

FARMING/AGRICULTURE/OPEN SPACE SCAP ACTIONS

High Impact Critical Step / Catalyst Barrier Buster Urgent Scalable / Replicable

Reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration potential

1 Support adoption of carbon-sequestering and electrification practices by farmers through technical assistance, grant funding, and policy changes.	X	X			X
2 Include food systems-specific climate mitigation actions, with particular focus on reducing transportation and refrigerant emissions related to food.					
3 Create a certified compost facility that has the capacity to not only create but also sell organic compost that has reduced level of plastic content; coordinate on-farm collection of crop waste.		X	X		X
4 Explore opportunities to monetize carbon sequestration benefits that result from wide spread adoption of regenerative agricultural practices.					
5 Explore opportunities for local production of biochar and launch one or more pilot projects to demonstrate biochar application and benefits.					

Reduce risk to food system from climate change

Use climate projections to identify areas where drainage and flood-damage reduction infrastructure will be most effective and long-lasting, redirect investment from areas where flood-stress is projected to

1 become too great to farm.					
2 Conduct a GIS study of climate projection data to identify farmland at greatest risk of extreme flooding and drought impacts.					
3 Increase home/infrastructure elevations to adapt to projected flood elevation increase					
4 Increase funding for drainage improvement.					
5 Assess infrastructure vulnerability under a changing climate scenario, especially as it pertains to flooding impacts.					
6 Support expansion of "Floodzilla" flood monitoring system, or other similar systems, within Snoqualmie Valley and other flood-prone agricultural regions of the County					
7 Increase education and incentives to combat pests and pathogens.					
8 Increase farmer enrollment with FSA so farmers are eligible for invasive species disaster relief.					
9 Support population studies of invasive pests, pathogens and diseases.					
10 Support development of a western Washington climate change and invasive species strategy for agriculture.					
11 Increase farmer participation in federal disaster insurance programs.					
12 Ensure climate change mitigation and preparedness incorporated into farm plans and strategies.	X	X			X
13 Develop "Farm Safety Strategy" so all farms are safe during floods.					
14 Complete a feasibility study, secure funding, and initiate construction on necessary repairs and system upgrades to ensure reliable delivery of recycled water from the Brightwater Treatment Center to farms in the Sammamish APD; initially explore opportunities for beneficial use of recycled water elsewhere in King County.	X	X	X	X	X

Support and promote adoption of regenerative farming practices to increase agricultural resilience

1 Help immigrant and refugee farmers source culturally-relevant seeds.					
2 Explore opportunities to grow crops adapted to projected future climate; dryland farming; identify areas best suited for certain crops without access to irrigation water					
3 Increase use of recycled water.					
4 Equipment sharing to support implementation of climate smart strategies.					
5 Support development of farm plans that fully integrate regenerative, climate-smart agricultural practices, and incentivize implementation of best management practices, including those focused on soil health, irrigation water efficiency, and ecosystem enhancement.	X	X			X
6 Pilot water storage alternatives at multiple scales that have potential to reduce flood risk and increase availability of irrigation water.					
7 Establish emergency systems to accommodate farming so that food production continues in the midst of changing weather norms, extreme weather and climate change.					
8 Secure funding from KC and others to undertake low flow assessment and develop strategy to improve flow conditions while improving irrigation.					
9 Expand pilot project to elevate ag infrastructure consistent with regulatory framework and based on farm needs assessment.					

Increase investment in education, technical support, and financial incentives for farmers and farmland owners

1 Increase climate projection literacy among farmers and farmer support organizations through technical assistance and the development of outreach materials.	X	X	X			combine 1, 2, and 5
2 Develop technical assistance catered to specific farming sectors prevalent in King County (horticulture, dairy, and vegetables) on preparation for climate changes.						
3 Education and technical training about noxious weed identification and control; proactive approach.						
4 Develop guidance materials about resilient/climate-smart agricultural practices, including soil health, water conservation, and extreme weather mitigation, and ensure information is widely disseminated.						
5 Provide incentives to farmers to adopt sustainable practices to increase soil health; provide technical support to interpret soil test results and develop plans for soil amendments.						
6 Expand rental programs and provide funding and infrastructure support to increase access to soil amendment equipment.						
7 Provide incentives to maintain agricultural water rights and to adopt water conserving irrigation practices.						
8 Create a network of "demonstration farms," which includes university, private, and county owned farms, to demonstrate regenerative, climate-adapted agricultural practices.	X				X	

PROTECTION OF WORKING LANDS AND OPEN SPACE

Conserve and connect forests / agricultural lands to limit potential for loss of forest and farmland and conversion to other land uses that will both increase emissions of GHG and reduce potential for carbon sequestration.

