

# KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

6:00-7:00 P.M.

**ZOOM VIDEO CALL**

CALL IN:

One touch mobile: +12532158782,,96254050684#,,,,,0#,,878341#

Land line: +1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 962 5405 0684

Passcode: 878341

OR

LOG IN FROM A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/96254050684?pwd=czhTRTRxWG1ZYUIObFNXZEImSIN3UT09>

### MEETING AGENDA

6:00	<b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roll call of commissioners</li><li>• Announcement of staff and public for the record (please sign in to chat feature)</li><li>• Approval of Agenda</li><li>• Approval of October minutes</li></ul>	Nayab Khan, Chair
6:05	<b>Old Business - Updates</b> (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commission Business<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ New KCD Ex Officio Member, Carrie King</li><li>○ KC Historic Preservation Awards: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4TBZiMQVWI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4TBZiMQVWI</a></li></ul></li><li>• Covid Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ SKCPH Letter Confirming Safe to Return to Work</li><li>○ CARES Act funding for Farm Businesses</li></ul></li><li>• KC Ag Program</li> <li>• King Conservation District</li><li>• Farm Bureau</li><li>• Local Food Initiative</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patrice Barrentine</li> <li>• Patrice, Richard Martin</li> <li>• Richard Martin</li> <li>• Carrie King</li><li>• Leann Krainick</li><li>• Mike Lufkin</li></ul>
6:20	<b>Public Comment</b> related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Nayab Khan
6:25	<b>New Business</b> <b>2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan Proposed Letter to Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See notes from SCAP meeting in Nov</li><li>• Review draft letter</li><li>• Discussion</li><li>• Motion/Vote</li></ul>	Richard Martin
6:55	<b>Concerns of Commissioners</b>	Nayab Khan
7:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	Nayab Khan

**Next Meeting: January 14**

**a. Q & A**

- Leann: What at this point are you looking for from the Commission on this?
- Richard: Up to you – support, challenge, make changes to it. KCC will want your thoughts.
- Leann: Other farm groups out there with their own initiative, not seeing them lumped into these – that needs to get looked at. Livestock thrown under bus. Also a concern: they want to convert farmland from livestock to growing produce. Not against that, but – not all soil types are suitable for produce/crops. Also, water rights and irrigation aren't available on a lot of land, in Enumclaw for example. Farmers need to channel our knowledge and educate.
- Richard: If you see things in this document stressing one kind of ag over another, please point that out. Goal should be to balance ag with climate change prep.
- Richard: We certainly aren't supporting any universal mandate against livestock.
- Leann: KC Compost – was Loop included in that? Also, there are more horses than cows in KC, and it's a huge issue.
- Richard: Compost strategy is more than Cedar Grove.
- Leann: I didn't see anything in there on how to reduce food waste in the beginning?
- Richard: Not specifically repeated here, will have to take a look. Know it's part of LFI.  
Roger: Brightwater, recycled water – repackage/market it as “climate water.”
- Sarah: I like Ag Strat 6.1 and 6.3 – but there's a big bunch of ag lands not County owned.
- Richard: Tech assistance to landowners is how we're trying to support private landowners, that there are climate resilience practices they can implement. We can't do it, but we can encourage them to do it. Connect it to LCI make sense. (Carbon sequestration implications.)
- Patrice: My understanding is that pathogens may also affect livestock based on climate change
- Richard: I will make that clear in my summary, that climate change is not just affecting produce.
- Patrice: no percentage attached to the increase in home elevations; a target number would be stronger.
- Richard: FCD didn't want us to put anything in there, this was a compromise. Commission could comment on this. Number could come from Ag Strategic Plan.
- Richard: If you could mull this over and come up with some Council transmittal for your January meeting, that'd be great.
- Patrice: KC is lead county in WA for food processing jobs. Is there something that encompasses production/manufacturing related to ag in this?
- Richard: Some discussion within the team, but I was not able to come up with a position based on science. I don't know enough about the industry to capture a statement. We need to look more at the pieces of that system. Tried to capture it as part of a soil resilience strategy instead of a carbon strategy.
- Sarah: Think about KC as a central county in terms of population and processing. Really an opportunity to take the reins... (see recording.)
- Richard: Let's look at that in terms of an actual strategy and put that in a letter.
- This goes before KCC on 1/14/21.
- Patrice: Do you want to send a letter – if so we would need to take action before January. What would you like to do?

