WHEREAS, King County Metro Transit spurred development of an important  
47 new technology and realized a fuel savings of approximately twenty percent in 2004 with  
48 one of the first major fleet purchases of over two hundred diesel/electric hybrid buses,  
49 and

50 WHEREAS, the county, in partnership with private landowners and  
51 nongovernmental organizations, has protected more than one hundred thousand acres of  
52 forest land, and provides incentives and technical assistance for restoration of rural and  
53 urban forest land, and

54 WHEREAS, long-term forest uses can help to sequester carbon emissions that  
55 would otherwise be released into the atmosphere, and

56 WHEREAS, King County is the first local government in the nation to develop a  
57 Land Use, Transportation, Air Quality and Health ("LUTAQH") Initiative, that considers  
58 the impacts of development on air quality and human health, and

59 WHEREAS, LUTAQH Initiative found that higher density residential  
60 neighborhoods with a mixed land uses and a connected street network are associated with  
61 less automobile use, less air pollution, fewer greenhouse gas emissions and less energy  
62 consumption, and

63 WHEREAS, the King County Comprehensive Plan focuses new development  
64 within urban areas which helps to reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated  
65 greenhouse gas emissions, and

66 WHEREAS, the region is currently updating Vision 2020 and King County is  
67 preparing for the next major update of its Comprehensive Plan, and

68 WHEREAS, on October 27, 2005, King County and its conference partners  
69 hosted a climate change conference with the goal to engage a broad cross-section of  
70 Washington State governments, businesses, tribes, farmers, nonprofits and the  
71 community at large in a dialogue about climate change impacts and potential adaptations,  
72 and

73 WHEREAS, the executive is developing a "Climate Change Toolkit" with  
74 guidelines, information and technical assistance on topics including emissions  
75 inventories, use of alternative fuels in transit and fleet management, energy co-generation  
76 at wastewater treatment plants and landfills, availability of and uses for reclaimed water,  
77 forest protection and restoration in urban and rural environments, land use planning to  
78 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and guidelines for adaptation of King County  
79 operations and policies to predicted climate changes, and

80 WHEREAS, the mitigation element of this toolkit will be based on the action plan  
81 created in response to emissions inventories conducted since 2002, and

82 WHEREAS, the adaptation element of this toolkit is being developed by the  
83 executive and is being refined in collaboration with the University of Washington  
84 Climate Impacts Group, the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives, the

85 Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, local governments within King County and others  
86 initiating actions to address climate change, and

87 WHEREAS, in March 2006, the executive issued four executive orders to King  
88 County departments outlining actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for  
89 climate change in four policy categories: land use, environmental management,  
90 renewable energy, public transportation and use of alternative fuels, and

91 WHEREAS, the city of Seattle has initiated a national campaign to encourage  
92 cities to endorse the United States Conference of Mayors climate protection agreement,  
93 and

94 WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors climate protection  
95 agreement includes commitments to strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in  
96 local communities through actions ranging from antisprawl land use policies to urban  
97 forest restoration projects to public information campaigns, to urge state governments and  
98 the federal government to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas  
99 emission reduction target of the Kyoto Protocol, and to urge the United States Congress  
100 to pass greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission  
101 trading system, and

102 WHEREAS, metropolitan counties, with larger land areas, a mix of urban and  
103 rural land uses, regional transportation systems and regional infrastructure have a unique  
104 and complementary role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for  
105 the impacts of climate change;

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

107           A. King County shall work with other counties through cooperative  
108 intergovernmental frameworks like the International Council on Local Environmental  
109 Initiatives and the Washington State Association of Counties to develop a model climate  
110 change resolution tailored to climate change actions that can adopted by county  
111 governments;

112           B. King County shall work with other counties active in climate change  
113 initiatives and with national organizations such as the National Association of Counties to  
114 kick-off a national, Counties Climate Change Initiative as a companion effort to the  
115 United States Conference of Mayors climate protection agreement;

116           C. King County shall finalize a Climate Change Toolkit by February 1, 2007 and  
117 make it available to local governments throughout the nation as part of a Counties  
118 Climate Change Initiative;

119           D. The executive shall develop a King County Climate Change Mitigation and  
120 Preparedness Plan ("the plan") and file eleven copies with the clerk of the council by  
121 February 1, 2007, for distribution to all councilmembers;

122           E. The plan shall include actions related to carbon inventories, land use,  
123 environmental management, emergency preparedness, energy use and transportation, and  
124 shall include specific performance measures for recommended actions;

125           F. Implementation of the plan and identified performance measures shall be  
126 monitored, and results and recommended changes shall be reported to the council  
127 annually as part of a King County Climate Change Report ("the annual report"), eleven  
128 copies of which shall be filed with the clerk of council by February 1 of each subsequent  
129 year, for distribution to all councilmembers;

