



King County

**Memorandum  
Metropolitan King County Council**

TO: Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee Members

From: Erin Auzins, Council Staff

RE: Proposed Ordinance 2013-0408, Rural Economic Strategies – Amendment 1

Amendment 1 to Proposed Ordinance 2013-0408 would make several changes to Proposed Ordinance 2013-0408, Rural Economic Strategies Plan.

Changes to the Ordinance:

The ordinance would change the action by Council, to adopting, rather than approving and adopting, the Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Plan.

A new section would be added to the ordinance. This section would require the executive to transmit a report, by June 1, 2015 that would include:

1. A prioritized list of actions, projects, programs, etc. that would implement the RES Plan.
2. Measures and targets (or framework) to evaluate effectiveness of the RES plan.
3. Plan for engagement of community service areas, the public and stakeholders.
4. Plan and timeline for evaluation and reporting to Council.

Changes to the Attachment:

Changes to Attachment A, the RES plan, would include:

Section of Plan	Proposed Change
Introduction	Adds an introduction
RES Goals #5	Adds an additional goal regarding revenue options for rural roadways
Foundation Strategy A	Adds language regarding assessment of impacts on unincorporated residents for implementation of the RES
Foundation Strategy B	Adds language on Rural Cities, and clarifies support for traditional activities and evolving uses and opportunities
Foundation Strategy C	Adds a statement regarding coordination of future action and updates of the RES with the Community Service Areas (CSA) through their work plans. This ties the RES back to direction in the comprehensive

<b>Section of Plan</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>
	plan to use the CSA's a role in rural economic development
Foundation Strategy D	Revises language regarding economic development compatible with rural areas, and adds language regarding consistency with the Economic Development Council and PSRC
Foundation Strategy F	Adds home-based businesses to the strategy regarding incentives, including grants, loans, taxes or other incentives
Agriculture Strategy #3	Adds language regarding review of value-added products regulations
Agriculture Strategy #5	Adds language regarding preserving the opportunity for farming and farmland
Agriculture Strategy #6	Adds language regarding use of TDR's, conservation easements and current use taxation to encourage agricultural activities
Agriculture Strategy #12	Adds a new strategy regarding revenue options for projects that maintain and improve infrastructure that increases the viability and sustainability of existing agricultural land.
Agriculture Strategy #13	Adds a new strategy regarding projects and policies that improve farmland drainage
Agriculture Strategy #14	Adds a new strategy regarding programs and organizations that provide technical assistance regarding conservation of agricultural lands
Agriculture Strategy #15	Adds a new strategy regarding programs that provide financial assistance for maintenance and operation of existing farmland and buildings
Agriculture Strategy #16	Adds a new strategy regarding programs and policies that encourage growing food and other crops and protecting fertile soils
Agriculture Strategy #17	Adds a new strategy regarding support for the local wine economy.
Forestry Strategy #8	Adds a new strategy regarding use of incentives to encourage forest conservation, including TDR's, conservation easements and current use taxation
Forestry Strategy #9	Adds a new strategy regarding expansion of use of incentives for forest preservation and open space
Equestrian Strategy #3	Revises language regarding equestrian trail connectivity
Equestrian Strategy #4	Revises language regarding infrastructure for equestrian uses
Home-Based Business cluster	Adds a new cluster and a series of strategies to address this economic cluster, which is identified by the 2012 KCCP and the overall RES goals in this update (page 3-4) <sup>1</sup>
Recreation and Tourism Strategy #2	Adds language regarding the wine industry
Recreation and Tourism Strategy #3	Adds language regarding potential conflicts between recreation activities and agricultural uses, particularly during harvest periods

<sup>1</sup> KCCP policy ED-602 identifies home-based businesses as a stand-alone rural economic cluster. The original 2005 RES plan, as well as the draft 2009 update, included strategies for the Home-based Business Cluster. However, this proposed RES update that was transmitted to the Council removed the Home-based Business strategies from the plan entirely. Amendment 1 would restore these strategies.