**b. Discussion of Potential Letter to KCC**

- Patrice: Commissioners, would you like to send a letter?
- Nayab, Leann: Yes.
- Leann: One way to do it is – I might have time to draft a letter. Everyone send ideas to you (Patrice), you send them to me. Let's meet on the second Thurs in December.
- Darron, Kevin Scott: motion and second, to meet in December to discuss the climate action plan and our comments to the Council.
- Leann: One discussion point – encourage all of you to write to your councilmember or KCC as an individual with your thoughts on this.
- Richard: Letter doesn't have to be exhaustive review of SCAP. Focus on issues you think important and want them to consider.

- Roger: Think the Commission should recognize and support the County making such a big effort on this front.
- Richard: Great opening to the letter.
- Patrice: If we can do it this month, we have Sarah's input.
- Motion for December meeting to write letter to KCC about ag impacts from climate change, vote: all in favor.
- Richard: Jackie, any insight on when would be good?
- Jackie: Probably looking at the second week of December (January?) at the earliest. Patrice, once I have an idea when it'll be on the agenda I'll let you know.

Loop?

Grew Loop® Biosolids Program to Improve Soil Quality and Offset Carbon The Wastewater Treatment Division uses its soil amendment Loop® biosolids on private and state-managed forests in King County to increase tree growth, store carbon in forest soils, and replace use of fossil fuel-based fertilizers. **The Wastewater Treatment Division is pursuing opportunities to increase use of Loop® biosolids within King County**, thereby improving the local ecosystem and reducing GHG emissions associated with transportation of the material beyond county limits.

Soil carbon content in agricultural areas can be enhanced through reduced tillage, incorporating cover crops into farm cycles, adding carbon-rich soil amendments (e.g., manures, compost, **municipal biosolids**), and growing perennial crops. (p.150)



**King County**  
**Agriculture Commission**  
**Water and Land Resources Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources and Parks**  
**King Street Center**  
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855  
206.477-4800 Fax 206.296.0192

December 10, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

The King County Agriculture Commission is concerned about climate change impacts on farming and food businesses including flooding, increased demand for irrigation water, and the challenge of producing food while facing new pathogens, pests and diseases in this region.

The commission supports elements in the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) including accelerating acquisitions of farmland preservation program easements, assessing impacts of climate change on King County agriculture, updating the vulnerable roads assessment, expanding use of recycled water, increasing home elevations, flood risk outreach, and participation in disaster relief programs. The commission also supports adopting comprehensive planning for County owned farmland and incorporating regenerative farming practices, increasing PBRs enrollment, supporting immigrant and refugee farming program, exploring benefits of compost, and amending the farm plan public rule to include climate resiliency and preparedness.

While farmers would like to adopt many of these strategies to address climate change, the commission stresses that financial *incentives* are needed to make that happen. In technology research and development, alternatives to diesel or *clean diesel technology* is needed for farming and distribution. Resources are needed to fund technical assistance and cost-share programming so that farm and food businesses have the knowledge and financial incentives to adopt SCAP strategic actions. The SCAP plan documented a wide range of public understanding about the impacts of climate change to farmers and the importance of a “climate friendly” agricultural practices. The Commission has long been an advocate for public education regarding agriculture and climate change and this, too, will require resources.

Although not explicitly included in the SCAP update, the Commission encourages the County to *further implement* strategies that incorporate *FDA approved food processing waste into livestock feed*. King County leads the state in food processing and there is significant opportunity to re-route landfill waste to livestock operations. *The Commission supports the Local Food Initiative and encourages a key link between SCAP to local food consumption and production.*

We appreciate the County’s leadership to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and positioning landowners to be able to adapt to a changing climate. The Agriculture Commission looks

forward to working with staff to fully develop and implement ag-related strategies included in the SCAP, including pursuit of funding options to assist with implementation. We recognize that this plan is only the next step in a steady progression toward a more resilient future and the Agriculture Commission will contribute to future revisions as the science develops and the needs of farmers become more apparent.

Sincerely,



Nayab Khan, Chair  
King County Agriculture Commission

cc: Dow Constantine, County Executive, King County  
King County Councilmembers  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Mo McBroom, Deputy Director, DNRP  
John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services  
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD),  
DNRP  
Pat McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP  
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP  
Katherine Taylor, Government Relations, DNRP  
Richard Martin, Manager, AFI, WLRD, DNRP  
Patrice Barrentine, Staff Liaison, Agriculture Commission, WLRD, DNRP

# 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan

Agriculture Commission

November 12, 2020



King County

**CLIMATE ACTION**

Clean Future. Strong Communities.



