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Attachments:	

1 ..Title

2 AN ORDINANCE relating to the King County Strategic  
3 Climate Action Plan; requiring the 2020 Strategic Climate  
4 Action Plan Update and all subsequent updates be  
5 developed using an environmental justice framework and  
6 the inclusion of a green jobs strategy and a sustainable and  
7 resilient community strategy; and amending Ordinance  
8 17270, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 18.25.010 and  
9 Ordinance 17166, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C.  
10 18.50.010.

11 ..Body

12 PREAMBLE:

13 King County has a long record of innovation, leadership and investment in  
14 reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of  
15 climate change. The King County Strategic Climate Action Plan is the  
16 blueprint that guides the county's actions in reducing greenhouse gas  
17 emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change. The county's  
18 first Strategic Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2012 and updated in  
19 2015, consistent with K.C.C. chapter 18.25. As required by King County  
20 Code, in June 2020 the executive will transmit an updated strategic  
21 climate action plan. The executive has convened a climate equity task

22 force where leaders of frontline communities will develop goals and guide  
23 priority areas for climate action based on community values and concerns.  
24 Building on this existing work the 2020 King County Strategic Climate  
25 Action Plan and subsequent updates should address the climate crisis  
26 using a framework of environmental justice and in ways that create and  
27 maintain quality jobs with a focus on those most impacted by change in  
28 order to build sustainable and resilient communities and a more equitable  
29 economy.

30 An environmental justice framework calls for environmental policies to  
31 explicitly address racial and economic disparities exacerbated by climate  
32 change. Across this country, including King County, historic  
33 discriminatory policies have placed a disproportionate environmental  
34 impact on the most marginalized communities. Furthermore, those most  
35 impacted by climate change are often those with the fewest resources to  
36 respond.

37 Using an environmental justice framework, the 2020 Strategic Climate  
38 Action Plan update is an opportunity to consider the impact and benefits to  
39 marginalized communities of policies to reduce emissions reductions,  
40 prepare the county for climate change and access the job opportunities that  
41 a new green economy will provide.

42 Access to green jobs is a crucial element in developing sustainable and  
43 resilient communities. Jobs in in energy efficiency, renewable energy  
44 development, electric vehicle maintenance, developing infrastructure for

45 electric vehicles and investing in carbon sequestration are a growing field.  
46 According to the 2019 United States Energy and Employment Report,  
47 there are over 2.3 million energy efficiency-related jobs in the United  
48 States. Energy efficiency jobs pay more on average than the national  
49 median wage. However, women and people of color are vastly  
50 underrepresented in that sector. In 2018, the energy efficiency sector  
51 continued to produce the most new jobs of any energy sector. Demand for  
52 efficient technology and building upgrades has driven expansion across  
53 many traditional industries, including construction trades and professional  
54 services. As job growth in the energy efficiency sector increases, the  
55 report noted fifty-two percent of energy efficiency construction employers  
56 found it very difficult to hire new employees. There is much work to do to  
57 make sure women and people of color have access to these well-paying  
58 jobs.

59 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

60 SECTION 1. Ordinance 17270, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 18.25.010 are  
61 hereby amended to read as follows:

62 A.1. The ~~((executive shall))~~ county developed a strategic climate action plan in  
63 2012 to establish long-term targets and guide actions within county services and  
64 operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate,  
65 consistent with the King County Strategic Plan. In accordance with this chapter, the  
66 executive updates the strategic climate action plan. Each update to the strategic climate  
67 action plan shall be developed with an environmental justice framework in partnership

68 with those communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and in a manner  
69 consistent with Ordinance 16948, which establishes the county's fair and just principle.

