



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	5	Name:	Christine Jensen Erin Auzins Mike Reed Jenny Giambattista
Proposed No.:	2016-0155	Date:	June 28, 2016

SUBJECT

A briefing on the proposed 2016 update to the King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP).

SUMMARY

This year marks a four-year, “major” update to the KCCP, which allows for consideration of substantive policy changes to the Plan and potential revisions to the Urban Growth Area (UGA). The Executive transmitted the proposed 2016 KCCP to the Council on March 1. The Council is in the process of reviewing and deliberating on the Executive’s proposal. The Council’s review will include briefings in the Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee (TrEE) over the next several months and possible final adoption in mid-to-late 2016.

Today’s briefing will cover 2016 transmitted KCCP changes regarding Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) and Climate Change across all chapters.

BACKGROUND

The KCCP is the guiding policy document for land use and development regulations in unincorporated King County, as well as for regional services throughout the County, including transit, sewers, parks, trails, and open space. The King County Code dictates the allowed frequency for updates to the KCCP.

Annual cycle. On an annual basis, only technical changes and other limited amendments to the KCCP are allowed to be adopted.¹ This is known as the “annual

¹ K.C.C. 20.18.030

cycle.” While the Code states that the KCCP “may be amended” annually,² it is not required to be reviewed or amended on an annual basis.

Four-year cycle. Substantive changes to policy language and amendments to the UGA boundary³ are only allowed to be considered once every four years.^{4,5} This is known as the “four-year cycle.” The Code requires the County to complete a “comprehensive review” of the KCCP once every four years in order to “update it as appropriate” and ensure continued compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA).⁶ The Code requires the Executive to transmit to the Council a proposed ordinance amending the KCCP once every four years.⁷ However, the Code does not require the Council to adopt a KCCP update during the four-year cycle.⁸ This year’s four-year review of the KCCP is the fifth major review since 2000.

GMA update requirements. It is worth highlighting how the County’s KCCP cycles fit into the GMA planning cycles. The GMA requires cities and counties to update their comprehensive plans once every eight years.⁹ The GMA authorizes, but does not require, cities and counties to amend their comprehensive plans annually.

For King County, the GMA-established plan update deadlines are in 2015 and 2023. For the purposes of the GMA, the 2012 update to the KCCP¹⁰ satisfied the State’s requirement to update the County’s comprehensive plan by 2015. The GMA does not require the County to complete another comprehensive update until 2023. Under the County’s current policies and Code, the County will complete this update in the 2020 four-year cycle.

Under the County’s policies and regulations, the 2016 review of the KCCP constitutes a “four-year amendment.” However, under GMA requirements, the County’s 2016 review is subject to the rules applicable to an “annual amendment,” which is not a required action.

² K.C.C. 20.18.030(B)

³ Note that Four-to-One UGA proposals may be considered during the annual cycle (see K.C.C. 20.18.030(B)(10), 20.18.040(B)(2), 20.18.170, and 20.18.180).

⁴ From year 2000 and forward. Substantive updates to the KCCP can be considered on a two-year cycle, but only if: “the county determines that the purposes of the KCCP are not being achieved as evidenced by official population growth forecasts, benchmarks, trends and other relevant data” (K.C.C. 20.18.030(C)). This determination must be authorized by a motion adopted by the Council. To date, this option has not been used by the County.

⁵ The annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Transportation Needs Report (TNR), and school capital facilities plans are elements of the KCCP but are adopted in conjunction with the County budget, and thus follows separate timeline, process, and update requirements (see K.C.C. 20.18.060 and 20.18.070).

⁶ K.C.C. 20.18.030(C)

⁷ K.C.C. 20.18.060

⁸ If the Council decides not to adopt a four-year update, the County may still need to formally announce that it has completed the required review; the mechanism to do that, whether legislatively or not, would need to be discussed with legal counsel.

⁹ Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.130

¹⁰ Ordinance 17485

Actions to date for the 2016 KCCP. In May 2015, the Council adopted the Scoping Motion¹¹ for the 2016 KCCP update, a link to which is provided at the end of the staff report. The Scoping Motion outlined the key issues the Council and Executive identified for specific consideration in the forthcoming KCCP update. While the scope of work approved through the Scoping Motion was intended to be as thorough as possible, it does not establish the absolute limit on the scope of issues that can be considered. Based on subsequent public testimony, new information, or Council initiatives, other issues may also be considered by the Executive or the Council – except for UGA expansion proposals, which must follow the limitations of KCCP policy RP-107¹² as discussed in the Area Zoning Studies and Land Use Map Amendments section of the March 15 staff report.¹³

King County Code (K.C.C.) 20.18.160 and RCW 36.70A.140 call for “early and continuous” public engagement in the development and amendment of the KCCP and any implementing development regulations. As part of that public engagement process, the Executive published a Public Review Draft (PRD) of the KCCP on November 6, 2015, which was open for public comment through January 2016.¹⁴ During that time, the Executive hosted six PRD community meetings: one each in Fairwood, Skyway, Fall City, Issaquah, and two in Vashon. A summary of the Executive’s outreach efforts can be found in Appendix R “Public Outreach for Development of KCCP.” A detailed listing of all of the public comments received during development of the Plan can be found in the Public Participation Report that is located on the Council’s KCCP website.¹⁵

Council review of the transmitted 2016 KCCP began with a briefing of the Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee on March 15, 2016. Council review will continue with briefings on selected sections of the transmitted 2016 KCCP, as well as opportunities for public comment and engagement. As noted above, today’s briefing will cover 2016 transmitted KCCP changes regarding Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) and Climate Change across all chapters.

ANALYSIS

How the Analysis section is organized. The analysis in this staff report includes a review of selected chapters of the transmitted 2016 KCCP. Analysis of other chapters in the transmitted plan has been provided already or will be provided at subsequent

¹¹ Motion 14351, which was required to be transmitted by the Executive by K.C.C. 20.18.060. The Council approved the 2016 KCCP scoping motion after the April 30 deadline for Council action. However, as noted in the adopted Motion, the Executive agreed to treat the scope as timely and would proceed with the work program as established in the Council-approved version of the motion.

¹² This policy is currently RP-203 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-107 as part of the 2016 KCCP. Does not apply to Four-to-One proposals.

¹³ <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan/materials.aspx>

¹⁴ General public comment was open through January 6, 2016. Additional comments on the late addition of the East Cougar Mountain Potential Annexation Area to the Public Review Draft were allowed from January 27 to February 3.

¹⁵ <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan.aspx>

TrEE meetings, as noted in the schedule in Attachment 1 to the staff report.¹⁶ Staff analysis of each chapter will include identification of what is new in the transmitted 2016 KCCP compared with the adopted 2012 KCCP, discussion of any issues or inconsistencies with adopted policies and plans and/or the Scoping Motion, and highlights of any additional issues for Council consideration.¹⁷

This staff report includes:

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Equity and Social Justice

The Council and Executive have emphasized the importance of equity and social justice (ESJ) in public policy, including in the King County Strategic Plan, the biennial budget process, and a range of County plans and initiatives.¹⁸ Policy documents such as the KCCP, which can affect the life circumstances of broad demographics, can also raise equity concerns. In that light, the Scoping Motion called for significantly expanding the emphasis on ESJ, specifically by adding language to each chapter requiring close evaluation of policies for their equity impact. This review highlights the ESJ-related policy recommendations in the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

What's new in the transmitted 2016 KCCP?

The 2012 KCCP included equity and environmental justice considerations throughout the Plan. The transmitted 2016 KCCP proposes to extend and strengthen a number of ESJ elements. New policy or revisions to existing policy that address equity concerns are found in most chapters of the transmitted 2016 KCCP,¹⁹ though most prominently in chapters relating to Urban Communities; Housing and Human Services; and Facilities, Services and Utilities. In addition, new narrative language on equity has been added to the Regional Growth Management Planning and Transportation chapters.

Chapter 1 Regional Growth Management Planning. Chapter 1 expands the existing narrative discussion of equity, with a focus on the Determinants of Equity, as well as a new map that depicts the concentrations of vulnerable populations²⁰ in the County. It identifies census tracts in South King County with concentrations of vulnerable populations, noting that such populations appear more dispersed and scattered through

¹⁶ Subject to change.

¹⁷ For information on the Executive's rationale for the proposed changes, please refer to the Policy Amendment Analysis Matrix that was included in the 2016 KCCP transmittal package as required by policy I-207, which can be found here: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan/transmittal.aspx>

¹⁸ As required by Ordinance 16948

¹⁹ There are no ESJ policy updates in Chapter 6 Shorelines and Chapter 11 Community Service Area Planning.

²⁰ People of Color, Households by Median Household Income, and Households that Lack English Speaking Proficiency

the remainder of the county. The chapter also contains new or revised equity language in four policies, primarily addressing broad goals for the Plan as a whole, incorporating equity among the major goal areas.

RP-101 adds promotion of ESJ to the “quality of life” measures that the County is to strive for.

RP-101 King County shall strive to provide a high quality of life for all of its residents by working with cities, special purpose districts and residents to develop attractive, safe and accessible urban communities, retain rural character and rural neighborhoods, support economic development, promote equity and social justice, ~~((maintain))~~ preserve resource and open space lands, preserve the natural environment, and to protect significant cultural and historic resources.

RP-201²¹ adds language requiring the County to ensure that its activities provide social, environmental and economic benefits in policies and regulations.

~~((GP-101))~~ **RP-201** In its policies and regulations, King County shall strive to promote sustainable neighborhoods and communities, and seek to ensure that all county activities provide social, environmental and economic benefits.

RP-205²² refers to the reduction of health “inequities,” rather than health disparities, as the object of County efforts in implementing land use efforts.

~~((GP-105))~~ **RP-205** King County will seek to reduce health ~~((disparities))~~ inequities and proactively address issues of equity, social and environmental justice when ~~((evaluating))~~ implementing its land use policies, programs, and practices.

RP-206²³ includes consideration of climate-change related inequities and disparities in preparations for the effects of climate change.

~~((GP-106))~~ **RP-206** King County will protect, restore and enhance its natural resources and environment, encourage sustainable agriculture and forestry, reduce climate pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change, including considering of the inequities and disparities that may be caused by climate change.

²¹ This policy is currently GP-101 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-201 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

²² This policy is currently GP-105 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-205 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

²³ This policy is currently GP-106 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-206 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

Chapter 2 Urban Communities. Chapter 2 includes a mix of new policies, addressing access to affordable, healthy food; to urban services by disadvantaged communities; to affordable housing near transit and commercial centers; and to equity in urban unincorporated area planning, project development and service delivery.

U-107 places emphasis on supporting access to foods that are healthy and affordable in managing land use and zoning actions.

U-107 King County should support land use and zoning actions that promote public health by increasing opportunities for every resident to be more physically active. Land use and zoning actions include: concentrating growth into the Urban Area, promoting urban centers, allowing mixed-use developments, supporting access to healthy and affordable retail foods, and adding pedestrian and bicycle ((linkages)) facilities and connections.

U-108 supports the rationale for development of Urban Centers by noting that improving access to needed services helps address social and economic needs, including those of disadvantaged populations.

U-108 King County should support the development of Urban Centers to meet the region's needs for housing, jobs, services, culture and recreation and to promote healthy communities; improving access to these services helps address social and economic needs of all residents, including disadvantaged communities. Strategies may include exploring opportunities for joint development or transit-oriented development, siting civic uses in mixed-use areas, and leveraging or utilizing existing county assets in urban centers.

U-122a is a new policy that would encourage approaches to increase housing density and affordable housing in urban unincorporated areas, near transit and commercial areas.

U-122a King County King County should explore zoning policies and provisions and tools that increase housing density and affordable housing opportunities within unincorporated urban growth areas, near frequent transit, and near commercial areas

U-139a is a new policy that would require support of changes to increase access to affordable foods.

U-139a King County shall support policy and system changes that increase access to and affordable healthy foods in neighborhoods.

U-201a is a new policy that would require consideration of ESJ in urban unincorporated areas.

U-201a In all urban unincorporated areas, King County shall consider equity and social justice in its planning, project development, and service delivery approach.

Chapter 3 Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands. New language in Chapter 3 addresses support for affordable food initiatives, for assisting immigrant and minority farmers in gaining access to farmlands, and for increasing representation of low-income and disadvantaged farmers in agricultural processes.

R-517 encourages exploration of support for food growing projects to improve access to affordable food.

R-517 King County should explore ways of creating and supporting community gardens, farmers' markets, produce stands and other similar community based food growing projects to provide and improve access to healthy and affordable food for all rural residents.

R-661 encourages the County to continue to work with organizations to help immigrant and minority farmers to gain access to farmland.

R-661 ~~((The county))~~ King County should develop incentives to encourage ~~((agricultural activities in the remaining prime farmlands located))~~ food production on prime farmland ~~((outside the Agriculture Production Districts))~~. These incentives could include tax credits, expedited permit review, reduced permit fees, permit exemptions for activities complying with best management practices or similar programs. The county should continue to work with Seattle Tilth and other organizations to assist immigrant and minority farmers in gaining access to farmland.

R-661a encourages the County to expand its leasing of agricultural land to farmers, and encourages private landowners to lease unused land to farmers, to make farmland available to beginning and low-income farmers.

R-661a To help make more farmland accessible to beginning and low-income farmers, King County should expand its leasing of agricultural land to farmers where appropriate and should encourage private farmland owners to lease unused land to farmers.

R-661b encourages the County to expand representation of disadvantaged farmers on advisory bodies and in hiring processes.

R-661b King County should expand representation of low income and socially disadvantaged farmers within King County agricultural processes such as the Agriculture Commission, advisory committees, task forces and hiring.

R-665 encourages development of incentives to provide a healthy and affordable local food supply.

R-665 ~~((The county))~~ King County should develop incentives that support local food production and processing to increase food security and provide a healthy and affordable local food supply, and reduce energy use.

Chapter 4 Housing and Human Services. There is extensive new language in this chapter addressing equity issues, primarily focused on affordable housing. Policies address housing needs of vulnerable populations, affordable housing targets, engagement of marginalized populations in housing issues, promotion of fair housing, affordable housing in transit-oriented communities, displacement of vulnerable communities, affordable housing tax incentives and credits, and a range of additional affordable housing policies.

