

Investing in our Environment



The 2023-2024 budget invests in preserving what we love about our region and restoring what was lost by:

Acting urgently on climate change

- **Converting Metro's bus fleet to zero-emissions:** \$180 million to purchase battery-electric buses and \$43 million in zero-emissions infrastructure to ensure that Metro's 1,400 coach bus fleet is zero emissions by 2035.
- **Electrifying King County's Fleet:** \$26.7 million in charging infrastructure to electrify 50 percent of King County's light-duty fleet by 2025.
- **Creating a new Climate Office:** \$2.3 million to elevate County's commitment, coordination, and ability to deliver on climate action internally and in partnership with cities and regional partners.
- **Partnering with community:** \$460,000 for the Climate Equity Task Force to support community-led responses to climate justice.

Improving water quality and habitat

- **Restoring fish habitat:** \$28.5 million in capital investments to remove blockages to fish passage habitat. King County will restore access to 50 percent of fish passage habitat by 2032.
- **Restoring the health of Puget Sound:** \$23.2 million to remove nutrients such as nitrogen and "forever chemicals" from wastewater.
- **Expanding forest restoration:** \$1.7 million to expand County-owned forest restoration and implement wildfire reduction strategies.

Preserving land for open space, recreation, forest, and agricultural uses

- **Increasing investments in land conservation:** \$60 million to preserve nearly 1,500 acres of the remaining high priority natural land as a major part of the Land Conservation Initiative.

Investing in frontline communities

- **Expanding access to heat pumps and solar panels:** \$1 million to expand the Energize pilot program, which installs high-efficiency heat pumps in homes occupied by residents with low and moderate incomes in White Center and Skyway, to include solar panels. The County will also invest \$1.9 million to provide private lenders with more flexibility to offer better financing options to higher risk homeowners for home upgrades that also improve the environment. A similar program in Snohomish County invested about \$600,000 and led to more than \$23 million in home energy use reduction loans in 13 years.
- **Developing an extreme heat mitigation strategy:** \$350,000 to coordinate with regional emergency management partners to develop an extreme heat response mitigation strategy.
- **Supporting immigrant and refugee farmers:** \$130,000 to continue to support immigrant and refugee farmers through the Farmland Leasing Program.