1 Accelerate rate of protection of priority farm and forestland identified in the Land Conservation Initiative.	X				X	
Focus additional resources on CUT/PBRS to provide short-term protection of LCI-identified land that are targeted for fee or easement acquisition and to provide long-term protection for lands with lower risk of conversion.	X				X	X
3 Provide increased education and technical support for NGOs and CBOs interested in acquiring farmland through CFT or other public sources of grant funding.	X	X	X	X	X	X
4 Assess ecological benefits of developing one or more old growth corridors that higher elevation and lowland landscapes along major river systems.						

FARMING/AGRICULTURE/OPEN SPACE SCAP ACTIONS

High Impact Critical Step /
Catalyst Barrier Buster Urgent Scalable /
Replicable

FORESTRY

Reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration potential on county-owned and private forestland

- 1 Quantify recent carbon emissions from wildfires in King County and predict emissions under a revised climate scenario.
- 2 Predict emissions from business as usual under a predicted changing climate scenario and compare with potential for reduced emissions with improved forest management.

3 Manage forestland to improve forest health, increase climate resiliency, and reduce wildfire risk; expand carbon-storing practices, which can include extending rotation lengths and preventing conversion of forests for development. X X X X combine 3 and 4

- 4 Ensure all approved forest stewardship plans include wildfire risk reduction and climate-resilient forestry practices.
- 5 Match forest management activities on county owned land with those on adjacent private land to increase wildfire risk reduction benefits.

6 Identify forest stands with highest carbon stocking and prioritize those for mitigation actions to reduce wildfire risk.

7 Continue King County Rural Forest Carbon Project to support County land acquisition program.

8 Plant more trees on degraded habitats and provide follow-up stewardship.

9 Quantify carbon stored in forests throughout KC and identify potential for additional carbon storage.

10 Acquire large block of forestland (minimum 10-15,000 acres) and manage for enhanced carbon sequestration while also continuing to provide timber products; revenue from carbon credit generation and timber sales dedicated to acquisition and management. X X

Sustain and increase forest health and climate resilience on both county-owned and private forestland

1 Continue to increase rate of restoration on King County-owned properties. X X

2 Support improved forest health on non-county-owned lands.

3 Complete initial phase of climate adapted seedling trials and ensure study findings are distributed. X X

4 Ensure county and private landowners have sufficient availability of climate-adapted tree seedlings, which may include expansion of King County's plant nursery to support production of climate-adapted seedlings at a scale that that meets County seedling demand. X X X X X

5 Develop guidelines for sourcing tree seedlings to help forest planting practices account for climate change.

6 Plant for and maintain the health of all forest ecosystem, including shrubs, understory and groundcover.

7 Plant trees sourced from a wider range of seed zones, including experimenting with climate-adapted seed sources.

8 Identify vulnerable and suitable areas in the county for key species, including culturally important species, such as western red cedar.

9 Facilitate sharing of information among partners on climate-adapted management practices through creation of an on-line hub of research and resources.

10 Prioritize and manage forests to improve species diversity, manage species composition and/or manage density to improve resilience.

11 Model NPS Community-led forestry model to incorporate traditional Tribal forestry practices.

12 Develop policy for assisted migration to guide large scale planting and restoration projects and require that the County maintain a list of acceptable plant species to be used in mitigation and restoration projects. X X X

Focus on pre-fire planning, evacuation planning, and post-fire mitigation at both the community and individual landowner scales

1 Fully participate in development of Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and ensure resources available to implement priority strategies. X X X X X combine 1, 2, and 3

2 Ensure community organizations and community leaders are active participants in CWPP development and implementation.

3 Include rural WUI communities are included in strategy development focused on "frontline communities."

Reduce wildfire risk to homes and other structures within and adjacent to county-owned forestland

1 Engage with all communities adjacent for County-owned forestland during CWPP development and strategy implementation.

2 Modify KCC to adopt updated International Building Code for wildfire risk reduction to ensure that new infrastructure is designed and built to be hardened from wildfire.