# UW Climate Impacts Group (<https://cig.uw.edu>)

## **Projections for Washington** (by 2080)

- higher annual temperature (3°–6° F increase)
- More days above 90° (67%-200% increase)
- Less snowpack, early melt (38%-70% decrease)
- Heavier winter precipitation
- Higher, high flows in winter (18%-55% increase)
- lower, low flows in summer (23%-44% decrease)

## **Washington crops and livestock will be affected by**

- increasing temperatures and water stress
- declining availability of irrigation water
- rising atmospheric carbon dioxide
- changing pressures from pests, weeds, and pathogens.

The overall vulnerability of Washington's agricultural sector to climate change is expected to be low.

# 2020 SCAP Update

- A guiding document for climate policy and investments in GHG emission reduction, climate equity, and preparedness
- Builds on 2015 SCAP progress, led by data and community input
- Transmitted to King County Council on August 27, 2020
- **Council hearings to consider plan for adoption in late 2020 / early 2021**





# Guiding Principles and Engagement Strategies

## 2020 SCAP Guiding Principles

- Act with urgency and intention
- Lead with racial justice and equity
- Respond to community needs and priorities
- Use and develop best available science
- Seek systemic solutions
- Lead through local action
- Prioritize health and co-benefits
- Be transparent and accountable

## Stakeholder Engagement

- Climate Equity Community Task Force
- Topic-based convenings
- Youth workshops
- Public workshops
- King County Comprehensive Plan meetings
- Community presentations
- King County employee engagement
- Online information and survey

# Public Engagement: Agriculture

- Enhance access to local food for health and climate benefits
- Continue to preserve farmland
- Support management practices that have both environmental and agricultural benefits (“regenerative agriculture”)
- Maintain strong local food production system to buffer climate-related challenges in southern regions
- Encourage expanded use of King County-produced compost
- Transition to more climate friendly vegetarian diets

# 2020 King County SCAP

## Section I Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

<b>Greenhouse Gas Targets and Policy</b> 1	<b>Green Building</b> 4
<b>Transportation and Land Use</b> 2	<b>Consumption and Materials Management</b> 5
<b>Building and Facilities Energy</b> 3	<b>Forests and Agriculture</b> 6

## Section II Sustainable & Resilient Frontline Communities

<b>Community Leadership and Community-Driven Policy</b> 1	<b>Food Systems and Food Security</b> 5
<b>Community Capacity Development</b> 2	<b>Housing Security and Anti-Displacement</b> 6
<b>Equitable Green Jobs and Pathways</b> 3	<b>Energy Justice and Utilities</b> 7
<b>Community Health and Emergency Preparedness</b> 4	<b>Transportation Access and Equity</b> 8

## Section III Preparing for Climate Change

<b>Mainstream Climate Preparedness</b> 1	<b>Community and Organizational Partnerships</b> 4
<b>Technical Capacity</b> 2	<b>Outreach and Engagement</b> 5
<b>Health and Equity</b> 3	

# Section 1: Reducing GHG Emissions

## GOALS

*Countywide emissions reductions 50% by 2030; 80% by 2050*

*King County government operations emissions reduction 50% by 2025; 80% by 2030*



*Elected leaders at a King County – Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Elected Official Work Session, October 2019. The SCAP's countywide GHG targets and pathways were developed collaboratively through the K4C.*

# Reducing GHG Emissions

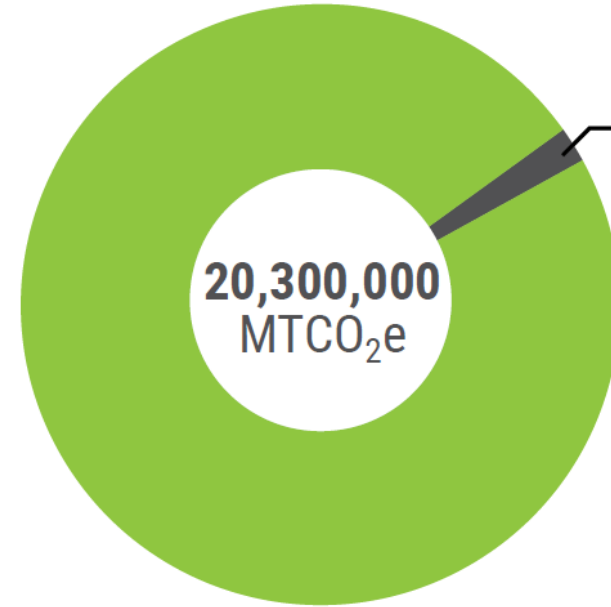
Total Emissions

## TOTAL KING COUNTY GHG EMISSIONS (2017)

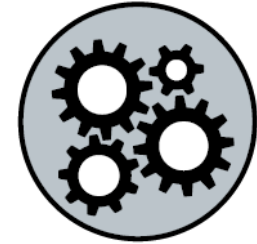
King County Community  
(Countywide) Emissions:  
energy use, transportation,  
solid waste disposal  
19,940,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e



