



Signature Report

Resolution 20-02

Proposed No. 20-02.2

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging the Washington state
2 Legislature to address climate change and its health
3 impacts, with a focus on communities disproportionately
4 impacted by health inequities.

5 WHEREAS, climate change is recognized as a serious health threat that is already
6 affecting people and communities across King County and the state, and

7 WHEREAS, climate change threatens the quality of human health and life.
8 Projected local impacts include more extreme heat days, more poor air quality days from
9 larger and more frequent wildfires, and heavier and more frequent rain storms and
10 flooding, with associated increases in respiratory, cardiovascular, heat-related and
11 infectious diseases, mental health impacts and hospitalizations and deaths, and

12 WHEREAS, due to existing health inequities and individual susceptibilities,
13 certain populations in our community are more susceptible to and harmed by the impacts
14 of climate change, such as children, older adults, pregnant women, those with chronic
15 health conditions, communities of color, low-income households and those experiencing
16 homelessness, and

17 WHEREAS, the federal administration continues to roll back clean air and energy
18 efficiency rules, weaken vehicle fuel efficiency standards, and scale back federal efforts
19 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support our communities' work to respond to

20 local climate change impacts, making state and local climate action more important than
21 ever, and

22 WHEREAS there will be more demand for county resources, as the need for
23 mitigation, emergency services, health care and other services increase, and

24 WHEREAS in 2018, Public Health - Seattle & King County released the
25 Blueprint for Addressing Climate Change and Health, which outlines an approach to
26 incorporating health and equity into climate change planning across King County and
27 provides a framework for organizing across the Public Health agency and with partners,
28 and

29 WHEREAS, on November 19, 2019, the King County Board of Health held a
30 briefing on the health impacts of climate change, and

31 WHEREAS, King County is currently updating the Strategic Climate Action Plan
32 with a focus on centering frontline communities most impacted by health inequities, and

33 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health recognizes the progress made at
34 the state level in the 2019 legislative session through Senate Bill 5116, which requires
35 utilities supply 100-percent-carbon-free electricity supplies by 2045, and in House Bill
36 1112, which regulates and restricts most uses of hydrofluorocarbons by 2024, and

37 WHEREAS, the King County Board of Health is committed to addressing climate
38 change as part of our role to address health inequities, and

39 WHEREAS, equity and social justice should be considered first and foremost for
40 climate policy, planning and action;

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
42 County:

43 The Board of Health requests the Washington state Legislature to work with
44 urgency to address climate change and its health impacts, centering on communities
45 disproportionately impacted by health inequities by taking immediate action to rapidly
46 decrease greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions throughout the state, and across all sectors,
47 by passing legislation implementing the changes articulated by the King County-Cities
48 Climate Collaboration ("K4C"), including, but not limited to, the following actions:

49 A. Support policies that establish and use “cost of carbon” methods for analysis
50 and decision- making;

51 B. Strengthen state climate change targets to align with the state Department of
52 Ecology's 2016 recommendations which are complementary to K4C and the Growth
53 Management Planning Council adopted targets;

54 C. Institute a carbon-pricing mechanism, reinvesting the majority of revenues in
55 projects and services that reduce GHG emissions such as transit service, energy
56 efficiency and renewable energy projects, forest protection and restoration and others.
57 Also, prioritize investments that benefit communities most impacted by climate change
58 and ensure a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries;

59 D. Support additional policies and actions at the state level to rapidly decrease
60 GHG emissions, create the infrastructure for an economy based on renewable energy and
61 fund efforts to mitigate and adapt to the worst effects of climate change; and

62 E. Acknowledge the importance of local authority in addressing equity and social

63 justice, and provide funding and/or other resources for local municipalities to address
64 their specific climate concern and policies.
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Resolution 20-02 was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 1/16/2020, by the following vote:

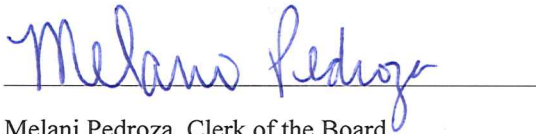
Yes: 9 - Mr. McDermott, Dr. Delecki, Ms. Honda, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Marx and Mr. Lewis
Excused: 4 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Baker, Ms. Mosqueda and Ms. Morales

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None