<b>Section of Plan</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>
Recreation and Tourism Strategy #4	Revises language regarding economic development that is consistent with the County's policies
Recreation and Tourism Strategy #5	Adds a new strategy regarding integration of economic development and recreation with forestry uses
Commercial and Industrial Strategy #3-5 (old numbering)	Removed from Commercial and Industrial cluster and added to Rural Cities cluster (with further revisions)
Commercial and Industrial Strategy #5	Adds a new strategy regarding support for commercial and industrial facilities that are designated as projects of statewide significance
Commercial and Industrial Strategy #6	Adds a new strategy regarding information technology related businesses
Rural Cities cluster	Separated the Rural Cities cluster from the Commercial and Industrial cluster. Ordinance 17485 included direction to address Rural Cities as autonomous jurisdictions. The related strategies for this cluster were moved out of the Commercial and Industrial cluster and revised. These strategies focus on partnering with Rural Cities, chambers of commerce or other organizations
Technical Changes	Revises the titles of the clusters to match the KCCP

Attachments:

1. Strikethrough version of Attachment A
2. Amendment 1, with Attachment





Attachment A 2013-0408  
 Revised December 2, 2014

### **Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Plan Update 2013**

King County is the local government provider for people who live and work in the rural area, committed to fostering and improving economic opportunities in this area. The County is updating the Rural Economic Strategies (RES) to both meet evolving economic conditions and to ensure implementation of policies relating to the rural economy within the 2012 King County Comprehensive Plan update. This RES update was directed by Ordinance 17485, which adopted the 2012 Comprehensive Plan update. This document is organized by the overall mission and goals of the RES, overarching foundational strategies, and a series of specific strategies that cover clusters of the rural economy identified in Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan. 2009 Policies updated consistent with the 2012 Comprehensive Plan.

Mission: Sustain and enhance the long-term economic viability of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands consistent with the unique character and lifestyle of rural King County.

#### **Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Goals:**

1. Implement the intent and policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan and the objectives of the King County Strategic Plan Economic Growth and Built Environment Goal to support a sustainable and vibrant rural economy, within existing resources.
2. Support the diversity and richness of the rural economy by effectively engaging farmers, foresters, rural business owners, rural communities, and rural related organizations in an on-going dialogue.
3. Advocate for and partner with projects and programs that promote the economic viability of existing and start-up businesses in the Rural Economic Clusters: Agriculture, Forestry, Equestrian, Home-Based Business, Tourism/Recreation, and Rural Commercial Neighborhood Centers/Rural Towns/Rural Cities.
4. Promote opportunities for rural residents to both live and work in the rural area and on natural resource lands.
5. Identify new state revenue authority to fund the needs of rural roadways, as defined in the county's Transportation Needs Report, in support of the rural economy.

#### **Foundation Strategies:**

- A. County Department Application: County Departments recognize the importance of sustaining the rural economy and consider the applicable Rural Economic Strategies during development and implementation of their respective strategic plans and programs. When transmitting legislation that implements the RES plan, County Departments will include an assessment of impacts, if any, on the unincorporated area residents.
- B. Policy and Regulatory Support: County policy, regulations and programs should be reviewed and developed in partnership with appropriate community stakeholders including Rural Cities, to both support the preservation and enhancement of traditional rural economic activities and lifestyles, while and supporting evolving compatible commercial uses and job opportunities.

- C. Communication: Solicit input, exchange ideas, inform and facilitate dialogue to address solutions to identified issues between the rural residents, rural business owners, Rural Cities, organizations and the county. Coordinate evaluation of and updates to the RES with the Community Service Areas Work Plans.
- D. Partnerships: Participate and/or support collaborations that encourage ~~compatible~~ economic development ~~in~~ that is compatible with the rural areas of the County and the Puget Sound Region. Recognize and be consistent with the work of the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County and Puget Sound Regional Council, where supportive of rural economic development.
- E. Business and Technical Assistance: Partner with professional organizations and provide referrals to rural businesses regarding business and technical assistance, resources, training, and networking opportunities.
- F. Incentives: Identify and inform the public about grants, low-interest loans, tax, and other incentives that encourage agriculture, forest-based, home-based businesses, historic property redevelopment, and other rural business development consistent with ecological values and rural character.
- G. Performance Management: Identify and track rural indicators and trends to help direct policies, the rural economic strategies, and actions related to the rural economy.