*50% GHG reduction goal by 2030;  
80% GHG reduction goal by 2050*



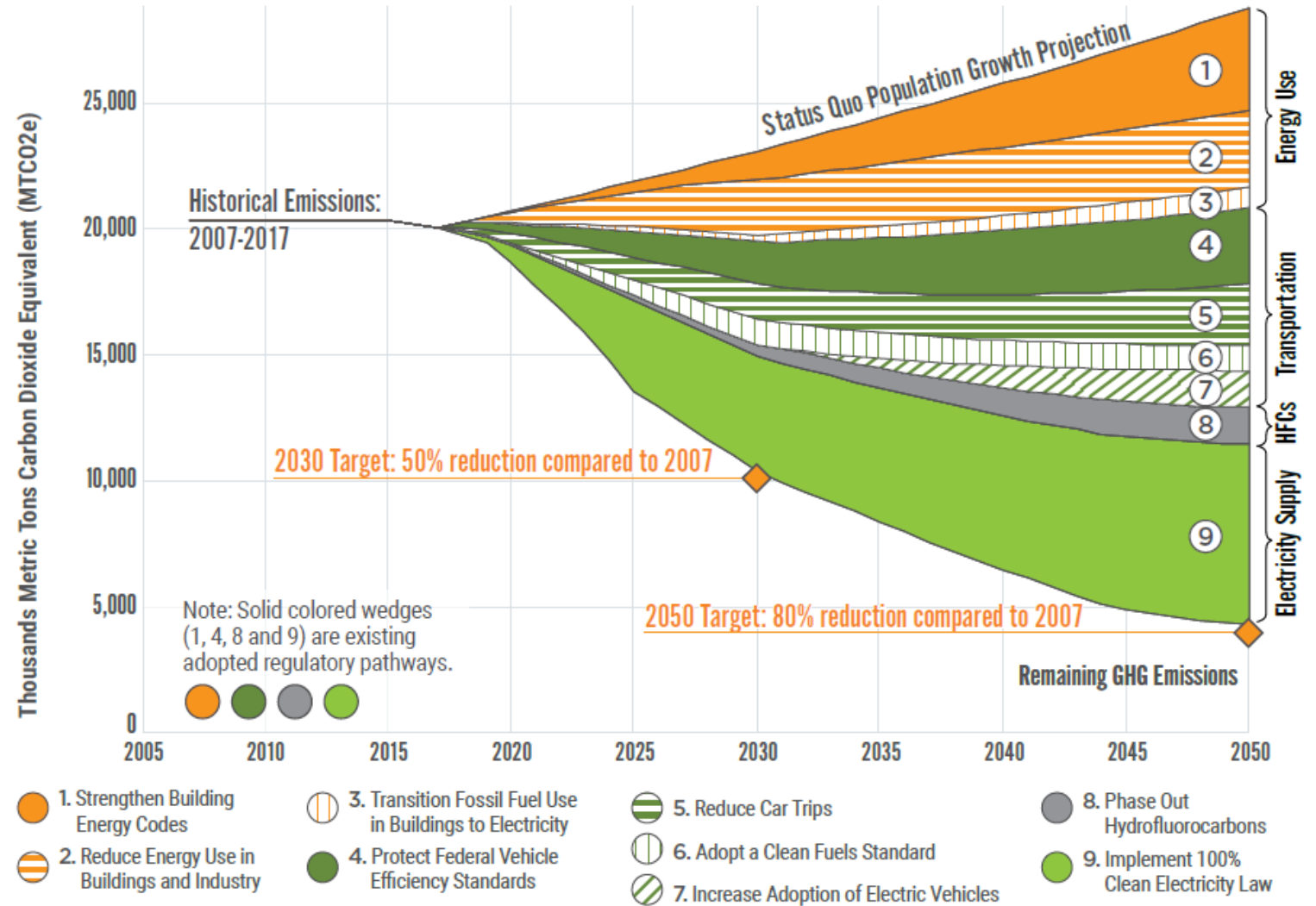
King County  
Government  
Operations  
Emissions  
360,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e