70 The strategic climate action plan shall include the following:

71 a. the identification of specific goals, strategies, measures, targets and priority  
72 actions for county services and operations to reduce emissions consistent with the  
73 countywide goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions twenty-five percent by 2020, fifty  
74 percent by 2030 and eighty percent by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline. The strategic  
75 climate action plan should address five goal areas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions:  
76 transportation and land use; building and facilities energy; green building; consumption  
77 and materials management, including the environmental purchasing program; and  
78 forestry and agriculture. Each goal area shall address environmental justice and ensure  
79 that the strategies promote an equitable distribution of any environmental benefit. The  
80 strategic climate action plan should establish explicit and, whenever possible,  
81 quantifiable connections between the overarching climate goals and specific strategies  
82 and actions;

83 b.(1) a green jobs strategy. For purposes of this subsection A., a "green job"  
84 means one that generates an income large enough to support a household in King County  
85 and provides a benefit to the environment. The intent of the green jobs strategy is to  
86 encourage the development of greens jobs along the career spectrum.

87 (2) The green jobs strategy shall be developed in consultation with the  
88 members of the strategic climate action plan labor advisory council identified in  
89 subsection A.7. of this section and representatives of an environmental justice and  
90 climate equity organization, education, the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-

91 King County, business, building managers, utilities, scientists with knowledge of the  
92 latest research on strategies to reduce emissions, tribes, local governments and regional  
93 groups such as the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration and the Puget Sound  
94 Regional Council, and shall include:

95 (a) specific actions King County and its partners can take to increase the  
96 number of green jobs throughout the region, including jobs in energy efficiency,  
97 renewable energy, green vehicles and carbon sequestration;

98 (b) a proposal for and budget to develop a green job pipeline that focuses  
99 especially on communities that have historically been underserved, and is informed by  
100 recommendations of the climate and equity community task force;

101 (c) identification of the industry sectors and job types with high-demand  
102 green jobs in King County; and

103 (d) actions King County can take to develop the green energy skills of King  
104 County's own workforce, such as collaboration on development of apprenticeship and  
105 pre-apprenticeship programs in sectors including energy efficiency, electrification,  
106 electric vehicle maintenance, the maintenance of electric vehicle infrastructure and  
107 carbon sequestration technologies;

108 c. a community-driven strategy to achieve sustainable and resilient  
109 communities. In order to achieve a community driven strategy, the executive shall ensure  
110 materials are accessible in multiple languages, partner with frontline communities to co-  
111 develop climate solutions and support community efforts and events. The sustainable  
112 and resilient community strategy shall:

113           (1) identify how climate change will impact communities of color, low-  
114 income communities and those disproportionately impacted by climate change;

115           (2) identify opportunities to take action to address those impacts, including,  
116 but not limited to, increasing the number of affordable housing units, developing  
117 pathways to green jobs, preventing neighborhood displacement, increasing access to  
118 green spaces, providing access to zero emissions mobility options, improving food  
119 security, reducing pollution and addressing health disparities; and

120           (3) based on assessment of climate impacts and extreme weather events like  
121 heat waves on vulnerable communities, make recommendations for preparedness  
122 strategies and actions to include in county emergency response plans, the flood hazard  
123 management plan and the regional hazard mitigation plan;

124           d. the current assessment of climate change impacts in King County and  
125 identification of goals, strategies, measures, targets and priority actions within county  
126 services and county operations to address climate change impacts. Each goal and  
127 strategy shall address environmental justice and ensure that the strategies promote an  
128 equitable distribution of any environmental benefit;

129           ~~((e-))~~ e. performance measures and related targets for both operational  
130 emissions and implementation of priority strategies, including the green job strategy, that  
131 advance the strategic climate action plan and provide for assessment of progress relative  
132 to overarching climate goals at the community scale; and

133           ~~((f-))~~ f. an assessment of cost effectiveness for key county services and  
134 operations building on the pilot cost effectiveness assessment in the 2015 strategic  
135 climate action plan update.