#### Rural Economic Clusters Strategies

##### **Agriculture: Strengthen and enhance the agricultural cluster-raising of crops and livestock and production of value-added goods in both the Rural Area and the Agriculture Production Districts.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support agriculture and its infrastructure.
2. Assist implementation of the Agriculture Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain, conserve and expand agricultural lands and infrastructure.
3. Support and partner with programs that promote new and existing markets for agricultural products and value-added goods. Review regulations that affect the start-up and operations of businesses that produce value-added agricultural products and propose regulatory changes if appropriate.
4. Support and partner with programs that provide business, marketing and technical assistance to businesses within the agricultural cluster.
5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the agriculture cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable agricultural practices, and to preserve the opportunity for farming and farmland.
6. Support incentives, including transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements and current use taxation, to encourage agricultural activities in the Agriculture Production Districts (APDs) and in lands that could be farmed outside the APDs.
7. Support and partner with programs that provide assistance to new farmers with attention to minorities, low-income residents, and immigrants.

8. Solicit partners and support businesses or programs conducting efforts to develop secondary markets for added farm revenue, including but not limited to, manure digester systems, and agri-tourism.
9. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all County residents and businesses on the importance of buying local produce and value-added products, including support for farmer's markets.
10. Support and partner with programs that promote local food access to institutions, School Districts, hospitals, food banks.
11. Support incentives to locate infrastructure such as food processing, farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop offs near Transit Oriented Developments (TOD), and within Rural Cities, to reduce costs.
12. Use new state revenue authority to fund capital projects, as prioritized in the county's Transportation Needs Report, that maintain and improve farm, roadway, technology and other related infrastructure, thereby increasing the viability and sustainability of existing agricultural land.
13. Support and implement projects and policies that improve the drainage for farmland, increasing the viability of existing agricultural land.
14. Support and partner with programs and organizations, such as the King Conservation District, that provide technical assistance to landowners regarding conservation of agricultural lands.
15. Support and partner with programs that provide financial assistance with maintenance and operations of existing farmland and buildings. Examples include the award-winning Barn Again Initiative to preserve and restore historic barns in rural King County, and programs to sublease farmland-to other farmers.
16. In the APDs, identify programs and policies that encourage growing food and other crops, and protect the County's most fertile soils.
17. Support and implement projects and policies that improve the local wine economy.

**Forestry: Strengthen and diversify the forestry cluster while maintaining healthy forest ecosystems.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support forestry and its infrastructure.
2. Assist implementation of the Rural Forest Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain and conserve forests and needed forest infrastructure.
3. Support and partner with programs that support market development for forestry products and value-added goods.
4. Support and partner with programs that provide business and technical assistance to small forest landowners and forest-related businesses.
5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the forest cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable forestry practices.
6. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all County residents and businesses on the importance of buying locally grown/locally milled wood.

7. Support and partner with programs that provide incentives to landowners for forest health improvement.
8. Support incentives, including transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements and current use taxation, to encourage forest conservation.
9. Evaluate expansion of the use of incentives for forest preservation and open space, such as the TDR program.

**Equestrian: Sustain and enhance the diversity of equine uses that support the equestrian economic cluster.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support the business and recreational aspects of the equestrian cluster and its infrastructure.
2. Support and partner with programs that educate horse owners and potential purchasers on best equestrian husbandry and manure management practices.
3. Encourage and promote the continuation and, where consistent with the County's policies, expansion of equestrian trail connectivity throughout King County and the region as appropriate.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs from horse owners, equestrian business owners, and related rural organizations to ensure that policies and regulations support appropriate equestrian uses and ~~the needed~~ associated infrastructure.
5. Support and partner with the communities that promote equestrian businesses, tourism, and recreational opportunities, including trail connectivity.

**Home-Based Business: Strengthen and enhance the diverse home-based business cluster with uses ranging from sole proprietorships to cottage industries to natural resource-based support businesses.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible home-based businesses and cottage industries.
2. Support and partner with chambers of commerce, small business assistance centers, and other programs that provide business and technical assistance to home-based businesses and cottage industries.
3. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the home-based business cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are an appropriate use and scale for the area being proposed.
4. Encourage and support information technology related home-based businesses, and the high-speed data infrastructure necessary to operate those businesses.

