



## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** 2012-0345, **Version:** 2

---

Clerk 10/16/2012

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the King County executive to execute a lease agreement with Backbone Community Solar, in order to construct and operate a community solar project on land at the Vashon transfer station pursuant to RCW 82.16.110 through 82.16.140.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. The Washington state Legislature enacted the renewable energy system cost recovery program to provide financial incentives for solar energy projects in Washington state, including manufacturing of solar components. The program provides generous production incentives if made-in-Washington panels and equipment are utilized.
2. The community solar program, a part of the Washington state renewable energy system cost recovery program, RCW 82.16.110 through 82.16.140 and WAC 458-20-273, provides a framework for citizen investment groups formed to install solar energy projects on public property owned by local governments.
3. The program provides an important opportunity for the county to promote sustainability and economic development in our region. State law currently authorizes the program until 2020.
4. The state program defines a community solar project as a solar energy system, capable of producing no more than seventy-five kilowatts of electricity that is owned by a community investment group and placed on property owned by a cooperating local government.
5. The department of natural resources and parks determined that the best way to promote these

types of solar projects is to make land available to community investment groups interested in developing projects.

6. Projects provide benefits to the county through reliable on-site power, net-metering that can reduce electric bills, and implementation of renewable energy and green technology strategies outlined in the 2010 King County Energy Plan.

7. Leasing King County property for community solar projects will promote clean solar power in the county, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region and potentially stimulate the growth of the state's solar manufacturing and power industries.

8. Backbone Community Solar ("BCS") is a Washington not-for-profit corporation formed for the purpose of developing and implementing community solar projects, and BCS has represented that it is ready, willing, and able to pursue such a project at its sole cost and expense.

9. Pursuant to K.C.C. chapter 4.56 the executive has negotiated a lease with BCS to facilitate BCS's construction and operation of a fifty- to sixty-five-kilowatt community solar project on county-owned land at the Vashon transfer station in furtherance of RCW 82.16.110 through 82.16.140.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. The executive is authorized to execute a lease agreement with Backbone Community Solar substantially in the form of Attachment A to this ordinance.