**King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)**

**2020 Annual Work Plan and Budget**

January 2020



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# Executive Summary

This report provides annual information about the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) work plan and budget, as required by Motion 14449. This is the fifth annual K4C work plan and budget submitted to the King County Council.

The King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) is a voluntary but formal partnership of King County, 16 cities, and the Port of Seattle, focused on coordinating and enhancing the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action.

In 2019, K4C elected officials and staff updated and strengthened the K4C’s Joint Climate Action Commitments, supported transformative changes to Washington State’s climate and energy policies, and developed K4C State Policy and Legislative Interests for 2020, among other accomplishments.

In December 2019, the King County Council unanimously passed Motion 15555, which includes direction that the executive transmit a climate action plan toolkit to the Council by July 31, 2020. The Executive will collaborate with K4C partners and the King County Council on development and use of this toolkit in 2020.

The K4C budget is based on shared contributions by K4C partners as stipulated in the K4C interlocal agreement (ILA). King County also provides a related supplemental contribution. The total K4C budget for the two-year 2019-2020 biennium is $120,200.

Initial 2019/2020 budget actions were finalized by vote of K4C partners in April of 2019 and include funding for: (1) Elected Official and Resident Outreach; (2) National Energy Codes, and (3) Local Commercial Energy Codes. Additional 2020 budget items are expected to be decided on by formal vote of K4C partners in Q1 or Q2 of 2020.

Examples of 2020 work include sharing common approaches to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions accounting; elected official engagement on state legislative issues; weighing in on development of a Regional Clean Fuels Standard; and providing tools that support each partner’s efforts to reduce their GHG emission footprint.

The work of the K4C is an important part of the County’s commitment to climate action and supports and is integrated with the County’s Strategic Climate Action Plan.

# Motion Text

Motion 14449[[1]](#footnote-2), Section B, Paragraph 1:

B. Consistent with Ordinance 17285, which authorized the Interlocal Agreement for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, the executive is requested to coordinate with staff of the transportation, economy and environment committee, or its successor, in developing the annual work plans and budget for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration under the interlocal agreement. The executive is requested to submit by January 31, and every year thereafter, the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration annual work plan and budget to the council for acceptance by motion.

# Background

**Department Overview:** The King County-Cities Climate Collaboration[[2]](#footnote-3) (K4C) is a voluntary, formal partnership of King County, 16 cities within King County, and the Port of Seattle focusing on coordinating and enhancing the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action. K4C county and partner to collaborate on the following:

* Outreach – to develop, refine, and utilize messaging and tools for climate change outreach to engage decision makers, other cities, and the general public
* Coordination – to adopt consistent standards, benchmarks, strategies, and overall goals related to responding to climate change
* Solutions – to share local success stories, challenges, data and products that support and enhance climate mitigation efforts by all partners
* Funding and resources – to secure grant funding and other shared resource opportunities to support climate related projects and programs

Staff from the King County Executive Office and Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) help lead and support the K4C, with support and participation from additional county staff from Metro Transit, the Department of Executive Services, and the Department of Local Services. Staff and elected officials from K4C partners are equal decision makers and partners in the work of the K4C.

**Key Historical Conditions (or Historical Context):** This report is the fifth annual K4C work plan and budget to be submitted to the King County Council, as required by Motion 14449. Details of requirements of Motion 14449 are included in Section III of this report.

**Key Current Conditions (or Current Context):** In 2019, K4C updated and strengthened the K4C’s Joint Climate Action Commitments, supported transformative changes to Washington State’s climate and energy policies, and developed K4C State Policy and Legislative Interests for 2020, among other accomplishments.

King County and K4C partners are also collaborating on a comprehensive update to King County’s 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan[[3]](#footnote-4) (SCAP) now in development and due to the King County Council by

June 30, 2020. The K4C collaboration on the 2020 SCAP update[[4]](#footnote-5) includes shared technical analyses, collaborative updates to the Joint Climate Action Commitments, which frame the SCAP, and K4C partner engagement and collaboration in developing 2020 SCAP commitments and actions.

On December 4, 2019 the King County unanimously passed Motion 15555 relating to communitywide greenhouse gas emissions. Among other issues, this Motion directs the Executive to conduct further outreach and engagement with local governments and other stakeholders, and to develop a toolkit for local governments to use in planning, implementing and monitoring actions to reduce greenhouse gases. Pursuant to this Motion, by no later than July 31, 2020, the executive should transmit to the King County council a Motion approving the climate action plan toolkit, a summary of recommendations, a report detailing the outreach and engagement process, feedback received and the plan to distribute and promote the toolkit's use.