**Tourism and Recreation and Tourism: Strengthen and enhance the tourism and recreation cluster while ensuring that the business use and scale is compatible with the area in which the activity or activities are located or provided.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible tourism and recreation opportunities including agricultural and forest tourism and value-added programs related to the production of food, flowers, forest products and wine in the County.



2. Lead and/or partner in efforts to unify regional tourism efforts to maximize program effectiveness and support individual tourism or recreation related businesses, such as the local wine industry.
3. Support and partner with efforts to provide both private and public local recreational opportunities, as well support appropriate regional connectivity of recreational uses and trails, with consideration for safety between conflicting uses during harvest periods in agricultural areas.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the tourism and recreation cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are ~~an appropriate use and scale~~ consistent with the County's policies for the area being proposed.
5. Support and promote programs and initiatives that integrate economic development and recreation with forestry uses.

**Commercial and Industrial: Strengthen and enhance the commercial and industrial cluster to sustain compatible businesses on sites designated for commercial or industrial uses within the following land use classifications: 1) Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, 2) Rural Towns, ~~3) Rural Cities/Rural City Urban Growth Area, 4) Industrial, and 5) Mining/Mineral Resource Lands.~~**

1. Promote and support compatible businesses in the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers in their role of providing ~~limited~~ retail goods and services for the surrounding rural area.
2. Promote and partner with the Rural Towns to support economic vitality in their role of providing retail businesses and services for the surrounding rural area.
- ~~3. Sustain partnerships with the Rural Cities, chambers of commerce, and other related organizations on programs that support businesses and provide services and employment for the residents in the surrounding rural area.~~
- ~~4. Sustain partnerships with the cities to support and maintain the economic vitality of businesses located within the Urban Growth Areas.~~
- ~~5. Sustain partnerships with rural and small cities within the county to promote appropriate regional tourism efforts.~~
3. Encourage mining and mineral resource businesses to employ operational practices that protect environmental quality, fisheries, and wildlife, in balance with the needs of the industry.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the commercial and industrial cluster to formulate policy and as appropriate, regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are of appropriate use and scale for the area.
5. Promote and support regional industrial and commercial facilities in the rural area that are designated as projects of statewide significance under Chapter 43.157 RCW.
6. Promote and support compatible information technology related businesses.

**Rural Cities: Partner with the Rural Cities to strengthen and enhance their economic development efforts as they fulfill their crucial role as local urban centers for employment and centers of commerce providing for the retail and service needs of the rural area.**

1. Sustain partnerships with the Rural Cities, chambers of commerce, and other related organizations on County plans, policies and programs that support rural city economic development and businesses that provide goods, services and employment for the residents in the surrounding rural area.
2. Sustain partnerships to support and maintain the economic vitality of Rural Cities, and the businesses located within them.
3. Sustain partnerships with Rural Cities to promote appropriate tourism efforts.

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December 2, 2014

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Sponsor: Dembowski

Proposed No.: 2013-0408

1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2013-0408, VERSION 1**

2 On page 2, on line 12, after "is hereby", strike "approved and"

3 On page 2, after line 12, insert:

4 "SECTION 2. A. The executive shall transmit a report that identifies the next  
5 steps in the implementation of the rural economic strategies plan. The report shall  
6 include:

7 1. The projects, programs, initiatives or other actions that implement the rural  
8 economic strategies plan for each economic cluster, also identifying the executive's  
9 priorities, including justification for identified priorities, in the implementation of the  
10 rural economic strategies plan;

11 2. The measures and targets, or a specific timeline for identification of the  
12 measures and targets, to evaluate the effectiveness of the rural economic strategies plan  
13 implementation;

14 3. The plan for engagement of community service areas, the public and  
15 stakeholders in the implementation of the rural economic strategies plan; and

16 4. A plan and timeline for the ongoing evaluation and reporting to the council  
17 regarding the implementation of the rural economic strategies plan.



18 B. The report and motion acknowledging receipt of the report shall be transmitted  
19 to the council by June 1, 2015, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy to  
20 the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all  
21 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the transportation,  
22 economy and environment committee, or its successor."