*50% GHG reduction goal by 2025;  
80% GHG reduction goal by 2030*

# Reducing GHG Emissions Countywide

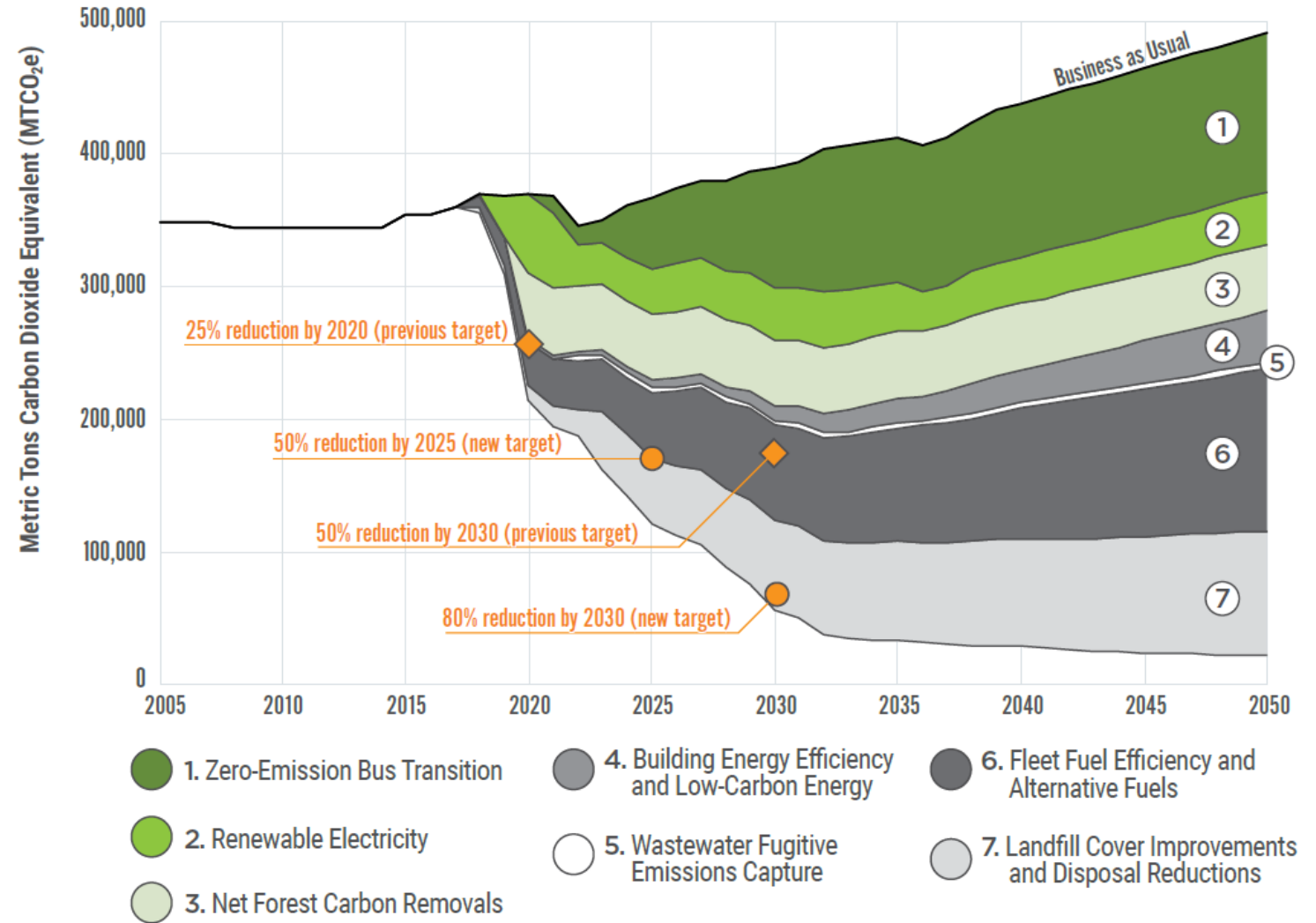
GHG Reduction “Wedge” Pathways to Achieve Overarching Countywide Goals





# Reducing GHG Emissions County Operations

GHG Reduction “Wedge” Pathways to Achieve Overarching Operational Targets



# 2020 King County SCAP

## Section I Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse Gas  
Targets and  
Policy



Green  
Building



Transportation  
and Land Use



Consumption  
and Materials  
Management



Building and  
Facilities  
Energy



Forests and  
Agriculture





# Agriculture Strategies



## **GHG 6.1. Implement Land Conservation Initiative (LCI).**

6.1.1: Sustain accelerated pace of farmland easement acquisition to meet LCI acreage targets.