H-102²⁴ requires the County to work with various entities to encourage housing that addresses the needs of diverse populations, especially vulnerable populations; as well as housing that supports the goals of the County's ESJ Initiative and Health and Human Services Transformation Plan.²⁵

~~((U-301))~~ **H-102** King County shall work with ~~((cities))~~ jurisdictions, the private sector, state and federal governments, other public funders of housing, other public agencies such as the Housing Authorities, regional agencies such as the Puget Sound Regional Council, intermediary housing organizations, and the non-profit sector, to encourage a wide range of housing and to reduce barriers to the development and preservation of a wide range of housing within the Urban Growth Area that:

- a. Provides housing choices for people of all income levels, particularly ~~((located))~~ in areas with existing or planned high-capacity and frequent public transportation access ~~((networks including those that make it))~~ where it is safe and convenient to walk, bicycle, and take public transportation to work and other key destinations such as shopping and health care;
- b. Meets the needs of ~~((our))~~ a diverse population, especially families and individuals who have very-low to moderate incomes, older adults, people with developmental disabilities and people with behavioral, physical, cognitive and/or functional disabilities, and people who are homeless;
- c. Supports economic growth; and
- d. ~~((Ensures))~~ Supports King County's equity and social justice, and transformation plan goals, for an equitable and rational distribution of

²⁴ This policy is currently U-301 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-102 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

²⁵ Motion 13943

low-income and high-quality affordable housing, including mixed-income housing, throughout the county.

H-103²⁶ requires the County to address affordable housing needs for the very-low to moderate-income households through countywide targets in the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).²⁷

~~((U-302)) **H-103** Through subarea and regional planning with ((cities)) jurisdictions and partners in the Puget Sound region, mandatory and incentive programs and funding initiatives for affordable housing, King County shall serve as a regional convener and local administrator in the unincorporated areas to plan for housing to meet the needs of all economic segments of the population throughout the Urban Growth Areas. With respect to affordable housing, King County shall address the countywide need for housing affordable to very-low, low and moderate-income households pursuant to the countywide targets established in the most recently adopted Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). ((and within Rural Towns. King County shall plan for construction, rehabilitation, or preservation of housing units affordable to households as follows:~~

~~a. 13% of housing stock should be affordable to households below 30% of the King County median income, including homeless individuals and families who may face significant barriers to finding permanent housing;~~

~~b. 11% of housing stock should be affordable to households between 30% and 50% of the King County median income;~~

~~c. 16% of housing stock should be affordable to households between 50% and 80% of the King County median income;~~

~~d. 20% of housing stock should be affordable to households between 80% and 120% of the King County median income; and~~

~~e. 40% of housing stock should be affordable to households above 120% of the King County median income.))~~

H-105a is a new policy that would require the County to involve vulnerable populations in affordable housing goals, policies and programs.

H-105a King County shall engage marginalized populations in the development, implementation, and evaluation of county-wide affordable housing goals, policies and programs.

²⁶ This policy is currently U-302 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-103 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

²⁷ CPP H-1 requires addressing the countywide need for affordable housing by percentage of Area Median Income (AMI), which is identified as: 16% of total housing supply for moderate income households (50-80% of AMI), 12% of total housing supply for low-income (30-50% of AMI), and 12% of total housing supply for very-low income (30% and below AMI).

H-114²⁸ refers to clustered and higher density housing as ways to achieve lower prices and rents.

~~((U-334))~~ **H-114** King County should encourage development of residential communities that achieve lower prices and rents through ~~((shared common houses))~~ clustered and higher density housing that shares common spaces, open spaces and community facilities.

H-118 is a new policy that would require the County to further Fair Housing and to work with partners to promote the needs of all communities, especially those with limited access to opportunity. It also requires helping residents and stakeholders to understand Fair Housing laws, and helping to promote equitable housing practices for protected classes.

H-118 King County shall actively promote and affirmatively further fair housing in its housing programs, and shall work with all of its partners to further fair housing in its regional role promoting housing affordability, choice and access to opportunity for all communities, especially those communities that bear the burdens from lack of investment and access to opportunity; and shall work with residents and stakeholders to help them understand the rights protected by federal, state, and local fair housing laws and shall help to promote equitable housing practices for protected classes through fair housing education and enforcement.

H-119²⁹ requires flexibility in managing funding, incentive or mandatory affordable housing programs to create affordable housing for persons with disabilities.

~~((U-360))~~ **H-119** King County shall flexibly apply its rules, policies, practices and services when necessary to afford persons with disabilities equal opportunity to use or enjoy a dwelling ~~((, including the promotion of public funding and other incentives to create new affordable housing))~~ in its funding, incentive or mandatory affordable housing programs in order to create new affordable housing opportunities for persons with disabilities.

H-121³⁰ requires promoting land use patterns that connect affordable and mixed-income housing with transportation choices, as well as the development of public financing techniques that provide an advantage for affordable and mixed-income housing within transit-oriented communities.

²⁸ This policy is currently U-334 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-114 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

²⁹ This policy is currently U-360 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-119 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

³⁰ This policy is currently U-317 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-121 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

~~((U-317))~~ **H-121** King County shall support affordable and mixed-income housing development in transit-oriented locations that is compatible with surrounding uses by:

- a. Providing information and a process for accessing ~~((~~an~~))~~ potential development sites in transit-oriented locations where King County has ownership or access to potential sites;
- b. Promoting land use patterns that ~~((provide convenient connections for pedestrian and bicycle travel as well as for transit and other motorized transportation))~~ cohesively connect affordable and mixed-income housing with active transportation choices;
- c. ~~((Funding services, amenities, infrastructure and access improvements within the urban area; and~~
- d. ~~—))~~ Developing public financing techniques that ~~((give housing development and redevelopment in designated areas a market advantage))~~ will provide an advantage for projects that will create and/or preserve affordable and mixed-income housing within transit-oriented communities and neighborhoods that promote health, well-being and opportunity, or within a neighborhood plan for revitalization.

H-123 is a new policy that would require the County to support equitable transit-oriented development that increases ridership, community benefits and agency revenues

H-123 King County will evaluate and seek opportunities for equitable transit oriented development at major transit centers and hubs when investments are likely to produce increased ridership, community benefits, and net revenues to the transit agency.

H-124 is a new policy that would require the County to work to reduce displacement of very-low to moderate-income households from transit-oriented locations, and strive to align affordable housing and transit investments.

H-124 King County shall work with partners to reduce and prevent displacement of very-low to moderate-income households from transit-oriented locations, to the extent possible; and shall strive to align affordable housing investments and transit investments in order to increase the quality of life of disinvested communities.

H-130 is a new policy that would encourage exploration of zoning that increases density and affordable housing in unincorporated UGAs, near transit and commercial areas.

H-130 King County should explore zoning policies and provisions that increase housing density and affordable housing opportunities within unincorporated urban growth areas near transit and near commercial areas.

H-134 would limit affordable density bonuses and incentives to development in unincorporated urban areas and near commercial areas. The policy is also expanded to require review and updating of density bonuses to assure effectiveness, particularly in respect to mandatory inclusionary affordable housing requirements.

~~((U-339))~~ H-134 Density bonuses and other incentives for the development of affordable housing by for-profit and non-profit developers shall be available within unincorporated urban areas and near commercial areas to both single-family and multifamily developments to promote development of affordable rental and/or ownership housing. Bonuses shall be periodically reviewed and updated, as needed, to assure they are effective in creating affordable housing units, especially in coordination with any mandatory inclusionary affordable housing requirements adopted.

H-136³¹ would now mandate, instead of encourage as in the 2012 policy, that the County provide opportunities for rental buildings with shared facilities, including proposed language highlighting micro-units buildings and clustered micro-homes, and higher density ownership options. The transmitted 2016 KCCP also proposes that these opportunities will only be required to be provided in unincorporated UGAs and near commercial areas.

~~((U-323))~~ H-136 King County (~~(should encourage)~~) shall provide opportunities within unincorporated urban growth areas and near commercial areas for the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of rental residential buildings that have shared facilities, such as single-room occupancy buildings, (~~hotels and~~) boarding homes, micro-units buildings and clustered micro homes to provide opportunities for lower rents housing options; and higher density ownership options including condominiums, co-operative mutual housing, cottage housing and other forms of clustered higher density ownership housing.

H-140³² would now mandate, instead of encourage as in the 2012 policy, allowance of five-story wood frame construction to increase multifamily housing.

~~((U-332))~~ H-140 King County (~~(should explore the feasibility of allowing)~~) shall allow five-story wood frame construction (~~(as a technique that will)~~) to increase the availability of multifamily housing while lowering development costs and maintaining fire safety.

³¹ This policy is currently U-323 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-136 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

³² This policy is currently U-332 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-140 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

H-141³³ would now mandate, instead of encourage as in the 2012 policy, the County to explore expansion of incentives to preserve existing housing, through programs including tax exemptions for affordable housing.

~~((U-352))~~ H-141 King County ~~((should))~~ shall explore the expansion of land use and financial incentives to preserve and improve existing housing in redeveloping areas through the use of programs such as transfer of development rights, tax credits and tax ~~((abatements for low-income housing and))~~ exemptions for new and preserved affordable housing, as well as tax abatements and restoration loans for housing designated as a historic landmark.

H-144³⁴ is rewritten to mandate that the County ensures that affordable housing created through County land use policies meets the same quality and design standards as similar market housing, except for size and finish. The County is to encourage mandatory and incentivized affordable housing on the site of market rate housing projects.

~~((U-359))~~ H-144 King County will ensure that mandatory and/or incentivized affordable housing unit created through its land use policies and regulations meets the same quality and design as market housing of a similar size and density, but may be allowed to be reasonably smaller in size and to have more modest finishes, and will encourage mandatory and incentivized affordable housing units (*sic*) to be created on the site of market rate housing projects. ~~((King County shall promote opportunities for publicly funded housing, including housing for low-income people with special needs, by:~~
a. ~~Adopting land use policies and regulations that treat publicly funded housing and other low-income housing the same as housing of a similar size and density;~~
b. ~~Adopting funding and program policies that encourage integration of assisted housing within communities and a fair distribution of publicly funded housing throughout the county. Mandatory dispersion requirements that limit where publicly funded housing may locate should not be applied; and~~
c. ~~Encouraging developers and owners of publicly funded housing units to undertake activities to establish and maintain positive relationships with neighbors.))~~

2012 KCCP policy H-149 mandates the County to work to urge expansion of funding for affordable housing for “people with special needs.” The transmitted 2016 KCCP would

³³ This policy is currently U-352 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-141 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

³⁴ This policy is currently U-359 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-144 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

now state that housing funding should be expanded to prioritize older adults, people experiencing homelessness, and persons with disabilities.

~~((U-337))~~ **H-149** King County shall work with other jurisdictions, housing developers, and service providers throughout the state to urge federal and state government to expand both capital and operating funding for low-income housing, including low-income housing for ~~((people with special needs))~~ older adults, people who are homeless and people with behavioral health, cognitive, physical and developmental disabilities.

H-152³⁵ requires priority in affordable housing to projects serving households at specified income levels or that provide housing to identified vulnerable populations.

~~((U-344))~~ **H-152** King County shall give priority in its affordable housing ~~((funding))~~ subsidy programs to ~~((developments))~~ projects that serve low-income individuals and households at or below 80 percent of area median income (AMI), and/or that provide ~~((, secure))~~ appropriate housing options for ~~((people with special needs, prevent displacement of low-income people, or provide low-income and special needs housing along with social services))~~ older adults, people with behavioral health, cognitive, physical or developmental disabilities, people that are homeless and people that are at risk of homelessness and/or displacement.

H-153 is a new policy that would require encouragement of smoke-free housing policies in County-funded affordable housing projects.

H-153 King County shall encourage the inclusion of smoke-free housing policies in projects funded through its affordable housing subsidy programs.

H-154 is a new policy that would mandate that the County encourage improvement of healthy housing in affordable housing standards.

H-154 King County shall work with partners and stakeholders to encourage the improvement in healthy housing elements in existing affordable housing sustainability standards, with emphasis on healthy housing elements that reduce asthma.

H-155 is a new policy that would mandate consideration on housing and community development projects that focus on those with the most disparate health, prosperity and housing conditions or are at risk of displacement, and requires planning and community development investments to support those communities.

³⁵ This policy is currently U-344 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-152 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

H-155 King County shall give particular consideration in its affordable housing and community development investments to projects that provide housing and community development solutions in the 20% to 30% of the county with the most disparate outcomes in health, economic prosperity and housing conditions who may be at high risk of displacement; and shall coordinate planning and community development investments to support such communities as they experience changes in their demographics, built environment, and real estate markets.

H-156 is a new policy that would require the County, in its housing subsidy programs, to consider projects in areas with severe affordable housing shortages where there is access to jobs, transportation and a healthy community.

H-156 King County shall give particular consideration in its affordable housing subsidy programs to projects in areas where there is a severe shortage of affordable housing, and where there is access to job opportunities, a healthy community and active transportation.

H-157³⁶ encourages exploration of the use of surplus County property to provide community benefits.

~~((U-347))~~ **H-157** King County should expand its use of surplus county-owned property and air rights over county-owned property at a discount for affordable housing and should also explore ~~((its use for other public benefits, such as human services, and consider conveyance of properties to public or non-profit housing developers and agencies at below-market cost))~~ the use of such property for other community benefits, determined through a community participatory process, at below market cost, to non-profit developers and other developers that agree to provide such community benefits. Surplus county property shall be prioritized for housing development that will be consistent with the King County ~~((Consortium Consolidated Plan and the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness))~~ Department of Community and Human Services adopted plans and policies.

H-158³⁷ states that the County should support the increase of affordable housing through planning, policy, advocacy and technical assistance.

~~((U-348))~~ **H-158** King County should support the efforts of non-profit developers and housing agencies to increase the supply of housing for low-income households, through affordable housing planning, policy and

³⁶ This policy is currently U-347 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-157 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

³⁷ This policy is currently U-348 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-158 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

advocacy activities and the provision of technical assistance ~~((and funding for capacity building, training, and predevelopment activities.))~~

H-160³⁸ requires the County to give considerable weight to healthy housing and sustainable development elements in subsidizing affordable housing.

~~((U-350))~~ **H-160** When awarding subsidies for affordable housing developments to non-profit developers and housing agencies, King County ~~((shall include in its criteria whether the proposals))~~ shall consider and give considerable weight to projects that incorporate and implement healthy housing and sustainable development ~~((principles, including))~~ elements and universal design features.