136           2. Consistent with the county's strategic planning cycle, updates will occur at  
137 least every five years, unless more frequent updates are needed to respond to changing  
138 information about emissions sources, performance relative to targets, new technologies,  
139 or a changing regulatory context. The executive shall transmit updates to the strategic  
140 climate action plan to the council for adoption by motion.

141           3. In developing future updates to the strategic climate action plan, the  
142 executive shall continue to review climate change-related plans being developed by other  
143 municipalities, including the city of Seattle's climate action plan, and identify  
144 opportunities and strengthen recommendations for partnership with cities, businesses and  
145 nonprofit organizations to advance actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and  
146 prepare for climate change impacts. ~~((Future updates shall also continue to strengthen  
147 engagement of communities most impacted by climate change, review and address the  
148 disproportionate impacts of climate change, and develop solutions in a manner consistent  
149 with Ordinance 16948 establishing the county's fair and just principle.))~~

150           4. The council recognizes that science related to climate change and successful  
151 climate solutions is evolving, and each update to the strategic climate action plan should  
152 build upon and refine the strategies, activities and performance targets in accordance with  
153 best available science, practices and progress toward emissions reductions targets.

154           5. Future updates shall include the requirements of subsection A.1. of this  
155 section.

156           6. Progress in achieving strategic climate action plan performance measure  
157 targets and accomplishment of priority actions identified in subsection A.1. of this  
158 section, as well as findings outlining recommendations for changes in policies, priorities

159 and capital investments, shall be reported and transmitted to council biennially. The  
160 progress report shall be included as part of the report required in K.C.C. 18.50.010.

161 7. The executive shall convene a strategic climate action plan labor advisory  
162 council to provide guidance on each update.

163 B. Future updates to climate-related objectives and strategies in the King County  
164 Strategic Plan should be informed by the strategic climate action plan.

165 C. The executive must transmit the legislation and reports required to be  
166 submitted by this section in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the  
167 clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all  
168 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the transportation,  
169 economy and environment committee or its successor.

170 SECTION 2. Ordinance 17166, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 18.50.010 are  
171 hereby amended to read as follows:

172 The executive shall transmit by June 30 of every other year a report on the  
173 county's major environmental sustainability programs intended to reduce energy use,  
174 climate emissions, and resource use, and prepare for the impacts of climate change, as  
175 required in subsections A., B. and C. of this section. The report shall also describe the  
176 progress made throughout the region on developing of green jobs as defined in K.C.C.  
177 18.25.010. The executive shall transmit the report to council, filed in the form of a paper  
178 original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original  
179 and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the  
180 lead staff for the transportation economy and environment committee or its successor.  
181 The report shall be structured in a way that links actual performance to established goals



182 and indicators and can inform policy choices, program priorities and investments in  
183 capital projects. The report should address the following:

184 A. Greenhouse gas emissions reductions, including:

185 1. Progress towards achieving the overarching greenhouse gas emissions  
186 reduction targets for both county government operations and the county as a whole;

187 2. Progress against targets and measures and updates on the implementation of  
188 strategies and priority actions in five goal areas for the strategic climate action plan:  
189 transportation and land use; building and facilities energy; green building; consumption  
190 and materials management, including the environmental purchasing program; and  
191 forestry and agriculture; and

192 3. A summary of major expenses associated with the climate impacts research,  
193 community-scale emissions inventories, climate change community engagement, and  
194 climate change and energy efficiency partnerships with businesses and cities;

195 B. An update on implementation of climate preparedness strategies and priority  
196 actions recommended in the current strategic climate action plan;

197 C. An update on the strategies and priority actions identified in the green jobs  
198 strategy as required by K.C.C. 18.25.010;

199 D. An update on the actions taken to achieve sustainable and resilient  
200 communities as required by K.C.C. 18.25.010;

201 E. The green building program, as required in K.C.C. 18.17.020.M.1.; and

202 ((D-)) F. The program to fund city projects to reduce energy demand, as required  
203 in Ordinance 18663, Section 3.