- 130 G. With respect to emissions targets and annual emissions inventories:
- 131 1. King County shall commit to reduce net carbon emissions from county
- 132 operations by six percent below year 2000 emissions by the year 2010;
- 133 2. King County shall continue to monitor its own carbon emissions annually,
- 134 and report its findings as part of the annual report;
- 135 H. With respect to the impacts of land use on greenhouse gas emissions and
- 136 climate change:
- 137 1. King County shall use land use and transportation plans, policies and
- 138 regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by preventing sprawl and associated
- 139 vehicle miles traveled, encouraging transit- and pedestrian-oriented development,
- 140 conserving forest lands and maintaining vegetative cover;
- 141 2. King County shall continue to support forestry technical assistance, tax
- 142 incentives, and property acquisitions as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- 143 through carbon sequestration;
- 144 3. As part of updating King County's Shoreline Master program, King County
- 145 shall consider the impacts of climate change on shoreline erosion;
- 146 4. As part of the scoping motion for the 2008 King County Comprehensive Plan
- 147 update, the executive shall outline a work plan for reviewing and updating policies
- 148 related to air quality, climate and land use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to
- 149 address impacts of climate change; and
- 150 5. It is the council's intent, through participation in the Growth Management
- 151 Planning Board's Vision 2020 Update, to raise awareness of the relationship between land

152 use and climate change and the role local governments can play in reducing greenhouse  
153 gas emissions;

154 I. With respect to environmental management and emergency preparedness:

155 1. King County shall maximize the creation of resources from waste products  
156 such as gases produced by wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal in a manner that  
157 reduces greenhouse gas emissions and produces renewable energy;

158 2. King County, consistent with the Regional Wastewater Services Plan, shall  
159 manage its wastewater treatment facilities and operations in a manner that minimizes  
160 greenhouse gas emissions, maximizes opportunities for the production of renewable  
161 energy and produces reclaimed water that can be used for industrial and irrigation  
162 purposes to help offset the potential impacts of climate change on summer stream flows  
163 and water supplies;

164 3. King County shall analyze the potential impacts of climate change on winter  
165 floods, and update its flood plan, capital improvement projects and emergency plans as  
166 necessary to respond to projected changes in winter flooding;

167 4. As part of the scoping motion for the 2008 King County Comprehensive Plan  
168 update, the executive shall outline a work plan for reviewing and updating policies for  
169 water resources, erosion and landslide hazards and fish and wildlife to address impacts of  
170 climate change;

171 J. With respect to energy use:

172 1. The executive shall develop a King County energy plan and file eleven copies  
173 of the plan with the clerk of the council by February 1, 2007, for distribution to all  
174 councilmembers. The energy plan should include specific objectives and performance



175 measures for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving energy, increasing  
176 renewable energy purchases and continuing development of renewable energy sources  
177 including cogeneration projects;

178 2. King County shall set the following initial targets for renewable energy use:

179 a. At least fifty percent of King County's total nontransit energy use shall come  
180 from or be offset by renewable energy sources by the year 2012;

181 b. At least thirty-five percent of transit energy use shall come from efficiencies  
182 and renewable energy sources by the year 2015;

183 c. At least fifty percent of transit energy use shall come from efficiencies and  
184 renewable energy sources by the year 2020; and

185 d. The departments responsible for energy purchasing are directed to make this  
186 transition on a schedule that considers cost, available funding and public benefit  
187 associated with such purposes;

188 3. The county shall develop and monitor performance measures for use of  
189 renewable energy and report on these performance measures in the annual report.

190 Reporting shall include total energy used, the percentage coming from renewable sources  
191 and updated information on cost and feasibility of meeting initial targets for conversion  
192 to renewable energy sources; and

193 K. With respect to transportation and use of alternative fuels:

194 1. In the short-term, the county shall set a target of increasing the amount of  
195 biodiesel used in all county diesel vehicles to twenty percent;

196 2. The county shall seek to use alternative fuels and hybrid and electric vehicles  
197 as technology and funding allow, with the intent of transitioning to a county fleet of

198 vehicles and buses powered entirely by more climate-friendly renewable energy sources  
199 as technically feasible;

200 3. The county will implement aggressive transit, land use and transportation-  
201 demand strategies, such as commute trip reduction and transit-oriented development, to  
202 encourage King County residents to use public transit as an alternative to single-  
203 occupancy vehicles;

204 4. The county shall design and implement a measurement program quantifying  
205 the progress of the coordinated strategies on increasing public transit ridership, biking  
206 and walking as a percentage of average King County daily travel and report on them as  
207 part of the annual report; and

208 5. The executive shall include a detailed approach and performance measures

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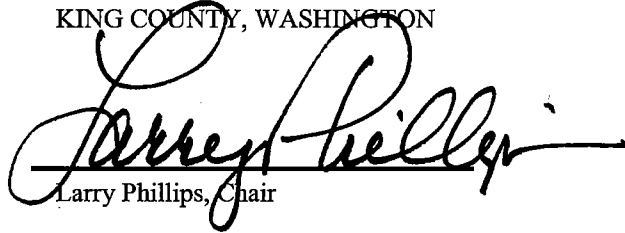
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209 for implementing transportation and alternative fuels actions in the plan, and report on  
210 them as part of the annual report.  
211

Motion 12362 was introduced on 7/24/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/9/2006, by the following vote:

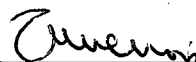
Yes: 6 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Constantine and Ms. Patterson  
No: 0  
Excused: 3 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn and Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments**      None