H-162³⁹ encourages the County to assist in the acquisition of affordable financing to specified owners of properties serving low- to moderate-income residents.

~~((U-353))~~ **H-162** King County should assist owners of rental properties serving low- and moderate-income residents to acquire affordable financing for building health and safety improvements in exchange for long-term agreements to maintain affordable rents.

H-165a is a new policy that would require the County to encourage positive relations between subsidized housing and neighbors.

H-165a Through its funding programs, King County shall encourage developers and owners of publicly subsidized housing units to undertake activities to establish and maintain positive relationships with neighbors.

H-167⁴⁰ encourages the use of opportunity mapping to support siting of facilities and subsidized housing, where vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities, have access to transportation amenities and services, in addition to other opportunities.

~~((U-366))~~ **H-167** King County should use opportunity mapping ~~((help in site planning that))~~:

a. ~~((Supports))~~ To support the siting of community facilities and assisted publicly ~~((funded))~~ subsidized affordable housing in locations where low- and moderate-income residents and persons with ~~((special needs))~~ behavioral health, physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities have convenient access to a variety of opportunities, transportation, amenities and services; and

³⁸ This policy is currently U-350 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-160 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

³⁹ This policy is currently U-353 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-162 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

⁴⁰ This policy is currently U-366 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-167 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

~~((b. — Uses opportunity mapping; and~~
e) b. ~~((Promotes))~~ To promote fair housing and diverse communities that are inclusive of residents with a range of abilities, ages, races, incomes and other diverse characteristics of the population of King County.

H-171⁴¹ encourages County support for innovative and flexible tools and programs that help low income renters to maintain housing stability or access permanent affordable housing.

~~((U-371))~~ **H-171** King County should support innovative and flexible tools and programs that assist low-income renters to ~~((remain in))~~ maintain housing stability or to gain access to permanent affordable housing and private market housing, such as revolving loan funds that cover utility and damage deposits, and rental assistance programs.

H-173⁴² would now require, rather than encourage as in the 2012 policy, the County to provide financial assistance for housing rehabilitation to low-income homeowners, now including owners of manufactured homes; the policy also states that the County should also consider support for community repair programs like tool banks.

~~((U-368))~~ **H-173** King County ~~((should))~~ shall provide financial assistance for ownership housing rehabilitation to low-income home owners, including owners of mobile/manufactured homes residing in parks ~~((a, and through))~~ or on their own land through individual or cooperative ownership. King County should also consider support for community-based repair programs, such as tool banks or painting programs.

H-203⁴³ requires application of principles that promote equity, in addition to those that promote effectiveness, accountability and social justice. A new requirement is also proposed for the County to work with providers to provide behavioral health services to low-income persons, and that the County will assume responsibility for coordinating countywide behavioral health services, working with cities and local providers.

~~((F-299e))~~ **H-203** King County will apply principles that promote effectiveness, accountability and equity and social justice. King County embraces the following principles in its health and human service actions and investments:

a. King County will provide information to the community on its health, human services and behavioral health system planning and evaluation activities, funding processes and criteria, and the results of its investments

⁴¹ This policy is currently U-371 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-171 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

⁴² This policy is currently U-368 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-173 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

⁴³ This policy is currently F-299e in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to H-203 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP

in a transparent, ~~((and))~~ accountable and culturally and audience appropriate manner;

b. King County will uphold federal, state and local laws against discrimination; promote culturally competent, equitable and relevant service delivery; and will work to end disparities in social, health and economic status among communities and people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds;

c. King County shall work with local service providers to provide behavioral health services to low-income individuals in need, including high quality equitable prevention, crisis diversion, mental health, substance abuse disorder and co-occurring treatment services to youth, young adults and older adults. The county will assume primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of countywide behavioral health services, working in partnership with cities and local service providers.

H-204 is a new policy that would require application of principles that lead to healthy communities in all neighborhoods.

H-204 King County shall apply principles that lead to thriving healthy communities in all neighborhoods of the region. King County will support public health investments that help all residents to live in thriving communities where they have the opportunity to make healthy choices. King County shall support:

a. Access to safe and convenient opportunities to be physically active, including access to walking, bicycling, recreation and transit infrastructure;

b. Access to healthy and affordable foods;

c. Protection from exposure to harmful environmental agents and infectious disease is reduced and minimized;

d. Access to transportation systems that are designed to prevent pedestrian, bicyclist and driver injuries;

e. Residential neighborhoods free from violence and fear of violence;

f. Protection from involuntary exposure to second hand tobacco smoke and under-age access to tobacco products;

g. Community amenities and design that maximizes opportunities for social connectivity and stress reduction;

h. A range of health services, including timely emergency response and culturally-specific preventive medical, behavioral and dental care within their community.

H-206 is a new policy that would require the County to encourage greater influence of residents that live in communities that have disproportionately lower health outcomes.

H-206 King County will encourage significant increases in the role and influence of residents living in communities that have disproportionately lower health outcomes.

H-207 is a new policy that would confirm the County's recognition of poverty, affordable housing and economic opportunity as critical public health issues, and requires efforts to address these issues through county plans, programs and funding.

H-207 King County recognizes that poverty, affordable housing and access to economic opportunity for all residents are critical public health issues and will take steps to address these issues through ongoing county plans, programs and funding.

H-208 is a new policy that would require the County to explore co-location of health and human services facilities.

H-208 King County will explore the co-location of health and human services facilities that are easily accessible, distributed equitably throughout the county, make the best use of existing facilities and are compatible with adjoining uses.

Chapter 5 Environment. New lead-in text and policy language in Chapter 5 relates to equity focuses on climate change.

E-221a is a new policy that would require use of the Equity Impact Review process in prioritizing climate change resiliency investments.

E-221a King County shall apply its Equity Impact Review process to help prioritize investments in making infrastructure, natural resources, and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Chapter 7 Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources. Chapter 7 addresses equity issues through new language emphasizing affordable and accessible interpretive and aquatic programs, partnership efforts to address equity goals, and involving a diversity of interests in its programs. Language requiring equity considerations in locating, acquisition and development of facilities to help address health disparities has been removed, while language has been added to support addressing equity goals through joint planning and management of sites and facilities.

P-105 emphasizes facilitation of affordable and culturally accessible programs on county properties.

P-105 King County should facilitate affordable and culturally-accessible educational, interpretive and aquatic programs on county-owned properties that further the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park system and the region.

Language in P-121 requiring consideration of equity in the open space system to help in the reduction of health disparities and the promotion of social and environmental justice, is proposed to be removed.

~~((P-121 King County shall consider equity in the location, development and acquisition of its open space system to help in the reduction of health disparities and in the promotion of social and environmental justice.))~~

P-129 encourages the County and its partners to work to address social and economic justice goals through joint planning and management of sites and facilities.

P-129 King County shall be a leader in establishing partnerships with cities, adjacent counties, tribes, state and federal agencies, school and special purpose districts, community organizations, non-profit organizations, land owners and other citizens. The county and these partnerships should work to promote and protect all aspects of environmental quality and address social and economic justice goals ~~((and))~~ to complete the regional parks and open space system through joint planning and management of ~~((, linking))~~ local and regional ~~((lands))~~ sites and facilities.

P-134 is a new policy requiring the County to invite and involve diverse individuals, groups and agencies, consistent with equity policies.

P-134 King County will work to invite and involve a wide variety of interests via a diversity of individuals, groups and agencies consistent with the County's economic and social justice policies.

Chapter 8 Transportation. The Transportation chapter includes new policies emphasizing consideration of equity impacts in transportation programs, and opportunities for participation in program development by vulnerable populations. Existing policies are modified to revise references to immigrant and refugee populations, to support pursuit of non-regressive revenue sources, and to include vulnerable populations among those to whom transportation-related public information is provided. In addition, the chapter includes in narrative form a discussion of ESJ in Road Services Division planning, emphasizing the consideration that ESJ principles receive in decision making. This discussion notes prioritization of snow and ice response in light of equity needs, culturally relevant communications and public engagement processes, and similar undertakings.

T-104 refers to immigrant and refugee populations, rather than persons with limited English proficiency, as being among those to whom the County should provide transportation services and facilities.

T-104 King County should provide a system of transportation services and facilities that offers travel options to all members of the community,

including people of color, low-income communities, (~~people with limited English proficiency~~) immigrant and refugee populations, and others who may have limited transportation options such as students, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

T-104a is a new policy that would encourage the County to consider equity impacts and benefits in transportation services.

T-104a King County should consider the equity impacts, and benefits, when planning, developing, and implementing transportation programs, projects, and services.

T-237 includes immigrant and refugee populations, rather than persons with limited English proficiency, among those for whom grant funding for nonmotorized infrastructure should be pursued.

T-237 To increase equitable access to walking, bicycling and transit mobility options, the county should actively seek grant funding to improve nonmotorized infrastructure that serves the needs of people of color, low-income communities, (~~people with limited English proficiency~~) immigrant and refugee populations, and others who may have limited transportation options such as students, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities.

T-253a is a new policy that would mandate that the County will provide participation opportunities for vulnerable communities to access alternatives to driving alone.

T-253a King County shall provide opportunities for residents of low income communities, people of color, and immigrant and refugee populations to inform and participate in programs to increase access to effective alternatives to driving alone.

T-308 requires implementation of road projects to avoid negative impacts to immigrant and refugee populations, rather than persons with limited English proficiency, among others with limited transportation options.

T-308 Road projects and programs shall be implemented in ways that avoid or minimize negative impacts for people of color, low-income communities, and (~~people with limited English proficiency~~) immigrant and refugee populations, and others who may have limited transportation options, such as students, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities and seek to provide tangible, positive benefits whenever possible.

T-407 encourages new funding sources for transportation system investments that are not regressive.

T-407 New funding sources should be identified and pursued that would provide adequate and sustainable resources for transportation system ~~((improvements))~~ investments, are not regressive, and whenever possible provide multi-jurisdictional benefits.

T-511 proposes to include low-income communities, people of color and immigrant and refugee populations among those to whom information should be provided about transportation services, infrastructure and funding issues.

T-511 King County should provide timely, accurate, and consistent public information about transportation services, infrastructure and funding issues, and ensure a wide range of opportunities for input and engagement with county residents, including low income communities, people of color, and immigrant and refugee populations and other stakeholders.

Chapter 9 Services Facilities and Utilities. Chapter 9 addresses equity needs through policies emphasizing culturally-appropriate community engagement, adherence to the Executive Order on Translation,⁴⁴ and the creation of equitable communities through a range of facilities and services. Evaluation of siting processes to assure that vulnerable populations aren't unduly impacted, and consideration of fee discounts for low income households are also addressed.

F-101a is a new policy that would require County agencies to engage communities in a culturally-appropriate way.

F-101a King County agencies will engage communities in a culturally- and audience-appropriate manner.

F-101b is a new policy that would mandate County adherence to the Written Language Translation Executive Order.

F-101b King County shall adhere to the Executive Order on Written Language Translation Process for those with limited English speaking abilities.

F-202 encourages creation of equitable communities through a full range of public facilities and services.

F-202 King County should seek to create equitable and quality communities by defining the needs and proposing strategies for a full range of public facilities and services, including physical infrastructure and health, human and public safety services. King County should strive to

⁴⁴ Executive Order INF 14-2 (AEO)
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/policies/executive/itaao/inf142aao.aspx>

provide an adequate supply and appropriate level of public facilities necessary to support all communities.

F-210a is a new policy that would require County agencies to evaluate “determinants of equity” for vulnerable populations when siting new facilities.

F-210a When siting new county facilities, ensure that county agencies identify and evaluate impacts on the “determinants of equity” for low-income communities, people of color, and people with limited English speaking abilities.

F-225a is a new policy that would encourage consideration of low-rate fees for service to low-income households.

F-225a King County should consider provisions for service to low-income households through discount or low-rate fees for services.

F-228 encourages active engagement of communities with a disproportionate share of existing facilities in planning for and siting new facilities.

F-228 King County should strive to site essential public facilities equitably so that no racial, cultural, or socio-economic group is unduly impacted by essential public facility siting or expansion decisions. No single community should absorb an inequitable share of these facilities and their impacts and an assessment of existing facilities should be conducted when siting new facilities. Siting should consider equity, environmental justice and environmental, economic, technical and service area factors and communities with a disproportionate share of existing facilities should be actively engaged in the planning and siting process for new facilities. The net impact of siting new essential public facilities should be weighted against the net impact of expansion of existing essential public facilities, with appropriate buffering and mitigation. Essential public facilities that directly serve the public beyond their general vicinity shall be discouraged from locating in the Rural Area.

F-230 requires, among other analytical procedures for new or expanded essential public facilities, public involvement to avoid excluding any racial, cultural or socio-economic group.

F-230 Siting analysis for proposed new or expansions to existing essential public facilities shall consist of the following:

- a. An inventory of similar existing essential public facilities in King County and neighboring counties, including their locations and capacities;
- b. A forecast of the future needs for the essential public facility;

- c. An analysis of the potential social and economic impacts and benefits to jurisdictions and local communities receiving or surrounding the facilities;
- d. An analysis of the proposal's consistency with policies F-226 through F-229;
- e. An analysis of alternatives to the facility, including decentralization, conservation, demand management and other strategies;
- f. An analysis of economic and environmental impacts, including mitigation, of any existing essential public facility, as well as of any new site(s) under consideration as an alternative to expansion of an existing facility;
- g. Extensive public involvement which effectively engages communities so that no racial, cultural, or socio-economic group is excluded; ((and))
- h. Consideration of any applicable prior review conducted by a public agency, local government, or citizen's group; and
- i. To the extent allowable under the Growth Management Act, the locational criteria in policy R-326.

F-287 mandates inclusion, rather than consideration as in the 2012 policy, of equity principles in planning the Flood Hazard Management Plan. Outreach is also proposed to be expanded to include consideration of race and access to services and programs.

F-287 King County shall ~~((consider))~~ include equity and social justice principles in planning and implementing the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan to assure floodplain property owners and residents are given equal access to flood risk reduction services. Outreach should consider vulnerable populations that may face barriers based on age, income, English language proficiency, access to services and program, race or other factors.

F-325a is a new policy that would encourage the County to seek to ensure no undue impact to any racial, cultural or socioeconomic group from new or expanded transmission and distribution lines.