6.1.2: Increase rate of Public Benefit Rating System/Current Use Taxation enrollments and focus on LCI properties that are not on the near-term acquisition list.

6.1.4: Restore Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) to effective rate closer to 6.25 cents that was approved in 1982.

# Agriculture Strategies



**GHG 6.2 Provide forestry and agricultural-related technical assistance and incentives to private landowners to support and enhance sustainable farming and forestry, including information about increasing carbon sequestration and preparing for local climate change impacts.**

6.2.2: Develop a multi-partner, fully-integrated program to support immigrant and refugee farmers.

6.2.5: Explore compost benefits.

6.2.6: Amend farm plan and forest plan public rules.

6.2.7: Streamline multi-jurisdictional processes.

# Agriculture Strategies



## **GHG 6.3. Assess, prioritize, and plan projects to maximize the carbon sequestration potential of County-owned lands.**

6.3.2: Complete comprehensive farmland stewardship plans for all County-owned farmland.

# Section 2: Sustainable & Resilient Frontline Communities

## VISION

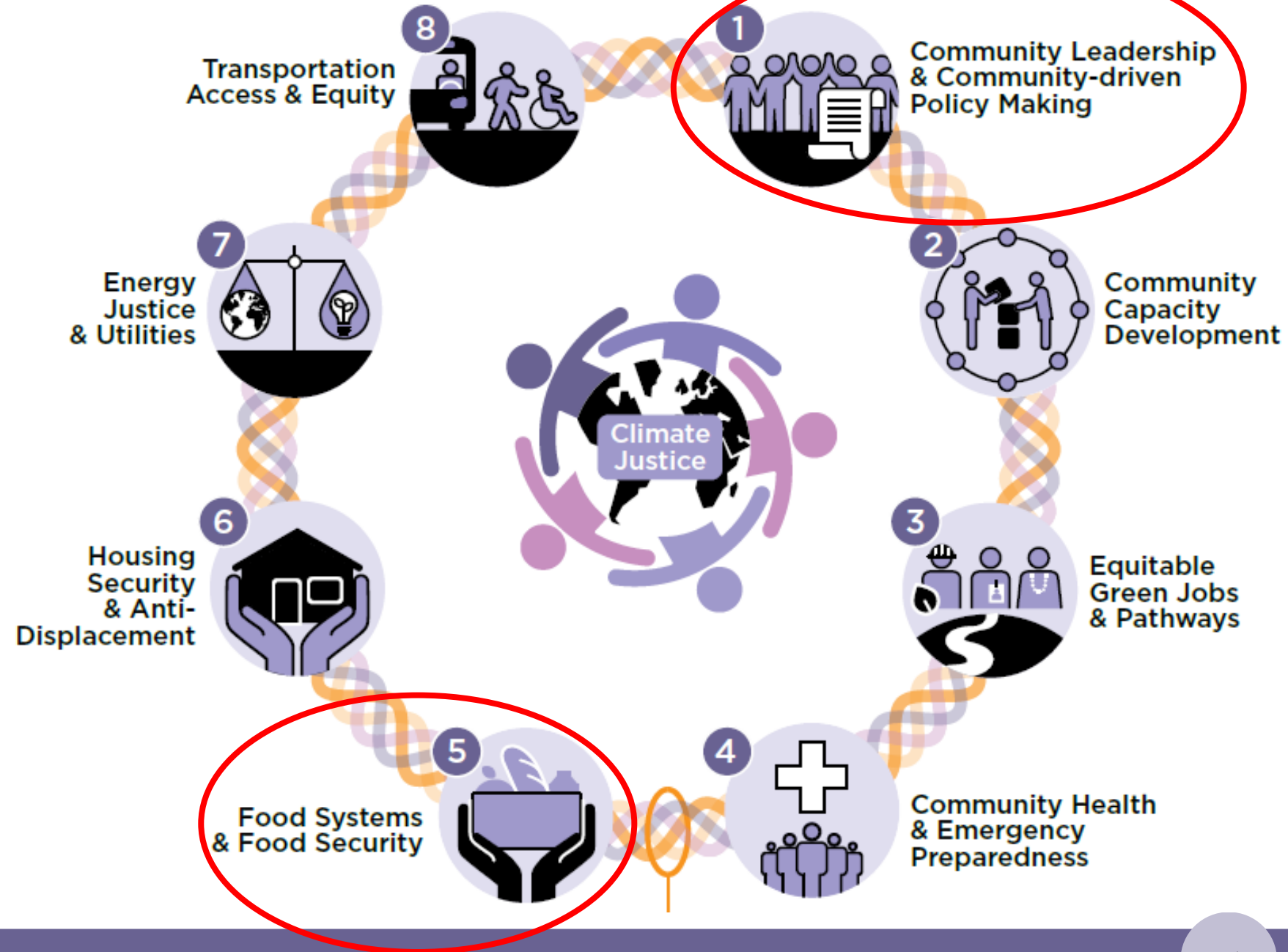
*Frontline communities are centered in developing climate solutions and have the knowledge, skills, resources, capacity, and social political capital to equitably adapt, lead, and thrive in a changing climate.*