23 Delete Attachment A, Rural Economic Strategies Plan 2013, and insert new Attachment  
24 A, Rural Economic Strategies Plan, revised December 2, 2014

25 **EFFECT: Section 1 of the ordinance is amended to adopt the Rural Economic**  
26 **Strategies (RES) plan, rather than approve and adopt. This reflects the direction in**  
27 **Ordinance 17485 to adopt an update of the RES.**

28 **Section 2 of the ordinance directs the next steps in the implementation of the Rural**  
29 **Economic Strategies.**

30 **Attachment A is amended to add an introduction, and to add additional strategies**  
31 **for each economic cluster.**

**Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Plan Update 2013**

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**Foundation Strategies:**

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4. Support and partner with programs that provide business and technical assistance to small forest landowners and forest-related businesses.
5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the forest cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable forestry practices.
6. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all County residents and businesses on the importance of buying locally grown/locally milled wood.

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8. Support incentives, including transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements and current use taxation, to encourage forest conservation.
9. Evaluate expansion of the use of incentives for forest preservation and open space, such as the TDR program.

**Equestrian: Sustain and enhance the diversity of equine uses that support the equestrian economic cluster.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support the business and recreational aspects of the equestrian cluster and its infrastructure.
2. Support and partner with programs that educate horse owners and potential purchasers on best equestrian husbandry and manure management practices.
3. Encourage and promote the continuation and, where consistent with the County's policies, expansion of equestrian trail connectivity throughout King County and the region.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs from horse owners, equestrian business owners, and related rural organizations to ensure that policies and regulations support appropriate equestrian uses and associated infrastructure.
5. Support and partner with the communities that promote equestrian businesses, tourism, and recreational opportunities, including trail connectivity.

**Home-Based Business: Strengthen and enhance the diverse home-based business cluster with uses ranging from sole proprietorships to cottage industries to natural resource-based support businesses.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible home-based businesses and cottage industries.
2. Support and partner with chambers of commerce, small business assistance centers, and other programs that provide business and technical assistance to home-based businesses and cottage industries.
3. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the home-based business cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are an appropriate use and scale for the area being proposed.
4. Encourage and support information technology related home-based businesses, and the high-speed data infrastructure necessary to operate those businesses.

**Recreation and Tourism: Strengthen and enhance the tourism and recreation cluster while ensuring that the business use and scale is compatible with the area in which the activity or activities are located or provided.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible tourism and recreation opportunities including agricultural and forest tourism and value-added programs related to the production of food, flowers, forest products and wine in the County.



2. Lead and/or partner in efforts to unify regional tourism efforts to maximize program effectiveness and support individual tourism or recreation related businesses, such as the local wine industry.
3. Support and partner with efforts to provide both private and public local recreational opportunities, as well support appropriate regional connectivity of recreational uses and trails, with consideration for safety between conflicting uses during harvest periods in agricultural areas.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the tourism and recreation cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are consistent with the County's policies for the area being proposed.
5. Support and promote programs and initiatives that integrate economic development and recreation with forestry uses.

**Commercial and Industrial: Strengthen and enhance the commercial and industrial cluster to sustain compatible businesses on sites designated for commercial or industrial uses within the following land use classifications: 1) Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, 2) Rural Towns, 3) Industrial, and 4) Mining/Mineral Resource Lands.**

1. Promote and support compatible businesses in the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers in their role of providing retail goods and services for the surrounding rural area.
2. Promote and partner with the Rural Towns to support economic vitality in their role of providing retail businesses and services for the surrounding rural area.
3. Encourage mining and mineral resource businesses to employ operational practices that protect environmental quality, fisheries, and wildlife, in balance with the needs of the industry.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the commercial and industrial cluster to formulate policy and as appropriate, regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are of appropriate use and scale for the area.
5. Promote and support regional industrial and commercial facilities in the rural area that are designated as projects of statewide significance under Chapter 43.157 RCW.
6. Promote and support compatible information technology related businesses.

**Rural Cities: Partner with the Rural Cities to strengthen and enhance their economic development efforts as they fulfill their crucial role as local urban centers for employment and centers of commerce providing for the retail and service needs of the rural area.**

1. Sustain partnerships with the Rural Cities, chambers of commerce, and other related organizations on County plans, policies and programs that support rural city economic development and businesses that provide goods, services and employment for the residents in the surrounding rural area.
2. Sustain partnerships to support and maintain the economic vitality of Rural Cities, and the businesses located within them.
3. Sustain partnerships with Rural Cities to promote appropriate tourism efforts.