3 Pay special attention to Vashon-Maury Island, which has significant wildland/development interface, is typically drier and more fire prone than remainder of King County and has challenges with rapid wildfire response.

4 Identify structures and communities most exposed to wildfire hazard and most in need of support to mitigate their wildfire risk. include with 1, 2, 3 above

5 Monitor weather and fuel conditions on County forestland during fires season and adopt operations policies to limit potential ignitions should risk levels become elevated.

6 Train and equip county DNRP operations staff to respond to and suppress spot fires on county land to limit spread until other local and state resources become available.

7 Provide education, technical training and financial incentives to retrofit structures most at risk from wildfire.

8 Develop plans to support evacuation, rebuilding, relocation for individuals and communities in the event of significant wildfire losses. part of CWPP

9 Increase monitoring and control of invasive species that increase wildfire risk in wildland-urban interface. X X

10 Increase communications with the public about closures and burn bans; collaborate with adjacent agencies and landowners to ensure there is a common message. part of CWPP

11 Improve preparedness for potential increase in wildfire, including identification of forested areas and communities most at risk. part of CWPP

Expand Urban Forestry Program

1 Improve the health and survival of new seedlings and established forest through monitoring, capacity building and funding for maintenance.

2 Expand education on the importance of healthy urban forests and opportunities for volunteer engagement to empower residents.

3 Increase availability of information and best practices on conserving and maintaining urban forests in King County.

4 Improve knowledge of existing urban tree canopy, including conducting additional and repeat urban tree canopy assessments.

5 Strategically expand forest cover to mitigate heat island impacts and to moderate impacts of stormwater. X X

FARMING/AGRICULTURE/OPEN SPACE SCAP ACTIONS

	High Impact	Critical Step / Catalyst	Barrier Buster	Urgent	Scalable / Replicable
6 Work with full range of stakeholders to develop recommendations for improvements to existing King County land use code that pertains to tree retention.	X	X	X		X
7 Initiate one or more pilot projects to understand regulatory and operational challenges to expanding occurrence of street trees in areas most lacking in canopy cover.		X	X		X
8 Other strategies from Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy?					
9 Something about Urban Forest Forum?					

Increase investment in education, technical support, and financial incentives for private forest landowners

1 Provide additional education, technical support, and financial assistance to private forest landowners to ensure actions identified in forest stewardship plans are implemented.	X	X		X	X	combine 1-5
2 Provide technical support, education and incentives to landowners so CWPP actions can be implemented.						
3 Ensure adequate education, technical training and financial incentives are available to implement high-priority CWPP actions.						
4 Increase technical assistance related to wildfire.						
5 Deliver wildfire safety and fire risk management services to KC forest landowners, and increase capacity to deliver fire risk management and fire resiliency planning.						
6 Establish KC-owned and managed "demonstration forest" to serve as an example of sustainable forest management for landowners, students and residents.						
7 Engage private forest landowners to foster management to enhance diversity of forest structure and native species and reduce invasive species.						

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Reduce adverse health impacts from extreme heat and wildfire smoke

- 1 Educate isolated communities and farm/forest workers about health issues due to exposure to high levels of wildfire smoke.
- 2 Work with public health specialists and farm and business owners to enhance forest and farm worker safety and support guidelines for issues related to extreme heat and wildfire smoke.
- 3 Develop and implement a system to notify farm and forestland workers when particulate readings hit unhealthful levels.
- 4 Increase urban tree canopy in geographies and communities subject to high levels of heat and pollution.

Notes List of actions pulled strategies from 2020 SCAP, CWHH, 30-Year Forest Plan, Rural Forest Commission Strategic Recommendations, Snoqualmie Valley Ag Strategic Plan, KC Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy, FFF, LFI Refresh white papers, and actions identified during July workshop.
 Highlighted actions captured in 2025 SCAP Update: Forestry and Agriculture Proposed Strategies and Actions