The Executive is working to accommodate the scope of work called for by the motion within existing resources.

**Report Methodology:** This report was drafted by DNRP staff who support the K4C. The report summarizes decisions and work completed in 2019 and outlines the 2020 K4C work plan and priorities based on this recent work. This report builds on previous K4C work plans and budgets that have been submitted to the King County Council annually since 2016.

# Report Requirements

This report is organized to respond to and to align with Motion 14449, which requires coordination and information annually about the K4C’s budget, and work plan. This section includes the following subsections:

1. Budget
2. Expenditures
3. Work Plan

## Budget

The K4C budget is based on shared contributions by K4C partners as stipulated in the K4C ILA. King County also provides a related supplemental contribution. The total K4C budget for the two-year 2019-2020 biennium is $120,200.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **K4C 2019-2020 Budget** |  |
| Two years of Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Defined Annual K4C Partner Contributions (estimated based on K4C partners as of 12/16/2019) | $91,200 |
| Related Contribution in King County’s Adopted 2019/2020 Budget | $30,000 |
| **Total Estimated Budget for 2019-2020 Biennium** | **$120,200** |

## Expenditures

The K4C ILA includes a stipulation that at least 75 percent of parties must approve of budget expenditures. Initial 2019-2020 budget items were finalized by vote of partners on April 24, 2019 and include the below actions. Additional 2020 budget items are expected to be decided on by formal vote of K4C partners in Q1 or Q2 of 2020.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **K4C 2019-2020 Expenditures** | | |
| Elected Official and Resident Outreach | Support development of shared messaging about climate action and develop materials to be used for a “roadshow” to K4C member councils and to be used by K4C partners in their outreach. Goals of materials are to make councils and residents aware of work K4C is doing and provide guidance for actions that councils and residents can take to support K4C members. Most outreach to councils will be done by King County and interested K4C staff. Funding to be used for consultant support of material development, logistics, and to support select outreach opportunities. | $25,000 |
| National Energy Codes | Several K4C partners are interested in supporting strong energy code provisions in the proposed 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). An identified priority is to use K4C funding to support third party training and education on code topics aligned with K4C interests, including in developing information about the voting timelines, voting system training and support for voting events. | $5,000 |
| Local Commercial Energy Codes | Develop a review and report of commercial building codes in K4C partner jurisdictions, including review of best practices across the Pacific Northwest. The report will also provide a gap analysis and recommendations for pathways for accelerating net zero energy commercial buildings. This would build on the Zero Net Carbon Policy Toolkit produced by Shift Zero in late 2018. Funding would be used to pay for a consultant to complete this project. | $20,000 |
| **Total Agreed to K4C Projects as of 12/16/19** | | $50,000 |

## Work Plan

The K4C’s 2020 Work Plan focuses on the below items, organized by relevant section of the K4C’s Joint Climate Action Commitments[[5]](#footnote-6). These priorities are as recommended by K4C elected officials at Elected Official Work Sessions, as defined through a fall 2019 update to the K4C Joint Climate Action Commitments, and as developed in shared K4C State Policy and Legislative Interests for 2020[[6]](#footnote-7).

1. **Shared Goals**

* K4C partners will continue to collaborate on common approaches to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions accounting. A current example is updating the countywide GHG “wedge analysis[[7]](#footnote-8)” of actions that can be taken from 2017 through 2050 to achieve shared County and city goals adopted by the Growth Management Planning Council.
* There is likely to be state policy considered in 2020 that would propose updates to Washington State’s GHG limits; K4C partners may engage on this issue consistent with K4C’ State Policy and Legislative Interests.

1. **Climate Policy**

* K4C developed shared state policy and legislative interests for 2020 that K4C members can use in support of developing legislative agendas and K4C staff can use as a basis for drafting sign on comment letters or testimony.
* Several K4C Elected Officials are leading a K4C Elected Outreach Committee including working on state legislative issues.

1. **Transportation and Land Use**

* K4C partners will work to update local plans and incentives to support transit friendly development and easy connections, including through the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Vision 2050 update.
* As the K4C develops case studies that highlight K4C partner efforts, transit friendly development will be a priority.
* Elected officials will have the opportunity to weigh in on the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAAA) proposed Regional Clean Fuels Standard. The State Legislature is also likely to consider a bill enabling a statewide Clean Fuels Standard in the 2020 legislative session.