F-325a King County should strive to ensure that no racial, cultural, or socio-economic group is unduly impacted by decisions to add new, expand or upgrade transmission and distribution lines.

F-332a is a new policy that would encourage siting of gas or hazardous liquid transmission pipelines to avoid undue impact to any racial, cultural or socioeconomic group.

F-332a King County should strive to site new gas or hazardous liquid transmission pipelines equitably so that no racial, cultural, or

socio-economic group is unduly impacted by siting or expansion decisions.

F354 encourages cable companies to take steps to ensure availability of cable service and information, especially to low-income communities.

F-354 Cable companies should take ~~((affirmative steps to ensure that reasonable services are available regardless of income or the income of other people in the person's neighborhood))~~ proactive steps to ensure that there is widespread availability of cable service and diverse information is available to county residents, especially low-income communities.

F-358 encourages builders and architects to design and retrofit state-of-the-art cable ready facilities, and is proposed to be expanded to include community centers, social service agencies, health clinics and other buildings that serve low income citizens.

F-358 Builders and architects should work with the telecommunication industry to design and retrofit state-of-the art cable-ready homes and offices and community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, and other buildings that serve low-income citizens.

F-359 notes County encouragement to public and private organizations for the creation of wireless internet connections, and is proposed to be expanded to include facilities and buildings that serve low-income communities.

F-359 King County encourages public and private organizations to create wireless internet connections where the public can access the Internet, including in community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, and other buildings that serve low-income citizens. This will create additional opportunities to reduce traffic, lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions and enhance convenient information exchange.

Chapter 10 Economic Development. The Economic Development chapter addresses equity needs through new policies focusing on development of business innovation districts in low-income communities, equity in job and career opportunities for youth, and opportunities for communities that are limited-English-proficient through partnerships, translation, and hiring.

ED-213 is a new policy that would require the County to coordinate with partners to support business innovation districts, such as food innovation districts, and related initiatives in lower income communities.

ED-213 King County shall coordinate with a broad range of partners, organizations, businesses and public sector agencies to support the development of business innovation districts and related initiatives in lower

income communities, with an emphasis on food innovation districts, in particular. Food innovation districts may encompass anchor food businesses, small food business incubation, food industry education and training, markets and food hubs, food programs and partnerships with urban and rural food growers and cooperatives, and food aggregation and processing.

ED-304 is a new policy that would require the County to increase equity in jobs and careers for youth through various programs, initiatives and partnerships.

ED-304 King County shall continue to increase equity in jobs and career opportunities for youth through programs such as the Education Engagement Strategy launched by Public Health in 2013, and others.

a. Partner with private businesses, community organizations and educational institutions to provide job shadowing, internship and summer job opportunities for King County youth.

b. Partner with Maritime and Manufacturing industry businesses, and other business sectors, to engage high school students in vocational programs that offer training for living wage industry jobs. Work with these businesses to engage schools in promoting regional opportunities for apprenticeships and internships for high school students.

ED-305 is a new policy that would mandate County assistance in opportunities for limited English proficiency populations, including partnerships with representative organizations, private businesses, and educational institutions, as well as improving translation services.

ED-305 King County shall help promote and develop opportunities for limited English proficiency populations.

a. Partner and invest in community organizations that represent limited English proficiency populations

b. Improve translation services.

c. Partner with private business to promote the hiring of limited English proficiency populations.

d. Partner with regional educational institutions to develop methods for recertification for limited English proficiency professionals with credentials from other countries. Partner with community organizations to promote and increase access to recertification programs.

Chapter 11 Community Service Area Planning. Chapter 11 includes a narrative discussion of the importance of equity considerations in community outreach for the new subarea planning program. The Executive’s proposed lead-in text notes that equity principles will play a “particularly key role during subarea plan public engagement activities by ensuring people of color, low-income residents, and populations with limited English proficiency are informed and offered equal access to participate in its planning process.”

Chapter 12 Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation. Chapter 12 strengthens policy language considering equity goals in regulatory decision making and addressing housing incentives in support of vulnerable populations.

I-101 strengthens language specifying that criteria and code requirements upon which regulatory decisions are made are to include ESJ goals.

I-101 King County's regulation of land use should:

- a. Protect public health, safety and general welfare, and property rights;
- b. Protect consumers from fraudulent practices in land use, land sales and development;
- c. Implement and be consistent with the comprehensive plan and other adopted land use goals, policies and plans;
- d. Be expeditious, predictable, clear, straightforward and internally consistent;
- e. Provide clear direction for resolution of regulatory conflict;
- f. Be enforceable, efficiently administered and provide appropriate incentives and penalties;
- g. Be consistently and effectively enforced;
- h. Create public and private benefits worth their cost;
- i. Be coordinated with timely provision of necessary public facilities and services;
- j. Encourage creativity and diversity in meeting county goals and policies;
- k. Be coordinated with cities, special purpose districts and other public agencies to promote compatible development standards throughout King County;
- l. Be responsive, understandable and accessible to the public;
- m. Provide effective public notice and reasonable opportunities for the public (especially those directly affected) to be heard and to influence decisions;
- n. Avoid intruding on activities involving constitutionally protected freedoms of speech, petition, expression, assembly, association and economic competition, except when essential to protect public health, safety and welfare (and then the restriction should be no broader than necessary);
- o. Treat all members of the public equally regardless of race, culture or class and base regulatory decisions wholly on the applicable criteria and code requirements, including the county Equity and Social Justice goals;
- p. Make development requirements readily accessible to the public through up-to-date codes, technical assistance materials and other relevant documents; and
- q. Provide for relief from existing regulations when they would deprive a property of uses allowed to similar properties with the same zoning or environmental or other constraints, and when such relief would neither endanger public health and safety nor conflict with adopted use policies.

This policy is not intended for relief from rules governing the subdividing of land.

I-601 proposes to include identification of disadvantaged areas and areas with concentrations of low-income or minority groups among the geographic areas to be identified with infill opportunities, for which budget priority status and flexible new development standards would be granted.

I-601 King County should develop incentives for the Unincorporated Urban ((Growth)) Area that encourage the development industry to provide a broad range of housing and business space. Incentives could include:

- a. Identification of geographic areas with infill opportunities, granting them budget priority status and subjecting new development in these areas to more flexible standards – this should include disadvantaged areas and areas with significant concentrations of low-income or minority groups;
- b. Density bonuses for site designs which provide public benefits (for example, grid roads that connect with other developments and limit impacts on arterials);
- c. Incentives which lower financial development risk;
- d. Joint development opportunities at county-owned or operated facilities, utilization of air rights on county-owned or operated facilities, and the establishment of transit-supportive design guidelines; and
- e. County capital improvement funding for public urban amenities including transportation, parks, open space, cultural and other facilities for cities participating in the King County Transfer of Development Rights Program.

Consistency with adopted policies and plans

ESJ integration. New language on equity and social justice is less extensive in chapters on Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands (Chapter 3), Environment (Chapter 5), Shorelines (Chapter 6),⁴⁵ Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources (Chapter 7), Economic Development (Chapter 10), Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation (Chapter 12), than in other chapters of in the Plan. This focus of equity language in other chapters would be generally consistent with the Executive's new, proposed narrative in Chapter 1 that notes that "ESJ considerations are less of a factor in planning in rural and natural resource areas." It is worth noting that Councilmembers have previously expressed interest in applying ESJ considerations to underserved rural area residents as well.

⁴⁵ As noted at the June 21 TrEE briefing, the County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as included in Chapter 6 of the 2012 KCCP, was approved by the Department of Ecology in 2014. As a result, the transmitted 2016 KCCP does not propose substantive changes to Chapter 6.

The new proposed ESJ narrative in Chapter 1 also states that countywide services, such as recreation, transit service, and public health, “will be focused on cities in the contiguous UGA.” While this directive is not located in policy, it does imply intent for County operations. This statement implies that such services, including recreation and public health, could be less available to:

- Residents of cities in eastern King County, such as Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North Bend, Skykomish, and Snoqualmie.
- Urban unincorporated residents, such as those in Fairwood, Highline, Skyway-West Hill, and White Center.
- Residents in the rural area.

In Chapter 7, existing equity language is eliminated: P-121, which required the consideration of equity in the open space system to help in the reduction of health disparities, is proposed to be removed. Similar policy language was also removed from the proposed 2016 Open Space Plan.

The Council may wish to consider whether this approach to ESJ in these chapters is consistent with the Council’s policy goals.

Consistency with Scoping Motion

Staff notes here the items that do not appear to be addressed in the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

Stand-alone equity chapter. The Scoping Motion called for consideration of consolidating health and equity policies into a new, stand-alone chapter. While a new health and human services chapter is proposed as Chapter 4 in the transmitted 2016 KCCP, the equity policies in the plan are not consolidated in this new chapter. Instead, there is an extended discussion of equity, together with health and social and environmental justice as a subsection of the Chapter 1 Regional Growth Management Planning.⁴⁶ The transmitted 2016 KCCP continues to include equity policies throughout the chapters in the Plan.

Multifamily tax exemption. The Scoping Motion encouraged exploration of a multifamily tax exemption and other affordable housing strategies in the Housing and Human Services chapter. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a number of affordable housing strategies, including new language in H-141 mandating that the County explore incentives, including a new reference to tax exemptions, for new and preserved affordable housing. There is also a new reference in H-131 to tax abatements, exemptions and credits for affordable housing. These tax incentive references could potentially include multifamily tax exemptions to encourage affordable housing, though there is no such specific new policy language.

Other Issues for Councilmember Consideration

⁴⁶ Page 1-19

Affordable housing. People of color and low-income populations appear to be among those most vulnerable to significantly increasing rental rates and housing prices in King County. Home ownership in King County differs significantly by race and by income: in 2009, the rate of home ownership among whites, at 65 percent, was more than twice the rate of home ownership among African Americans, at 31 percent. Also in 2009, those with household income less than \$24,999 had a home ownership rate of 31 percent; those with household income of \$150,000 or more had an 88 percent home ownership rate.⁴⁷ These differences can have the effect of limiting the ability of low-income and minority populations to retain long-term residency within the urban core, raising the question of the demographic balance of the population base within central urban areas over time, with access to services such as transit, education, recreation, and other quality of life services.

As described in the Chapter 4 ESJ analysis, there are extensive existing and new policy efforts to address the need for affordable housing. Initiatives include additional subsidized housing, density incentives, countywide targets for affordable housing in the Countywide Planning Policies, policies to address displacement of vulnerable populations, and similar policies. However, the growing concentration of low-income, minority and immigrant populations in certain communities raises questions as to whether these efforts are proportionate to the extent of the need, and whether, over time, the region may face a condition of poor, ethnic minority populations concentrated in subregions largely separated from high-opportunity neighborhoods in the urban core, while high-income populations occupy high-opportunity, walkable, well-serviced areas, some of which were historically home to more diverse populations.⁴⁸

Parks. Nationally and locally, there is increasing documentation of the link between health, place, and opportunities for recreation.⁴⁹ Additionally, there has been recent attention on the inequitable allocation of physical activity resources and facilities, particularly in poor, racial and ethnic minority communities, as well as linkages to increased obesity patterns in those communities.⁵⁰ Together, these highlight the importance of the availability of local recreation facilities as an intervention measure to support the health of low income populations and communities of color.

Specific to King County, increasing inequity in the types of parks available to residents who are low-income, persons of color or have limited English proficiency was

⁴⁷ Data from the American Community Survey, as quoted in Performance Strategy and Budget web page http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/PSB/BenchmarkProgram/AffordableHousing/AH25_HomeOwnershipRate.aspx

⁴⁸ Data from the University of Washington Seattle Civil rights and Labor History Project http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/maps_neighborhoods.htm

⁴⁹ Disparities in Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviors among US Children and Adolescents, *Journal of Public Health Policy* 2009 30, S309–S334. doi:10.1057/jphp.2008.46; *American Journal of Public Health*, Sept. 2006 <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2005.065573>

⁵⁰ Environmental Injustices: Research and Action to Reduce Obesity Disparities, American Public Health Association <http://apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/21/09/31/environmental-injustices-research-and-action-to-reduce-obesity-disparities>

highlighted in the 2015 King County Determinants of Equity report.⁵¹ Disparities in adolescent obesity rates in these King County communities has also been documented.⁵²

As noted above, a proposed change in Chapter 7 of the transmitted 2016 KCCP would remove an existing policy, P-121, which required consideration of ESJ in the relationship of parks facilities and health disparities. The Council may wish to consider whether this proposed change meets the Council's policy goals.

⁵¹<http://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/~//media/4FF27039534048F9BC15B2A0FFDDE881.ashx?la=en>

⁵² Communities Count—Social and Health Indicators Across King County
<http://www.communitiescount.org/index.php?page=obesity-overweight>

Climate Change

The policies highlighted in this section of the staff report address climate change. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes an increased focus on climate change in multiple chapters. Many of the relevant policies from the 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP)⁵³ and the King County-Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C)⁵⁴ have been incorporated into the KCCP. While the most significant changes can be found in the Climate Change section in Chapter 5 Environment and the Energy and Telecommunications section in Chapter 9 Services, Facilities and Utilities, policy updates can be found in most chapters of the Plan.

In general, the modifications and additions in the transmitted 2016 KCCP appear consistent with the adopted SCAP.

What's new in the transmitted 2016 KCCP?

Chapter 1 Regional Growth Management Planning

Climate change. Policy RP-112,⁵⁵ a policy under the sub-header of “Comprehensive Planning,” is modified to add new language related to preparing for the impacts of climate change. The new language is consistent with the 2015 adopted SCAP. Additionally, policy RP-112 is modified by deleting the phrase at the end of the policy “the most promising actions to respond to climate change, especially those actions that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses.” The effect of this change would be that approaches to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are not specifically limited to the “most promising actions.”

~~((RP-106)) **RP-112** King County shall incorporate approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change into its land use and transportation planning, economic development efforts, and natural resource management ((the most promising actions to respond to climate change, especially those actions that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses.))~~

Open space. A 2012 KCCP Guiding Principle, RP-202,⁵⁶ requires King County to pursue economically feasible opportunities to preserve open space lands. The proposed 2016 policy would remove the “economically feasible” qualifier and would add maintenance in addition to preservation. Additionally, while already included in the definition of open space, the proposed policy would specifically include preservation and maintenance of forest and agriculture lands, in addition to open space lands. The policy

⁵³ Motion 14449

⁵⁴ Ordinance 17285 adopted the Interlocal Agreement for the County's participation in the K4C.