*Some members of the Climate Equity Community Task Force at a meeting in Tukwila*

# Sustainable and Resilient Frontline Communities

- Climate equity and community-driven policy, guided by the **Climate Equity Community Task Force**
- **Eight equity-driven focus areas** and priority actions that promote equity, recognize intersectionality, and the impact of climate change on other social issues



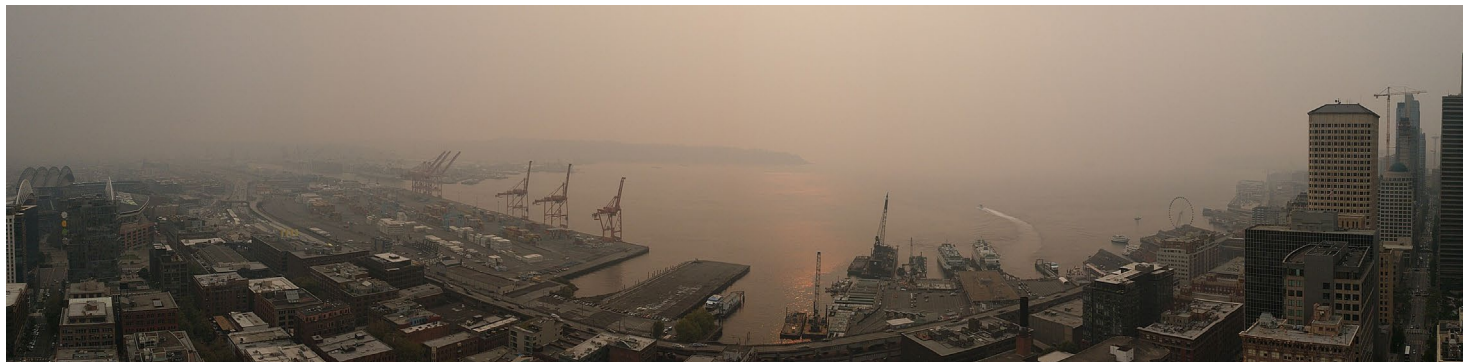


# Section 3: Preparing for Climate Change

- Strategic framework to focus and organize preparedness work
- Performance measurement framework for tracking progress
- Expanded set of preparedness activities

## VISION

*King County creates, supports, and implements policies and actions that reduce climate change vulnerabilities, equitably and increase the resilience of King County communities, natural systems, and the built environment.*