1. **Energy Supply**

* K4C partners will continue engagement between elected officials, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light, and state utility regulators to work toward a renewable energy-powered future, with accelerated coal phase-out and limitation of new natural gas-based electricity.
* As part of its 2020 SCAP update, King County will consider regional approaches to supporting residential and commercial energy efficiency retrofit programs.
* Elected Officials identified the importance of being able to showcase studies of benefits of energy efficiency investment, particularly the operating savings that can offset the initial capital investment. K4C staff are developing new case studies that help make the case for these types of investments.

1. **Green Building and Energy Efficiency**

* K4C will continue to partner through the Regional Code Collaboration on implementation of and development of ambitious energy and green building policies and codes, including advanced Energy Code for small residential structures.
* K4C staff will consider using K4C budget to support tools and training for all partners’ staff as new energy code requirements are adopted.
* K4C staff will support jurisdictions to maximize and use their voting power allowed by the International Code Council in order to support stronger energy codes nationwide through an effort being led by the Energy Efficient Code Coalition.

1. **Forests and Farming**

* K4C partners will work jointly to increase tree canopy, improve forest health, and encourage tree planting including through King County’s Million Trees initiative and in developing a comprehensive 30-year forest action plan.

1. **Government Operations**

* K4C partners will work to increase use of clean vehicles and alternative fuels in local fleets. For example, King County will jointly host K4C Fleet Managers Working Group events to enhance information sharing and to support development of best practices for vehicle use and fleet investments across partners.
* Reduce Energy Use in K4C Partners Facilities and Operations. The K4C will support partners’ operational efforts to reduce GHG emissions. For example, King County offers low–cost financing through the Cities Fund to Reduce Energy Demand (C-FRED) loan program and all cities are encouraged to use this program to invest in their own projects.

1. **Collaboration**

* Green Building Task Force and Regional Code Collaboration: K4C partners with the “Green Building Task Force,” a group led by King County’s Solid Waste Division that collaborates with King County cities on research, tools and policies related to green building. The K4C also partners with a second green building collaborative effort called the “Regional Code Collaboration,” which includes partners outside of King County, and is focused on code development for local governments to further sustainable development. The K4C will continue to partner with these groups on green building strategies.
* Coordinate and support development of county and city climate and sustainability plans: K4C will continue to serve as a forum for members to share their approaches to developing local climate and sustainability plans as a resource to other partners so that others are not “reinventing the wheel.” King County is working on a 2020 update to its SCAP and this continues to be an opportunity to engage on King County and K4C partner priorities for future climate related actions.
* Adopt the K4C Joint Climate Action Commitments: In 2019, K4C partners updated and strengthened the K4C’s Joint Climate Action Commitments. In 2020, K4C partners will each work to adopt these Commitments through their own legislative processes. K4C staff will support these efforts. In November 2019, the City of Mercer Island was the first K4C partner to formally adopt these updated commitments.
* As described in the background section of this report, in December 2019 the King County Council unanimously passed Motion 15555 which among other directives requests that the executive transmit a climate action plan toolkit by July 31, 2020. King County staff will collaborate with K4C partners on development and use of this toolkit.

# Conclusion/Next Steps

The 2020 K4C work plan and budget builds on the K4C’s Joint Commitments, elected official input and engagement, and interests and direction of K4C partners. The K4C budget is defined by the K4C ILA and also supported by King County’s 2019-2020 Budget. The 2019 and 2020 spending priorities align with the direction provided by the K4C’s Joint Climate Action Commitments and recommendations from K4C Elected Official Work Sessions.

The work of the K4C is an important part of the County’s commitment to climate action and supports and is integrated with the County’s Strategic Climate Action Plan.

1. [Link to Motion 14449](https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2365649&GUID=A2243880-822F-4B07-B06C-9234BDC0AA40&Options=Advanced&Search=) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. More information at [www.kingcounty.gov/climate/pledge](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate/pledge) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [King County 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan](https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/climate/actions-strategies/climate-strategies/strategic-climate-action-plan.aspx) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [King County 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan Update](https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/climate/actions-strategies/climate-strategies/strategic-climate-action-plan.aspx) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. [K4C Joint County Climate Action Commitments](https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/dnrp-directors-office/climate/2016-K4C-LetterOfCommitments.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [K4C State Policy and Legislative Interests for 2020](https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/climate/documents/2020-K4C-Legislative-Interests.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. [GHG Emissions in King County: Inventory, Contribution Analysis, and Wedge Analysis, July 2019](https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/climate/documents/201907-KingCounty-GHG-Emissions-Analysis.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)