

KING COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA TITLE: Climate Change Panel Discussion

PRESENTED BY: Interjurisdictional Staff Team (IJT)

Background

The 2012 King County Countywide Planning Policies called for (1) the establishment of a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target that would meet or exceed the statewide reduction target and (2) an inventory and measurement framework. On July 23, 2014, the Growth Management Planning Council approved Motion 14-5, which amended policy EN-17 to set greenhouse gas reduction targets and added policy EN-18A, which establishes a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and measurement framework. These policies were ratified on April 3, 2015.

EN-17 Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050. Assuming 1% annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) by 2020, 5 MTCO₂e by 2030, and 1.5 MTCO₂e by 2050.

EN 18A King County shall assess and report countywide greenhouse gas emissions associated with resident, business, and other local government buildings, on road vehicles and solid waste at least every two years. King County shall also update its comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventory that quantifies all direct local sources of greenhouse gas emissions as well as emissions associated with local consumption at least every five years.

Panel:

The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) recognizes that jurisdictions are not expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions alone. Rather, the GMPC sees these efforts as a shared responsibility of all jurisdictions within the county. The panel will start with a discussion about what needs to happen to meet the targets when federal and state actions are taken into consideration. The panel members will then talk about how each city is responding to their responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their capacities and unique to their own situations. The panel will talk about how small steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can add up among all jurisdictions

working together. The panel will conclude with a list of actions that jurisdictions can readily employ to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1. Background of climate change policies: Karen Wolf, King County
2. King County approach and overview of monitoring: Matt Kuharic, King County
3. Small city approach: Nicole Sanders, Snoqualmie
4. Medium city approach: Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn
5. Large city approach: Paul Andersson, Bellevue
6. Wrap-up and summary of priority actions: Lisa Verner, King County

Next Steps:

- Review list of actions and strategies than can be undertaken by each jurisdiction to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Continue reporting on greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to EN-18A.