



Partnerships

Objective:

Reduce climate pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change on the environment, human health, and the economy

Strategy:

Promote collaborative efforts among local and regional governments to assess and reduce community greenhouse gas emissions

Why is this strategy important?

King County government must work with citizens, businesses, and other local governments to make a broader impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change impacts. King County is implementing a range of strategies that engage and partner with others to promote broad solutions.

How is our performance?

In addition to King County's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 17 of 39 cities in King County have adopted the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection 2012 GHG emissions targets, with the goal of seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012. In addition, Kirkland, Issaquah, Seattle, and Bellevue have adopted additional climate change targets.

King County is partnering on a range of projects and programs that help others reduce GHG emissions.

One example partnership is the King County Green Schools program. This program provides tools and support to schools for initiating and expanding waste reduction and recycling practices and other conservation actions. The program involves the whole school community in environmental stewardship. In the 2010-11 academic year, the program assisted 120 schools with 74,028 students in 21 cities throughout King County. Ninety-three percent of these schools achieved recycling rates of at least 40 percent or increased recycling rates by at least 15 percent.

A second example is the King County GreenTools program, which is designed to help all King County stakeholders green their built environment. GreenTools provides technical assistance grants, and hands-on training to help users create green projects efficiently and effectively. In 2011 GreenTools delivered 12 Sustainable Cities Roundtables, five technical trainings, two tours and the GreenTools Government Confluence, which was attended by more than 250 local government staff members.

A final example is that King County partners with employers to support their employee Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) programs. Between 2007 and 2011, CTR worksites in King County experienced a

7.1 percent reduction in the "drive alone" rate, resulting in 2.2 million fewer solo vehicle trips annually and an annual GHG reduction of more than 32,000 MTCO₂e.

Moving forward

King County will continue to partner with cities through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration and work with these and other regional partners through the Growth Management Planning Council to support development and adoption of regional GHG emissions reduction targets. King County will track progress on GHG emissions targets to assess whether and to what extent we are achieving targets as a region and community.

At the community scale, County actions can help continue and accelerate the recent trend of decreasing per person sources of GHG emissions.

Related Links

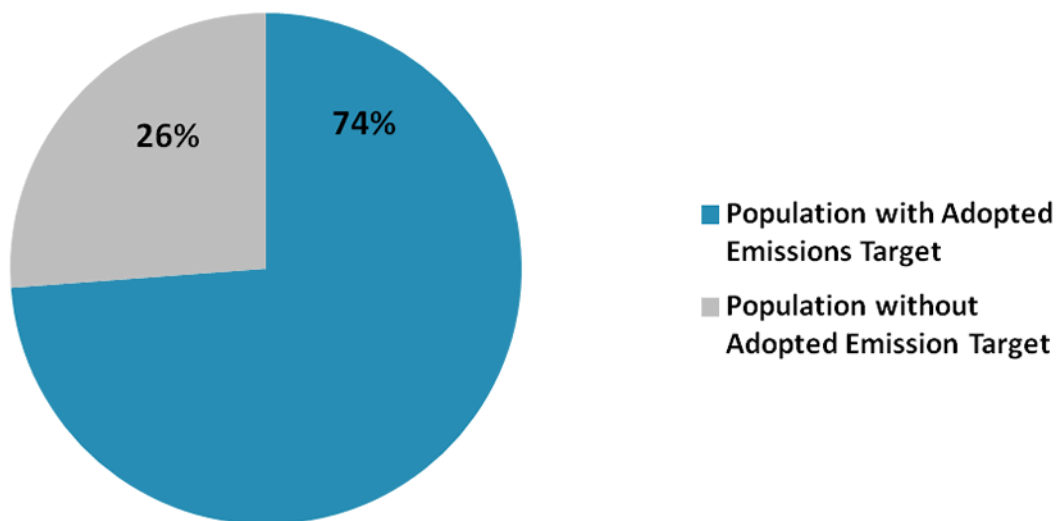
City Climate Protection Plans and Documents

Technical Notes

City GHG Emission targets are compiled based on the best efforts of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks staff. There may be additional targets for which King County does not have information.

Charts and Maps

Proportion of King County Population Living in Area with Greenhouse Gas Emissions Target



Data Source: King County DNRP

King County Climate Change Partnerships and Results

Program	Participation	Results
King County-Cities Climate Collaboration	9 cities out of 39 total in King County	Partnership started in 2011. To date it has brought together funding and staff from nine cities. Work is currently focused on outreach, education, and sharing resources.
King County Green Schools Program	120 schools in 21 cities	93% of schools achieved recycling rates of at least 40% or increased rates by at least 15%.
King County Green Tools Sustainable Cities Program	7 cities in King County with formal Green Building Programs (19 total including informal efforts)	<p>The GreenTools program provides technical assistance, grants and hands-on training to – among other things - help support cities efforts in making green building a priority and a reality. Since 2007, the number of cities with formal green building programs (1) and informal activities (5) has increased to 7 formal programs with 19 having some sort of green building activity (2011).</p> <p>Diverse case studies document that green buildings in general use less energy, water and resources, while at the same time selling at higher prices and, in some instances, sell in shorter market time.</p> <p>Efforts by King County and other partners focused on green building have helped lead to the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11% of new single-family homes were Built Green at the 3 to 5 Star level (5 being highest) 25% of new multi-family homes were Built Green 3 to 5 Star 46 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) commercial buildings (32 Seattle, 14 rest of King County)
InMotion Healthy Commute Program	28 neighborhoods (over 12,000 participants since inception)	2,732 participants reduced their drive-alone travel by 41,108 trips (844,160 vehicle miles traveled) reduced GHG emissions by approximately 270 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
Evergreen Fleets	21 Puget Sound Cities	King County is 3-star certified by the Evergreen Fleet Standard measure.
Commute Trip Reduction	All employers with 100 or more full-time workers commuting to a single worksite between 6am and 9am are required to participate	The County's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program helped foster a 7.1 percent reduction in the "drive alone" rate countywide between 2007 and 2011 at CTR participating employers, resulting in 2.2 million fewer solo vehicle trips annually and an annual GHG reduction of more than 32,000 MTCO ₂ e.