⁵⁵ The policy is currently RP-106 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-112 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

⁵⁶ The policy is currently GP-102 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-202 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

would also now focus on preservation and maintenance of “remaining high-priority” lands. The proposed change is a significant commitment to preserve and maintain remaining high-priority lands without the existing cost qualifier.

~~((GP-102))~~ **RP-202** King County shall pursue ~~((economically feasible))~~ opportunities to preserve and maintain remaining high-priority forest, agriculture, and other open space lands.

Consideration of inequities caused by climate change. The transmitted 2016 KCCP adds a statement onto Guiding Principle policy RP-206⁵⁷ to integrate the disparate impacts of climate change into the planning objectives. This change is also evaluated in the equity and social justice section of this staff report.

~~((GP-106))~~ **RP-206** King County will protect, restore and enhance its natural resources and environment, encourage sustainable agriculture and forestry, reduce climate pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change, including considering of the inequities and disparities that may be caused by climate change.

Chapter 2 Urban Communities

Heat islands. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes updates to policy U-112 related to heat islands. The term “heat absorption” is replaced with the term “heat islands.”

U-112 King County will work with cities, residents, and developers to design communities and development projects that employ techniques that reduce heat ~~((absorption))~~ islands throughout the community and the region.

Green buildings and infill development. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a change to policy U-133 to add a reference to consider green building techniques to encourage “innovative, quality” infill development and redevelopment. The SCAP includes strategies supporting green building.

U-133 King County encourages innovative, quality infill development and redevelopment in existing unincorporated urban areas. A variety of regulatory, incentive and program strategies could be considered, including:

- a. Special development standards for infill sites;
- b. Assembly and resale of sites to providers of affordable and healthy housing;
- c. Impact mitigation fee structures that favor infill developments;
- d. Greater regulatory flexibility in allowing standards to be met using innovative techniques; ~~((and))~~

⁵⁷ The policy is currently GP-106 in the adopted 2012 KCCP, and is proposed to be changed to RP-206 as part of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

- e. Coordination with incentive programs of cities affiliated to annex the area;
- f. Green Building techniques that create sustainable development;
and
- g. Joint public/private loan guarantee pools.

Chapter 3 Rural Areas and Natural Resources

Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs). The transmitted 2016 KCCP expands policy R-314 by adding conserving agricultural lands, such as through TDRs, as a tool for sequestering carbon. This is consistent with the SCAP related strategy to conserve more farm land.

R-314 King County supports and shall work actively to facilitate the transfer of Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands development rights to:

- a. Preserve the rural environment, encourage retention of resource-based uses and reduce service demands;
- b. Provide permanent protection to significant natural resources;
- c. Increase the regional open space system;
- d. Maintain low density development in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands;
- e. Steer development growth inside the Urban Growth Area in ways that promote quality urban neighborhoods where residents want to work and live; and
- f. Provide mitigation for the impacts of urban development on global climate change by simultaneously reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon through retention of forest cover and conserving agricultural lands through zoning, land use planning, transfer of development rights and similar tools.

Green building. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a new policy, R-336a, encouraging the County to adopt and implement Green Building codes that are appropriate, ambitious and achievable, and that respect and support rural character. This policy also identifies that solar panels, wind generation turbine or other renewable energy technologies may need to be sited in the Rural Area.

R-336a To help achieve the goal of reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with new construction, King County should adopt and implement green building codes that are appropriate, ambitious and achievable. Adoption of such codes may result in an increased use of solar panels, private wind generation turbines and similar renewable energy technologies that may need to be sited in the rural area. Development standards will seek to ensure that the siting, scale and design of these facilities respect and support rural character.

Soils. The transmitted 2016 KCCP amends two policies related to soils.

Policy R-639, relating to soil amendments for forest ecosystems, would add language that references carbon capture as a benefit of recycled, organic-based soil amendments.

R-639 King County encourages the use of recycled, organic-based soil amendments, such as biosolids, and fertilizers in forest ecosystems, which can help reduce erosion and sedimentation into streams, increase water-holding capacity of soils, stimulate the growth of trees and other vegetation, capture carbon and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. King County shall work with the general public and private and public forestland owners to encourage the selective and appropriate use of these materials for ecosystem enhancement and restoration.

The transmitted 2016 KCCP modifies policy R-666 by adding “increase soil water capacity” to the list of desired outcomes from agricultural incentive and educational programs. The SCAP includes strategies supporting soil conservation, but the SCAP does not specifically reference water holding capacity.

R-666 King County shall provide incentives, educational programs and other methods to encourage agricultural practices and technological improvements that maintain water quality, protect public health, protect fish and wildlife habitat, protect historic resources, maintain flood conveyance and storage, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, control noxious weeds, and prevent erosion of valuable agricultural soils, and increase soil water holding capacity while maintaining the functions needed for agricultural production.

County forested lands. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes new narrative text on page 3-51, following policy R-641, regarding the SCAP's commitment to management and restoration of the county's forested parks and natural lands. The text commits King County Parks to develop and implement stewardship plans for all forested properties 200 acres or larger in size. The County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) would also commit to provide opportunities for planting native trees and shrubs and removing invasive species on County-owned lands, and references the tree planting goals in the SCAP. The proposed language is consistent with the adopted SCAP.

King County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan calls for the county to manage and restore its forested parks and natural lands in ways that maximize biological carbon storage and sequestration, and increase resilience to changing climate conditions. To help guide forest management activities, in 2012 the Parks Division completed an initial assessment of the forest types on all of Parks' forested acreage. Additional assessment will continue to be conducted on newly acquired forested properties as well. Parks will develop and implement stewardship

plans on all forested properties of 200 acres or more in size, which will result in healthier and forests that are more resilient to climate change. The Parks and Water and Land Resources Divisions will also continue to develop opportunities for volunteers to plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species from County-owned lands and have established an ambitious goal for the planting of new trees in the county.

Water for agriculture. The transmitted 2016 KCCP modifies policy R-668 related to water availability for agricultural land. It would be is expanded to include a list of tools that can encourage the availability and efficiency of water. The modified policy would also no longer require the County to work to “ensure and maintain adequate water for the needs of agriculture;” instead, the policy would require the County just improve the “availability and efficiency of water for agriculture.” The SCAP includes statements in support of agriculture and providing technical assistance. The SCAP includes on page 96 as a priority action “develop framework to provide greater certainty for irrigation while protecting instream flows for fish,” but this policy does not address the latter.

R-668 (~~The county~~) King County shall work with federal, state, local, and private agencies to (~~ensure and maintain adequate water for the needs of agriculture~~) improve the availability and efficiency of water for agriculture through use of tools such as expanding the availability of recycled water to farms, offering incentives for irrigation efficiency, support mechanisms for water rights banking and trading that will give farmers greater certainty for water rights while protecting instream flows. King County will encourage the maintenance and preservation of agriculture water rights for agriculture purposes. Assessments of future surface and groundwater availability for agriculture should consider projected impacts of climate change.

Mining. The transmitted 2016 KCCP modifies policy R-689, relating to the conditions and mitigations for mining operations. Climate change is added to the list of issues which should require mitigation. Other narrative text in the Plan also includes discussion of climate change and mining resources.

R-689 Conditions and mitigations for significant adverse environmental impacts associated with mining operations and their associated structures or facilities should be required, especially in the following areas:

- a. Air quality and climate change;
- b. Environmentally sensitive and critical areas, such as surface and groundwater quality and quantity, wetlands, fisheries and wildlife habitats, and aquatic habitats;
- c. Noise levels;
- d. Vibration;
- e. Light and glare;
- f. Vehicular access and safety;
- g. Land and shoreline uses;

- h. Traffic impacts;
- i. Visual impacts;
- j. Cultural and historic features and resources;
- k. Site security; and
- l. Others unique to specific sites and proposals.

Chapter 4 Housing and Human Services

Mitigation of GHG emissions. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes changes to H-139 to require, rather than encourage in the 2012 policy, the County to provide opportunities to incorporate GHG mitigation in housing and community development, in addition to affordable housing.

((U-326)) H-139 King County ~~((should promote the))~~ shall provide opportunities for incorporation of the principles of healthy communities and housing, sustainability, and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation in housing, affordable housing and community development in unincorporated areas.

Chapter 5 Environment

Section II Climate Change

Section II of the Chapter 5 is dedicated to climate change. The section has been significantly expanded and updated to reflect SCAP.

SCAP and K4C lead-in text. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes many changes in the lead-in text for the climate change section. These changes are made for consistency with the recently adopted 2015 SCAP. These changes include updated facts about climate change impacts to reflect new information. For example, new information is provided about the amount of decreased snowpack, the increase in average temperatures, and sea level rise. The section has also been updated to include the targets and strategies of the SCAP. For example, the proposed changes includes text that restates the commitments identified in the SCAP that are necessary to achieve King County's operational GHG reduction targets. These include listing the specific targets for growing transit service, alternative fuels in County fleets, and energy use.

The transmitted 2016 KCCP also includes text that restates the countywide climate commitments included in the SCAP that were developed by King County and the K4C. These include listing the K4C specific targets for reducing vehicle miles traveled, energy reduction, green building, and recycling.

Reporting. Policy E-202, related to reporting, is modified by deleting terminology specific to "major environmental sustainability programs." This is consistent with the SCAP, which requires a broader scope of reporting.

E-202 (~~Through reporting on its major environmental sustainability programs,~~) King County shall assess and publicly report on:

- a. Its normalized and total energy usage and total greenhouse gas emissions associated with county operations;
- b. Countywide greenhouse gas emissions associated with resident, business, and other local government activities; and
- c. ~~((e))~~ Countywide greenhouse gas inventories that quantify all direct local sources of greenhouse gas emissions as well as emissions associated with local consumption.

Collaboration. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes several policy changes related to collaboration regarding the impacts of climate change.

Policy E-203, relating to collaboration, has been modified to delete the reference to collaborating with “local governments, regionally, nationally, and internationally.” Executive staff report this was done to reflect that many non-governmental agencies are taking leadership roles in developing GHG emissions accounting protocols and standards, which is consistent with the SCAP. However, the proposed policy may now be unclear regarding with whom the County should be collaborating to set transparent standards to account for government actions.

E-203 King County should collaborate (~~with other local governments regionally, nationally and internationally~~) to set transparent standards to account for the net energy and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of government actions such as constructing transportation infrastructure and providing services such as recycling and transit and should assess and publically report these impacts as practicable.

Policy E-204 has been expanded to include publicly sharing information about the impacts of climate change in King County.

E-204 King County should collaborate with experts in the field of climate change, including scientists at the University of Washington’s Climate Impacts Group, to monitor, ~~((and))~~ assess and publicly share information about the impacts of climate change in King County.

GHG emissions reductions targets. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes several policy changes related to targets for reductions in GHG emissions.

E-206 is updated to reflect the new greenhouse reduction targets that were adopted in the SCAP. Previously, the reduction targets were only included for 2050.

E-206 King County shall reduce total greenhouse gas emissions from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline by at least ~~((80% by 2050))~~ 15 percent by 2015, 25 percent by 2020, and 50 percent by 2030.

2012 KCCP policy E-207⁵⁸ requires the County to develop near-term reduction targets for GHG emissions emanating from its government operations. Such a target has been set, so this policy is proposed for deletion.

~~((F-207 King County shall develop near-term reduction targets of greenhouse gas emissions emanating from its government operations to help achieve the 2050 goal.))~~

Policy E-210 is updated to reflect the new GHG reduction targets that were adopted in the SCAP. Previously, the reduction targets were only included for 2050.

E-210 King County shall collaborate with its cities, and other partners, to ~~((meet or exceed the statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirement of 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050))~~ reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25 percent by 2020, 50 percent by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050.

The 2012 KCCP policy E-211 requires King County to develop near-term reduction targets for GHG emissions emanating from its government operations. Such a target has been set so this policy is proposed for deletion.

~~((E-211 King County shall collaborate with its cities and other partners to develop near term targets to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions throughout the region to 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050.))~~

Carbon neutral operations. Policy E-206a is a new policy that would require DNRP to achieve net carbon neutrality for its operations by 2017. Additionally, new policy E-206b states that the department's Wastewater Treatment Division and Solid Waste Division shall each independently achieve carbon neutral operations by 2025. This is consistent with Ordinance 17971 and the SCAP.

E-206a King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, including the Wastewater Treatment Division, Solid Waste Division, Parks and Recreation Division, and Water and Land Resource Division, shall achieve net carbon neutrality for its operations by 2017.

E-206b King County's Wastewater Treatment Division and Solid Waste Division shall each independently achieve carbon-neutral operations by 2025.

Cost of carbon. A new policy, E-206c, would require the County to develop and implement an operational "cost of carbon." Additionally, the cost of carbon should then be used in life-cycle assessments and decision making related to County operations, including for purchase of clean vehicles and alternative fuels, for facility construction

⁵⁸ This was incorrectly listed as F-207 in the 2012 KCCP, so that is how it is referenced in the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

and resource efficiency projects, and for related technology investments. The policy also states that the County should also pursue using the cost of carbon to inform broader County planning and decision making. This is consistent with a priority action identified by the SCAP.

E-206c King County shall develop and implement an operational "cost of carbon." The cost of carbon should be used in life-cycle assessments and decision making related to County operations, including for purchase of clean vehicles and alternative fuels, for facility construction and resource efficiency projects, and for related technology investments. King County should also pursue using the cost of carbon to inform broader County planning and decision making.

Preparing for climate change impacts. The title of the subsection C of Section II would be changed from "Adaptation" to "Preparing for Climate Change Impacts." Additional lead in text is also added related to climate preparedness. All changes are consistent with the SCAP.

Overarching climate change preparedness goals. The transmitted 2016 KCCP adds two new policies under a new header, "Overarching Climate Change Preparedness Goals." These climate preparedness policies, E-215a and E-215b, are added for consistency with the SCAP. Policy E-215a requires collaboration in preparing for the effects of climate. Policy E-215b requires the County to plan and prepare for the likely impacts of climate change on County-owned facilities and properties.

E-215a King County will collaborate with local cities, residents, and other partners to prepare for the effects of climate change on the environment, human health, public safety, and the economy.

E-215b King County will plan and prepare for the likely impacts of climate change on County-owned facilities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Coordination with Partners. The transmitted 2016 KCCP modifies the 2012 sub-heading "Collaboration," to instead read "Coordination with Partners." These policies would replace some of the 2012 policies related to climate preparedness. Two policies are added, E-215c and 215d, and one is deleted, E-216.

Policy E-215c is a new policy encouraging collaboration to develop science-based estimates of the magnitude and timing of climate change impacts. Policy E-215c provides more details than the policy it is replacing, policy E-218.

E-215c King County should collaborate with the scientific community, state and federal agencies, and other jurisdictions to develop detailed, science-based estimates of the magnitude and timing of climate change impacts on air temperatures and heat waves, rainfall patterns and severe

weather, river flooding, sea level rise, fish and wildlife, and ocean acidification in King County.

Policy E-216, related to taking steps to raise awareness about climate change would be deleted. Executive staff report that this policy is proposed for deletion as it is addressed in other updated policies in this section.

~~((E-216 King County should take steps to raise awareness about climate change impacts, including impacts on human health, and should collaborate with climate science experts, federal and state agencies, and other local governments to develop strategies to adapt to climate change.))~~

Policy E-215d encourages the County to share information on climate change impacts, and is added for consistency with the SCAP.

E-215d King County should share information on climate change impacts and collaborate on approaches to improving resiliency of infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and public engagement with local cities and other partners to make the best use of limited resources and more effectively engage King County residents.

Planning for Climate Change Impacts. Consistent with the SCAP, policies related to preparing to climate change impacts are proposed to be added to the 2016 KCCP.

The transmitted 2016 KCCP adds a new policy to require integration of observed and projected climate change impacts in emergency planning.

E-215e King County shall integrate observed and projected climate change impacts, including severe weather, flooding, drought, fire, and landslides, into emergency management planning and programs.

New policy E-221b would require integration of climate change impacts in capital projects and operations and maintenance. It is a more comprehensive policy than the 2012 policy (E-219) related to planning for climate change impacts on County facilities. The new policy is consistent with the 2015 SCAP.

E-221b King County shall integrate estimates of the magnitude and timing of climate change impacts into capital project planning, siting, design, and construction and also implement infrastructure operation and maintenance programs that consider full life-cycle costs and climate change impacts in asset management.

2012 KCCP policy E-224 currently includes a list of efforts to prioritize to foster resilience to climate change in ecosystems and species. Proposed changes to E-224 would add “restoration of floodplains to improve the resilience of major rivers to

changing flow regimes and temperatures” as an effort to prioritize. Additional language is added to identify protection, in addition to restoration, of riparian vegetation. The policy would also encourage maintenance of “current” seasonal migration, and would no longer focus only areas that are “most likely to be resistant to climate change.”

E-224 To foster resilience to climate change in ecosystems and species, the ~~((county))~~ King County should prioritize efforts such as the restoration of floodplains to improve the resilience of major rivers to changing flow regimes and temperatures, the protection and restoration of riparian vegetation to reduce warming in cold water systems ((, restore)) and of wetlands to reduce drought and flooding, ((improve)) and of connections between different habitats to maintain current seasonal migration and ((,)) facilitate migration opportunities for species whose ranges shift in latitude and altitude ((and protect and restore areas most likely to be resistant to climate change)) .

Equity and Social Justice. Policy E-221a is a new policy that requires using the Equity Impact Review process to help prioritize investments in making infrastructure, natural resources, and communities, more resilient to the impacts of climate change. This policy is consistent with the SCAP.

E-221a King County shall apply its Equity Impact Review process to help prioritize investments in making infrastructure, natural resources, and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Outdated policies deleted. The 2012 KCCP policies E-218, E-219, and E-220 are deleted. Executive staff report that this policy is proposed for deletion as it is addressed in other updated policies in this section.

~~**E-218** King County should collaborate with climate scientists, federal and state agencies, and other local governments to evaluate and plan for the potential impacts associated with sea level rise.~~

~~**E-219** King County shall consider projected impacts of climate change, including more severe winter flooding and heat events, when updating disaster preparedness, levee investment, and land use plans; siting King County infrastructure; and updating development regulations.~~

~~**E-220** The county should inventory essential county facilities and infrastructure, including roads and wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities, that are subject to impacts that may be exacerbated by climate change, such as flooding and inundation from sea level rise, and develop strategies for reducing risks and mitigating future damages.))~~

Limitations and a market based price on carbon. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a new policy, E-226a, in support of comprehensive federal, regional and state

science-based limits and a market based price on carbon pollution and other GHG emissions. This is consistent with policy statements in the SCAP.

This policy replaces policy E-227, which references support for market based emissions reduction programs and support for renewable energy standard for electricity production and vehicle efficiency performance standards.

~~((E-227 King County should support appropriate comprehensive approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as market-based emissions reduction programs and products, renewable energy standards for electricity production, and vehicle efficiency performance standards.))~~

E-226a King County supports comprehensive federal, regional and state science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas emissions. A portion of revenue from these policies should support local GHG reduction efforts, such as funding for transit service, energy efficiency projects, and forest protection and restoration initiatives. King County also supports renewable energy standards for electricity production and vehicle efficiency performance standards.

Chapter 6 Shorelines

No SCAP changes identified.

Chapter 7 Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources

No SCAP changes identified.

Chapter 8 Transportation

Strategies to reduce emissions from transportation sector. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes clarifying edits to policy T-322, related to strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector. The clarifying edits are consistent with the 2015 SCAP.

T-322 Through its own actions and through regional partnerships, King County will promote strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector. The county will promote new vehicle technologies, the use of low-carbon fuels, and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including land use changes, provision of transit, promotion of nonmotorized travel, joint purchasing, pilot projects, and other actions to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Green fleet. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes modifications to policy T-323 to include zero and low emission technologies as strategies to reduce GHG emissions. This change is consistent with Motion 14633 adopted in April 2016, which requires

transmit to develop a feasibility study on implementing a zero-emission or carbon neutral fleet. Other minor changes are made to add clarity to the policy statements.

T-323 King County will be a leader in the use of transportation fuels and technologies that reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions from its fleets and vessels by buying hybrid-electric, electric, zero-emission and other clean transportation technologies; using clean fuels in its fleets and vessels; implementing demonstration projects that use alternative fuels and technologies; purchasing locally-produced energy sources when practical; seeking local and federal support to expand the use of ~~((alternative))~~ low-carbon fuels and alternative, zero emission technologies; and promoting best practices, innovations, trends and developments in transportation fuels and technologies. The county will also seek to deploy and use its vehicles in an energy-efficient manner through vehicle routing, idling-reduction, and operator practices.

GHG emissions from off-road vehicles. The transmitted 2016 KCCP adds a new policy, T-324a, directing the County to reduce GHG emissions from its off-road vehicles and equipment. This is consistent with the SCAP strategies for emissions reductions in county vehicles.

T-324a King County will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its off-road vehicles and equipment by using low-carbon fuels and advanced technologies, and by partnering with other agencies to implement demonstration projects using these vehicle technologies.

Chapter 9 Services, Facilities and Utilities

King County property and facilities for renewable energy use. New Policy F-206a encourages King County to make its public facilities and properties available for renewable energy production. The SCAP includes goals to increase renewable energy, but does not include the specific policy statement in F-206a.

F-206a King County should make its public facilities and properties available for renewable energy production when such use is compatible with the primary use of the facility.

Net-zero GHG emissions for new private development. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a new policy, F-215a, encouraging the County to plan to achieve net-zero GHG emissions associated with new residential and commercial buildings built in King County by 2030. This policy is consistent with the 2015 adopted SCAP.

F-215a King County should plan to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions associated with new residential and commercial buildings built in King County by 2030.

Net positive environmental benefits. The transmitted 2016 KCCP plan includes two new policies on net positive environmental benefits.

F-215b encourages the County to guide practices that build and operate buildings and infrastructure that result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water, other resources and GHG emissions. Policy F-215b is not specifically stated in the adopted SCAP. However, the SCAP does include a priority action on page 71 for DPER to “develop an on-going, free educational program promoting green building and sustainable practices and offering resources to new construction and remodeling customers in unincorporated King County.”

F-215b King County plans should guide practices that build and operate buildings and infrastructure that result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water, other resources and greenhouse gas emissions.

F-217c requires the County to seek to build and operate buildings and infrastructure that result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water, GHG emissions, and other resources. The SCAP includes a priority action to “Research tools to increase net positive and Living Building Challenge projects.”

F-217c King County will seek to build and operate buildings and infrastructure that result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water, greenhouse gas emissions and other resources

Green building requirements for County owned projects. Consistent with the SCAP, the transmitted 2016 KCCP updates policy F-217 related to LEED⁵⁹ certification and sustainable building requirements. The requirement for LEED Gold certification has been replaced with a requirement for LEED Platinum. Currently, the King County Code⁶⁰ only requires new construction to plan to achieve LEED platinum if certain cost limitations are met. Major remodels and renovations are to plan to achieve goal.

Additionally, consistent with current Code, the policy has been updated to allow for the use of an approved alternative rating system and specifies that those projects using the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard shall achieve a Platinum certification.

F-218 has been deleted and the substantive content combined into F-217.

F-217 All eligible King County capital projects shall plan for and should achieve LEED ((Gold)) Platinum certification level using the LEED rating system or the or the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or achieve the highest certification level using an approved alternative rating system, and

⁵⁹ Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a voluntary, consensus-based standard for developing sustainable buildings. The U.S. Green Building Council, which represents all segments of the building industry developed the LEED standards.

⁶⁰ K.C.C. 18.17.020

apply minimum performance standards when the incremental cost impacts do not exceed the maximums allowed by King County code.

~~((F-218 King County shall require those new county infrastructure projects ineligible for LEED certification to incorporate cost-effective sustainable development practices and document those practices by using the county's Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard.))~~

Net-zero GHG emissions for County-owned projects. Consistent with the 2015 SCAP, the transmitted 2016 KCCP includes two new policies related to achieving net-zero GHG emissions. New policy F-217a encourages new King County construction projects to achieve net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2030. Similarly, new Policy F-217b would require the County to evaluate all capital programs to evaluate projects for net-zero GHG opportunities.

F-217a All King County owned new construction capital projects should achieve net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2030.

F-217b All King County capital programs will evaluate their project portfolio for opportunities to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through programs such as the Living Building challenge, Living Communities Challenge, Net Zero Energy, Envision, or EcoDistrict.

Water efficiency and conservation. Consistent with the SCAP, the transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a new policy, F-217d, requiring the County to increase water conservation and reuse, and to reduce purchased water consumption. It is unclear if this policy relates to County operations only, or to all water use within King County.

F-217d King County will increase water efficiency and conservation, and reduce purchased water consumption through appropriate reuse of wastewater effluent, recycled water, stormwater, and harvested rainwater.

Alternative sustainable development certifications. The transmitted 2016 KCCP deletes policy F-220 because the work related to exploring alternative development certifications has been completed.

~~((F-220 King County should explore incorporating proven alternative sustainable development certifications into its capital planning procedures to further promote the county's commitment to cost-effective green building and sustainable development practices.))~~

Section III. Energy and Telecommunications

SCAP goals added to lead-in text. Some of the energy-related goals from the SCAP have been added to the lead in text for the Energy and Telecommunication section of the transmitted 2016 KCCP.

SCAP. Policy F-304 in the transmitted 2016 KCCP is updated to replace the reference to the Energy Plan with a reference to the SCAP. This reflects the fact that the Energy Plan is now merged with the SCAP.

F-304 All King County departments and divisions shall use the ~~((Energy))~~ Strategic Climate Action Plan as the basis for strategic energy planning and direction.

Energy goals. Policy F-305 in the transmitted 2016 KCCP is updated to address both near- and long-term energy use reductions. This is consistent with the SCAP.

F-305 King County shall plan for further reduction in its energy use from government operations by setting near and long term energy use reductions, consistent with its long term goals of ~~((reducing))~~ working to continuously reduce operating costs and environmental impacts, maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing waste.

Renewable energy production. The transmitted 2016 KCCP updates policy F-306, by deleting the renewable energy target for producing, using, or procuring, and replaces it with a policy to maximize production of renewable energy with no set target. The policy now focuses only on renewable energy at the County's wastewater treatment plants and Cedar Hills, rather than increasing renewable energy in all County operations as in the 2012 policy. The policy update is consistent with the SCAP.

F-306 King County shall ~~((continue to produce, use or procure))~~ maximize the production of renewable energy ~~((equal to at least 50 percent of total County net energy requirements on an ongoing basis))~~ at its wastewater treatment plants and Cedar Hills Landfill, and pursue other renewable energy generation projects where cost-effective.

Energy efficiency for transit vehicles. Policy F-308 in the transmitted 2016 KCCP is modified such that the reference to renewable fuels is deleted, as is the qualifier of "where cost effective and environmentally sustainable." The term "greenhouse gas reducing fuels" has been inserted.

The SCAP strategy on page 45 of the SCAP does include a cost qualifier: "Use proven alternative fuels that lower GHG emissions, where cost effective, with a priority focus on renewable energy or lower carbon intensity fuels."

F-308 King County shall:

- a. Continue to increase ~~((the use of renewable fuel in and))~~ the energy efficiency of county buses and vehicles ~~((where cost effective and environmentally sustainable))~~, and shall support adoption and promotion of innovative technology vehicles and greenhouse gas reducing fuels with a focus on electric vehicles where appropriate; and

b. Consistent with policy E-203, collaborate with other local governments regionally, nationally and internationally to develop a common approach to accounting for the Greenhouse Gas Emissions resulting from the operation of its public transportation system, and for claiming rights to any GHG reduction attributes associated with its operation.

Economic benefit from renewable energy. Policy F-310 in the 2016 transmitted KCCP is modified so that the policy is for King County to claim economic benefit for renewable energy production from County-owned resources. The SCAP includes strategies supporting renewable energy but does not specifically address claiming the economic benefit.

F-310 King County shall support the conversion of renewable resources and service by-products to energy for beneficial use consistent with E-208. King County shall claim ~~((rights to))~~ and/or generate economic benefit for any and all renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction attributes resulting from renewable energy generation.

Energy utilities. Policy F-311 in the 2016 transmitted KCCP has been expanded such that, in addition to encouraging the phasing out of fossil fuel powered plants as in the 2012 policy, King County should also now encourage replacing “such facilities with resource efficiency and renewable generation sources.” This policy is consistent with SCAP strategies to promote renewable energy production in King County.

F-311 King County should encourage its energy utilities to provide energy efficiency services and renewable energy options to all their customers. Additionally, the County should encourage the state and energy utilities to mitigate the environmental and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of energy and, as conservation and alternative energy sources demonstrate capacity to address energy needs, phase out existing coal and other fossil fuel based power plants, ((especially coal based sources)) and replace such facilities with resource efficiency and renewable generation sources.

Energy management. Policy F-312 in the 2016 transmitted KCCP is proposed to be revised to specify that energy efficiency audits will only occur at County facilities “over 20,000 square feet.” Policy F-313 is updated to identify a specific energy measurement tool. These changes are consistent with the SCAP.

F-312 King County shall develop and adopt strategic energy management, efficiency and conservation programs in its own operations, including:

- a. Consolidated energy accounting of county facilities to establish baseline energy performance for the county, benchmarking of facilities against comparable best practices where possible, setting goals for facility efficiency improvements, and measuring and reporting progress toward county energy goals;

- b. Energy efficiency audits of all (~~(significant)~~) county facilities over 20,000 square feet and the creation of (~~(a prioritized)~~) action plans for reducing energy use at such facilities;
- c. Energy management plans for energy-intensive or special-purpose county facilities such as wastewater treatment plants, correctional facilities and transit bases that focus on least-cost management and that include specific approaches for each facility's use, as well as the production and sale of energy where appropriate;
- d. Mandatory energy efficiency and resource use guidelines for operation and maintenance of all county-occupied facilities, while recognizing the unique operating requirements of specialty facilities;
- e. Programs to encourage employees to implement energy conserving measures at work; and
- f. Incentives, including retaining a portion of energy cost savings, to county agencies and departments for achieving energy efficiency.

F-313 King County should benchmark all applicable county buildings as a basis for measuring energy efficiency improvements, using the EPA Portfolio Manager Tool, where applicable.

Fund to Reduce Energy Demand (FRED). The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes new text on page 9-44 which encourages King County departments to use the County's Fund to Reduce Energy Demand (FRED) loan program to fund cost effective energy and water efficiency projects that cannot otherwise be funded. This is consistent with the SCAP. Under FRED, the County issues bonds and provides loans to County departments for equipment upgrades to reduce energy use. Energy, water, fuel, solid waste, and other potential projects that can result in a financial payback to the county are eligible for the program. Resulting utility bill savings are then used to pay back the bonds, resulting in a neutral or positive cash flow. Although this text provides new policy direction, it is not listed as a unique, numbered policy.

"County departments should use the county's Fund to Reduce Energy Demand (FRED) loan program to fund cost effective energy and water efficiency projects that cannot otherwise be funded."

Resource Life Cycle Cost Assessment calculator. Policy F-315 in the transmitted 2016 KCCP has been updated to reflect the work previously completed. Policy F-315 now requires the County to use its "Resource Life Cycle Cost Assessment calculator" to evaluate energy projects. The policy would now no longer take into account "alternative funding mechanisms available" for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, as in the 2012 policy – and would instead look at "all identified costs" associated with such projects. This policy is consistent with the SCAP.

F-315 King County shall (~~(develop criteria)~~) use its Resource Life Cycle Cost Assessment calculator to evaluate energy projects to determine if the operations and maintenance cost savings over the life of an energy

project's assets exceed the implementation costs, taking into account ~~((alternative funding mechanisms available for))~~ all identified costs associated with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Chapter 10 Economic Development

Green building. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a new policy ED-501a to promote green and smart building practices throughout private, public and residential uses. This policy is consistent with the SCAP.

ED-501a King County shall strive to promote green building and smart building practices throughout private, public and residential uses and support programs that foster this type of development through collaboration with jurisdictions and other sectors.

Open and green space. New policy ED-605 connects social and economic health and wellness with the value of open and green space. The policy speaks to continuing to invest in public lands and partnering with organizations that support and strengthen linkages between rural and urban communities.

ED-305 King County recognizes the value of open and green space in promoting social and economic health and wellness throughout the county. The county will continue to invest in public lands and partner with organizations that support and strengthen the linkages between rural and urban communities use and maintenance of these open spaces.

Consistency with adopted policies and plans

Chapter 9

Green building requirements for County owned projects. Consistent with the SCAP, the transmitted 2016 KCCP updates policy F-217 related to LEED certification and sustainable building requirements. The requirement for LEED Gold certification has been replaced with a requirement for LEED Platinum. Policy F-217 does not distinguish between new construction and major remodels and renovations. Currently, King County Code 18.17.020 requires new construction to plan to achieve LEED Platinum if certain cost limitations are met, whereas major remodels and renovations are to plan to achieve Gold. The Council may wish to address this inconsistency, either in the Plan or in the Code.

Consistency with the Scoping Motion

No issues identified.

Other issues for Council consideration

Chapter 1

Open Space. In the 2012 KCCP policy RP-202, the underlying 2012 Guiding Principle requires King County to pursue “economically feasible” opportunities to preserve open space lands. The proposed policy would remove the “economically feasible” qualifier and would add maintenance in addition to preservation. Additionally, while already included in the definition of open space, the proposed policy would specifically include forest and agriculture lands in addition to open space lands. The policy is also now focused on preservation and maintenance of “remaining high-priority” lands. The references to “high-priority forest and agriculture” are consistent with the 2015 SCAP. While the SCAP does not include a cost-qualifier related to the land conservation strategy, it does require the conservation strategy in the SCAP to be implemented “consistent with any policies adopted in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan.” The Council may want to confirm that the deletion of the cost qualifier meets the Council’s policy goals.

Chapter 3

Green building. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a new policy, R-336a, encouraging the County to adopt and implement Green Building codes that are appropriate, ambitious and achievable, and that respect and support rural character. The transmitted 2016 KCCP also identifies that solar panels, wind generation turbines or other renewable energy technologies may need to be sited in the Rural Area. The County currently has a Green Building Ordinance for County facilities, which was updated in 2013 via Ordinance 17709. The Executive has not proposed, nor has the Council adopted, a Green Building Ordinance for private development.

The SCAP included strategies in support of strong Green Building codes for unincorporated King County. The SCAP includes a “priority action” item for DPER to prepare proposed code updates by the end of 2017. Proposed Ordinance 2015-0417 would authorize a \$68,000 transfer from the General Fund to DPER to provide 50 percent of the funding for a time-limited temporary staff person that would be focused on Green Building code development. The position was called for by the SCAP, which the Council adopted by motion on November 2, 2015. The Council’s Budget and Fiscal Management Committee has not taken action on Proposed Ordinance 2015-0417. Given this, it is currently unclear if the 2017 timeline for transmittal of green building regulations is still achievable.

This issue also applies to:

- U-133 in Chapter 2, which calls for consideration of Green Building techniques to encourage “innovative, quality” infill development and redevelopment,
- F-215a in Chapter 9, which encourages the County to plan to achieve net-zero GHG emissions associated with new residential and commercial buildings built in King County by 2030, and
- ED-501a in Chapter 10, which calls for to promoting green and smart building practices throughout private, public and residential uses.

Water for Agriculture. The transmitted 2016 KCCP modifies policy R-668 related to water availability for agricultural land. It would be expanded to include a list of tools that can encourage the availability and efficiency of water. The 2015 adopted SCAP includes statements in support of agriculture and providing technical assistance. The SCAP includes on page 96 as a priority action “develop framework to provide greater certainty for irrigation while protecting instream flows for fish.” The Council may wish to consider amending policy R-668 to include a reference to protecting instream flows for fish.

Mining. The transmitted 2016 KCCP modifies policy R-689, relating to the conditions and mitigations for mining operations. Climate change is added to the list of issues which should require mitigation. Other descriptive text also includes discussion of climate change and mining resources. Executive staff have noted that the intent of these changes is to address the impact of the transport and burning of coal. However, the transmitted policy language in R-689 is not specific to coal and would apply to all mining activities, including mineral resource lands designated as having long-term commercial significance under the GMA.⁶¹ Executive staff also note that the required mitigation in the policy could apply to either associated individual or cumulative impacts to global warming. It is unclear how the cumulative impacts would either be assessed or then be addressed on an individual basis. Lastly, to implement the proposed policy direction, Executive staff note that the County’s SEPA authority could be used to mitigate the effects of climate change by either conditioning or denying mining proposals; though, the standards for how such determinations would be made is not yet established. The Council may wish to consider whether these proposed changes meet the Council’s policy goals.

Chapter 5 Environment

SCAP and K4C lead-in text. The transmitted 2015 KCCP has been updated to include the targets and strategies of the SCAP. For example, the proposed changes include text that restates the commitments identified in the SCAP that are necessary to achieve King County’s operational GHG reduction targets. These include listing the specific targets for growing transit service, alternative fuels in County fleets, and energy use. The most significant modification to the 2012 climate related goals is the inclusion in the text of the countywide climate commitments included in the SCAP that were developed by King County and the K4C. These include listing the specific targets for reducing vehicle miles traveled, energy reduction, green building, and recycling countywide. Achieving these targets will require significant efforts beyond the County’s control. The

⁶¹ A required designation by RCW 36.70A.170 as a means to protect lands for extraction of minerals. Minerals, as defined by the GMA includes “gravel, sand, and valuable metallic substances” (RCW 36.70a.030). Lands designated as having “long-term commercial significance” must include the “growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land’s proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land” (ibid).

Council may want to consider whether restating these specific goals and targets of implementation plans in the KCCP is appropriate.

Chapter 9

Energy efficiency for transit vehicles. Policy F-308 is modified such that the reference to renewable fuels is deleted as is the qualifier of “where cost effective and environmentally sustainable.” The term “greenhouse gas reducing fuels” has been inserted. The SCAP strategy on page 45 of the SCAP does include a cost qualifier: “Use proven alternative fuels that lower GHG emissions, where cost effective, with a priority focus on renewable energy or lower carbon intensity fuels.” The Council may wish to consider reinserting the cost qualifier in Policy F-308 for consistency with the 2015 SCAP.

Net positive environmental benefits. The transmitted 2016 KCCP includes a new policy F-215b for King County to guide practices that build and operate buildings and infrastructure that result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water, other resources and GHG emissions. It is not clear from the language whether this policy applies to county owned properties, privately owned properties, or both. The Council may wish to consider providing clarification for F-215b.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2016 KCCP Schedule, updated as of June 22, 2016
2. Frequently Used Acronyms
3. Executive provided materials regarding ESJ
4. Executive provided materials regarding climate change

LINKS

Proposed Ordinance 2016-0155, the underlying ordinance for the proposed 2016 KCCP, can be found at:

<http://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2594294&GUID=050D99B0-CE2F-4349-BD0D-46D46F673458&Options=ID%7cText%7c&Search=2016-0155>

The Council’s Scoping Motion, Motion 14351, can be found at:

<http://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2233471&GUID=8A16CD C8-8A9A-455D-A9E6-00CF10E055A9&Options=ID|Text|&Search=2015-0104>

All components of the proposed 2016 KCCP can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/2016compplan/transmittal.aspx>

These components include:

- Proposed Ordinance 2016-0155
- 2016 KCCP
- Land Use and Zoning Changes
- Appendix A: Capital Facilities
- Appendix B: Housing
- Appendix C: Transportation
- Appendix C1: Transportation Needs Report
- Appendix C2: Regional Trails Needs Report
- Appendix D: Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area
- Appendix R: Public Outreach for Development of KCCP
- Attachment: Skyway-West Hill Action Plan
- Attachment: Area Zoning Studies
- Attachment: Development Code Studies
- Attachment: Policy Amendment Analysis Matrix
- Attachment: Public Participation Report

INVITED

- Ivan Miller, KCCP Manager, Performance, Strategy and Budget

King County Council
Schedule for 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan
(As of 6/22/16, Subject to change)

March 1	Transmittal of King County Executive's proposed 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan.
March 15 9:30 a.m.	<p>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Committee review process overview</i> • <i>Land use proposals/Area Zoning Studies</i> • <i>Chapter 11 Community Service Area Planning</i> • <i>Chapter 12 Implementation, Appendix D Growth Targets</i> <p>Opportunity for public comment</p>
April 6 6:30 p.m.	<p>Committee of the Whole Town Hall - Special Evening Meeting Location: Gracie Hansen Community Center at Ravensdale Park (Rock Creek Sports) - 27132 SE Ravensdale Way, Ravensdale WA Opportunity for public comment on proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan</p>
May 3 9:30 a.m.	<p>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 1 Regional Planning</i> • <i>Chapter 3 Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands</i> • <i>Chapter 8 Transportation, Appendix C Transportation, C1 Transportation Needs Report</i> • <i>Chapter 10 Economic Development</i> • <i>Development code updates (Proposed Ordinance 2016-0155)</i> <p>Opportunity for public comment</p>
May 17 9:30 a.m.	<p>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 2 Urban Communities</i> <p>Opportunity for public comment</p>
May 31 9:30 a.m.	<p>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 4 Housing and Human Services, Appendix B Housing</i> <p>Opportunity for public comment</p>
June 7 9:30 a.m.	<p>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 7 Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources, Appendix C2 – Regional Trail Needs Report</i> <p>Opportunity for public comment</p>
June 21 9:30 a.m.	<p>Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 5 Environment</i> • <i>Chapter 6 Shorelines</i> <p>Opportunity for public comment</p>

June 28 9:30 a.m.	Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate Change (all chapters)</i> • <i>Equity and Social Justice (all chapters)</i> Opportunity for public comment
July 5 9:30 a.m.	Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 9 Services, Facilities and Utilities, Appendix A – Capital Facilities</i> Opportunity for public comment
July 19 9:30 a.m.	Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Real Property Asset Management Plan (Proposed Ordinance 2016-0159)</i> Opportunity for public comment
August 16 9:30 a.m.	Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Follow up on identified issues</i> Opportunity for public comment
August 24 1:30 p.m.	Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Follow up on identified issues</i> Opportunity for public comment
August 30 9:30 a.m.	Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Follow up on identified issues</i> Opportunity for public comment
September 6 9:30 a.m.	Briefing in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. Anticipated topics (subject to change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chair’s Striking Amendment</i> Opportunity for public comment
September 20 9:30 a.m.	Possible vote in Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Includes consideration of possible amendments</i> Opportunity for public comment
November 28 Time TBD	Anticipated public hearing at full Council Opportunity for public comment
December 5 Time TBD	Possible vote at full Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Includes consideration of possible amendments</i>

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in the Council Chambers on the 10th Floor of the King County Courthouse, at 516 3rd Ave, Seattle WA.

2016 King County Comprehensive Plan Frequently Used Acronyms

APD	Agricultural Production District
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CPP	Countywide Planning Policy
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCC	Fully Contained Community
FPD	Forest Production District
GMA	Growth Management Act
GMPC	Growth Management Planning Council
HOT	High Occupancy Toll
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
KCCP	King County Comprehensive Plan
KCSP	King County Strategic Plan
LID	Low Impact Development
LOS	Level of Service
LSRA	Locally Significant Resource Area
MPP	Multi-county Planning Policies
MPS	Mitigation Payment System
PAA	Potential Annexation Area
PBRs	Public Benefit Rating System
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RSRA	Regionally Significant Resource Area
RWSP	Regional Wastewater Services Plan
SCAP	Strategic Climate Action Plan
SPPT	Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
SPRS	Strategic Plan for Road Services
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
TAM	Transportation Adequacy Measure
TDR	Transfer of Development Rights
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TNR	Transportation Needs Report
TOD	Transit Oriented Development
UGA	Urban Growth Area
UGB	Urban Growth Boundary
UPD	Urban Planned Development
UTRC	Utilities Technical Review Committee

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2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

fact sheet

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE Related Amendments in 2016 Proposed Plan

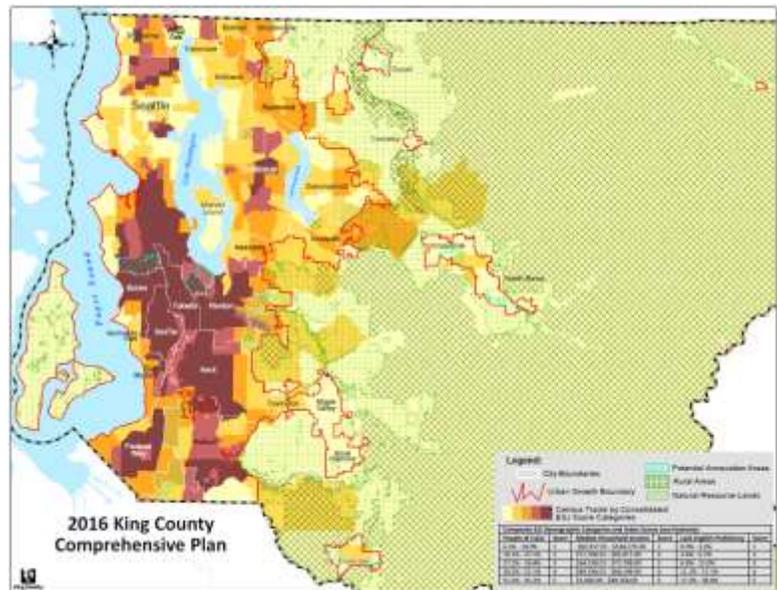
By any measure, our region has one of the highest qualities of life in the world, however, there is staggering inequity across King County and many communities are being left behind. For our region to continue to prosper, we need everyone to have a fair shot at success, regardless of where they started out in life.

This has long been recognized and policies were included in almost every chapter of 2012 adopted Comprehensive Plan. Addressing equity is foundational to other county planning work as well, such as limiting expansion of the urban growth area boundary to avoid creating auto-dependent housing far from services and working to annex unincorporated urban areas into cities that are able to provide a fuller range of services. In May 2016, Motion 14351 was adopted to establish the Scope of Work for the 2016 update and it included a strong focus on ESJ issues. In response, the following amendments are proposed in the *Executive Recommended 2016 Plan*.

1. Text and map changes

The draft plan establishes a new chapter on Housing and Human Services to heighten the focus on equity and the human-dimensions of land use planning. The new chapter consolidates and updates existing policies, and reflects equity-related initiatives such as Communities of Opportunity, the Health and Human Services Transformation program, and the Determinants of Equity program.

Additionally, to clarify the geographic dimension of these issues and how they relate to the long-range planning in the Comprehensive Plan, a new map is added that overlays Growth Management Act geographies (such as urban areas, rural areas, and the urban growth area boundary) with the geographic distribution of demographic groups that are the focus of the county's Equity and Social Justice work (including People of Color, Households by Median Household Income, and Households that Lack English Speaking Proficiency). This overlay clarifies that while equity considerations remain an important planning factor across all geographies, the county's planning best addresses equity through coordination with cities and continued efforts to move unincorporated urban areas towards annexation.



2. Policy changes

Policies are changed throughout the plan related to the planning process, public engagement, establishment of new community development tools, increasing housing density and affordable housing near business corridors and frequent transit, as well as addressing public health issues such as tobacco-free parks, smoke-free housing, healthy food retail, and urban agriculture. Policy changes address urban, rural and resource geographies, and topics range from housing, to parks, infrastructure investments, public facilities, economic development, and more. Specific examples are noted below.

Overarching Planning Objectives – ESJ added to the first policy in the entire plan

RP-101

King County shall strive to provide a high quality of life for all of its residents by working with cities, special purpose districts and residents to develop attractive, safe and accessible urban communities, retain rural character and rural neighborhoods, support economic development, promote equity and social justice, ((maintain)) preserve resource and open space lands, preserve the natural environment, and to protect significant cultural and historic resources.



Overarching Planning Objectives – from evaluating to implementing ESJ

((GP-405)) RP-205 King County will seek to reduce health ~~((disparities))~~ inequities and proactively address issues of equity, social and environmental justice when ~~((evaluating))~~ implementing its land use policies, programs, and practices.

Rural Area and Resource Lands Chapter – expanding representation in decision-making

R 661b King County should expand representation of low income and socially disadvantaged farmers within King County agricultural processes such as the Agriculture Commission, advisory committees, task forces and hiring.

Housing and Human Services – assisting with permanent affordable housing

((U-374)) H-171 King County should support innovative and flexible tools and programs that assist low-income renters to ~~((remain in))~~ maintain housing stability or to gain access to permanent affordable housing and private market housing, such as revolving loan funds that cover utility and damage deposits, and rental assistance programs.

Public Facilities and Services Chapter – considering impacts and involving affected communities in siting decisions

F-228 King County should strive to site essential public facilities equitably so that no racial, cultural, or socio-economic group is unduly impacted by essential public facility siting or expansion decisions. No single community should absorb an inequitable share of these facilities and their impacts and an assessment of existing facilities should be conducted when siting new facilities. Siting should consider equity, environmental justice and environmental, economic, technical and service area factors and communities with a disproportionate share of existing facilities should be actively engaged in the planning and siting process for new facilities. The net impact of siting new essential public facilities should be weighted against the net impact of expansion of existing essential public facilities, with appropriate buffering and mitigation. Essential public facilities that directly serve the public beyond their general vicinity shall be discouraged from locating in the Rural Area.

Public Facilities and Services Chapter – supporting variable rate structures for low-income communities

F-225a King County should consider provisions for service to low-income households through discount or low-rate fees for [public] services.

F-354 Cable companies should take ~~((affirmative steps to ensure that reasonable services are available regardless of income or the income of other people in the person's neighborhood))~~ proactive steps to ensure that there is widespread availability of cable service and diverse information is available to county residents, especially low-income communities.

Economic Development Chapter – equity in job and career opportunities for youth

ED-304 King County shall continue to increase equity in jobs and career opportunities for youth through programs such as the Education Engagement Strategy launched by Public Health in 2013, and others.
a. Partner with private businesses, community organizations and educational institutions to provide job shadowing, internship and summer job opportunities for King County youth.
b. Partner with Maritime and Manufacturing industry businesses, and other business sectors, to engage high school students in vocational programs that offer training for living wage industry jobs. Work with these businesses to engage schools in promoting regional opportunities for apprenticeships and internships for high school students.

Other relevant policy changes include U-108, U-201a, R661b, E-221a, H-102, H-149, H-152, H-158, H-202, H-203, P-202, P-134, T-104a, F-108, F-201a, F-221a, F-287, F-271b, F-323, F-358, F-359, ED-303, ED-305, I-101 and I-601.

3. Annexation-related changes

As noted above, annexation of unincorporated urban areas is a key part of the strategy for addressing equity. While a separate fact sheet has been prepared on this issue, some highlights are noted below.

Policy changes: Policy changes for potential annexation areas include promoting high-quality development, increased provision of amenities, coordination with the cities that are affiliated or have a logical nexus for annexation in joint planning and, if there is a commitment to annex, collaboration on a variety of land use planning tools.

Workplan: This new section of the Comprehensive Plan includes an action committing the County, through the Growth Management Planning Council, to reconsider the affiliations shown on the Annexation Area Map as well as revisiting the Joint Planning and Annexation section of the Countywide Planning Policies.



2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

fact sheet

CLIMATE CHANGE Related Amendments in 2016 Proposed Plan

Climate change is one of the paramount environmental and economic challenges for this generation. King County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) is the County's comprehensive legislative and policy plan for climate action. It provides the blueprint for county decision-makers, employees, and the general public to learn about the County's climate change commitments. A subset of the policies and commitments from the SCAP are reflected in the proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan.

Impacts from climate change have the potential to dramatically impact ecosystems, agriculture, economy, biodiversity, and public health and safety in myriad and interrelated ways. Impacts of a changing climate will be experienced differently by King County residents, influenced by factors such as income, age, health, and where they live. However, by working collaboratively to develop and implement strategies to prevent, respond to, and prepare for climate change, the County has many opportunities to address broader inequities. Sustaining quality of life and the environment requires a significant commitment on the part of the County to both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change impacts in an ever-changing and increasingly dynamic landscape.

The first two sections of this document outline amendments proposed in the Climate Change Section in Chapter 5 of the proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of alignment and consistency with the 2015 SCAP. The last section of this document outlines key climate change related issues covered in other chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan focuses on policy direction and avoids providing as much detail on implementation strategies compared to what is contained within the SCAP. To learn more about the SCAP: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate>.

1. Text changes in Environment Chapter

Minor changes in the Climate Change Section in Chapter 5 that provide:

- **New scientific information** about local climate change related environmental observations and potential future climate change impacts
- Background about how **goal area targets adopted** in the 2015 SCAP will contribute to achieving comprehensive long term greenhouse gas reduction targets, at both the government operations and countywide scales
- Background about how the SCAP and Comprehensive Plan proposed policies integrate and align with **commitments made in partnership with local cities** through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
- Background about the **roles King County government can play** in climate change preparedness work
- Minor changes to policy E-224 to provide examples about **how floodplain restoration can help address climate change impacts** on rivers and river ecosystems

2. Policy changes in Environment Chapter

Key proposed changes in the Climate Change Section, **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions subsection**, include:

- Updating government operations related greenhouse gas reduction policies to be consistent with the SCAP (E-206; E-206a; E206b) and deleting existing policies that directed King County to develop such policies (E-207).
- Reflecting SCAP **direction to develop and implement an operational "cost of carbon"** to support decision making and planning efforts (E-206c).
- Updating countywide greenhouse gas reduction policies to be consistent with **shared targets developed and unanimously adopted by the Growth Management Planning Council** (E-210) and deleting outdated policies.

Key proposed changes in the Climate Change Section, **Preparing for Climate Change Impacts subsection**, include:

- New proposed **policies to collaborate regionally on climate change preparedness** and to plan and prepare for climate impacts on County built and natural assets (E-215a; E215b; E215c; E215d; E221b).
- Direction to **integrate climate change impacts considerations into emergency management** efforts (E215e).



- Direction to **apply the Equity Impact review process** to support climate preparedness efforts (E-221a).
- Deletion of redundant existing policies (E-218; E219; E220).

And, in the subsection on Collaboration with Others, existing policy E-227, which focused on King County support for comprehensive approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, is proposed to be replaced by E-226a which covers similar issues, but is consistent with SCAP policies. For example, the new policy indicates that King County supports reinvestment of potential carbon market revenue into local strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as for transit service, energy efficiency and forest protection and restoration.

In addition to the stand-alone Climate Change Section detailed above, climate change direction related to natural resource issues are included, such as **directing consideration of climate change information into biodiversity conservation** approaches (E-405) and native plant restoration (E-427).

3. Climate Change Policies throughout the Executive's Recommended 2016 Comprehensive Plan

Climate change is an issue and priority that cuts across many different topics, and climate related policies are included across almost every chapter of the proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan:

Chapter I: Regional Planning

- Direction to **participate in regional planning efforts** about climate change, such as the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (RP-109).

Chapter II: Urban Communities

- Direction to **focus employment and population growth in the contiguous Urban Growth Area** to help reduce sprawl and associated transportation related greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. U-106). Importantly there were no substantive urban growth area boundary amendments in the proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan.

Chapter III: Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands

- Direction to **adopt and implement** appropriate, ambitious, achievable **Green Building codes** that support rural character (R-336a) and policies to **manage and restore King County forested parks and natural lands** in ways that maximize biological carbon storage and sequestration and increase resilience to a changing climate (R-641).

Chapter IV: Housing and Human Services

- Direction to **require the Evergreen Sustainable Development green building standard** for County supported housing projects (H-145).

Chapter VI: Shoreline Master Program

- Direction to **plan for sea level rise** and other climate change impacts as it relates to King County owned infrastructure (S-650) and habitat projects (S-651).

Chapter VII: Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources

- Direction related to **forest land protection and restoration**, important for both carbon sequestration and reducing local climate impacts (e.g. P-116 and P-117).

Chapter VIII: Transportation

- Transportation is the region's number one source of greenhouse gas emissions. Many policies in this chapter relate to climate change such as **policies on transit service, multi-modal transportation options, and land use and growth strategies**.

Chapter IX: Services, Facilities and Utilities

- Climate change related policies are included related to **flood preparedness issues** (F-289; F-291), **sea level rise impacts** on Vashon-Maury Island (F-292) and importantly related to **energy efficiency and renewable energy** considerations (F-304 through F-323).

These edits align the Comprehensive Plan with the SCAP and other work at the County, and put the region on a path towards addressing and responding to a changing climate.