*Wildfire smoke impacts air quality and health, August 2018*

# Preparing for Climate Change

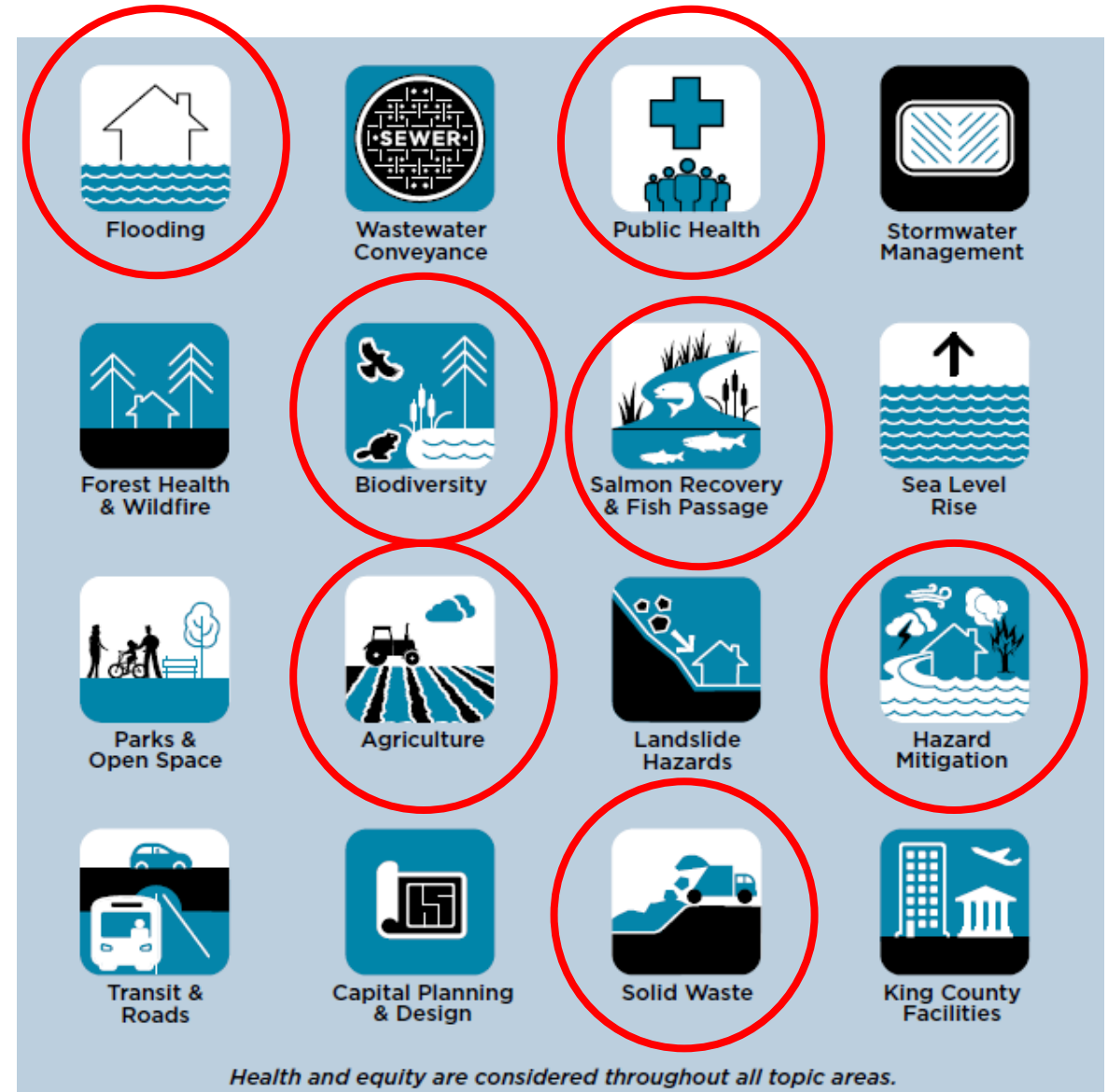
## Why plan now?

- Significant climate change impacts are projected; changes in the next few decades are virtually unavoidable
- Decisions with long-term impacts are being made every day; today's choices will shape tomorrow's vulnerabilities
- Significant time is required to motivate and develop adaptive capacity, and to implement changes
- Proactive planning is generally more effective and less costly than reactive planning, and can provide benefits today



# Preparing for Climate Change

Preparedness actions cover a range of impacts and related issues





# Preparing for Climate Change: Agriculture

**Strategy 2: Invest in and use best available science and other technical information to inform climate preparedness work at King County.**

2.2.8 Assess King county irrigation water needs.

2.2.9 Conduct a climate change impacts assessment for agricultural production in King County.

2.2.11 Explore opportunities to update the 2006 vulnerable roads assessment and incorporate climate change impacts as factors in that assessment.

# Preparing for Climate Change: Agriculture

## **Strategy 4: Strengthen collaborations and partnerships to address climate impacts and increase regional resilience.**

- 4.2.2 Expand the use of recycled water in the Sammamish Valley to help mitigate projected changes in summer low streamflows.
- 4.2.10 Account for climate change impacts in the Agricultural Land Resource Strategic Plan for the Snoqualmie Valley.
- 4.2.11 Work with partners to ensure that climate change mitigation and preparedness are incorporated into farm plans and strategies.
- 4.2.12 Work with partners to help farmland owners elevate homes within the Snoqualmie River 100-year floodplain and increase access to high ground for animals and equipment during floods.

# Preparing for Climate Change: Agriculture

## **Strategy 5: Invest in public outreach, engagement, and technical assistance related to climate preparedness.**

5.1.1 Incorporate information on changing flood risk and ways to reduce that risk into outreach for coastal and river floodplain property owners.

5.1.6 Support increased farmer participation in federal disaster insurance programs.

**Section I  
Reducing  
Greenhouse Gas  
Emissions**



**Section II  
Sustainable &  
Resilient Frontline  
Communities**



**Section III  
Preparing for  
Climate Change**



Learn more about our climate work:

[www.kingcounty.gov/climate](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate)