2025 SCAP Operational Energy and Greenhouse Gas Guidance

May 23, 2025

King County

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Purpose

King County has a long history of climate action and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in government operations well before 2025. Commitments adopted and put into practice based on the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP), starting in 2015, continue to be required for facility operations and maintenance, capital projects, fleet purchasing, and procurement. This document provides a compiled high-level summary of King County government operational guidance and requirements for reducing GHG emissions in capital projects and operations. Departmental staff are encouraged work with their departmental climate team leads and the Executive Climate Office for further guidance and clarification.

I. Operational Energy: Building Energy Use and Capital Projects

This attachment provides specific guidance in support of the goals included in the Buildings and Facilities Energy Focus Area of the Reducing GHG Section of the 2025 SCAP. The specific strategies and policies provided in this attachment are a guide for County government agencies as they advance their County facility energy reduction and renewable energy work.

Background

Energy use in County facilities has significant environmental impacts by driving the need for energy infrastructure and production, and operating cost economic impacts for paying utility bills. Reducing fossil fuel use in County facilities has direct impacts to reduce GHGs and demonstrates for the community ways to transition to a decarbonized economy based on clean sources of electricity.

King County will continue aggressive electricity reduction actions toward future energy reduction goals. There are important benefits to reducing electricity use, even when the electricity provided is carbon neutral or renewable, these include:

- Reducing utility costs to County department operating budgets and expenditures;
- Reducing the County's use of electricity, including carbon neutral SCL power or renewable electricity via PSE Green Direct. This "frees up" low-carbon electricity for the utilities to use for other customers, reducing the need to generate power to serve peak demand from higher carbon sources. For example, as of 2023, about half of Puget Sound Energy's power systemwide is carbon-based and Seattle City Light's ability to sell its carbon neutral power to others reduces the need for others to generate power with natural gas;
- Minimizing the need for new electricity generation construction. All new generation, including renewable sources, has environmental impacts, including raw material mining, power equipment manufacturing, land use, and habitat loss.

Operational Energy Requirements

- **No new natural gas or fossil fuel powered equipment installed in County facilities,** with exceptions for generators and specialized equipment where an all-electric version is not feasible. At least one all-electric option must be included in alternative analysis for capital projects and include cost of carbon in lifecycle cost assessments. (See also GHG 72: Limit installation of new fossil fueled equipment in County facilities)
- **Acquire utility incentives and rebates:** King County capital projects with energy components must apply for utility rebates when available. All County agency energy-using equipment replacement projects shall maximize available utility rebate dollars by working with Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light, Snohomish PUD, Seattle Public Utilities, and other utility companies as

appropriate. This requirement helps reduce project costs and supports utility conservation incentive programs that have been a critical component of the region's long-term success as a national leader in resource efficiency efforts.

- **Meet most progressive energy code regardless of jurisdiction**: All capital and major renovation projects that trigger code requirements shall meet the energy performance of the most efficient commercial energy code of any jurisdiction in King County. As of early 2025, the most efficient energy code is in the City of Seattle.
- **Design systems to be turned off:** New facilities and major renovations shall be designed such that all non-critical energy using systems are shut off during unoccupied times, with simple controls as necessary for safety, code requirements, and accessible overrides for after-hours access. Outdoor lighting shall include controls such as motion sensors that will minimize and/or shut down lighting when no activity is present. Exceptions shall be rare and shall include a clear public or staff benefit, such as public or staff safety, or when doing so would result in increased energy use.
- **Ensure design guidance prioritizes energy efficiency**: Energy-using equipment design guidance for capital projects shall communicate design standards as indicated in the bullet points and sections below with regard to lighting efficiency levels, purchase of Energy Star-qualified appliances, heat pump efficiency levels, heat recovery installation, and space heating control and efficiency standards. If these requirements are met in existing design requirements, then additional guidance is not necessary.
- **Minimum design requirements:** Dictating the use of specific energy equipment technologies has the potential to limit creative design and create an unanticipated outcome of increased energy use, if newer technological advances do not fit the prescribed standards. However, advancing technological improvements are making some older or inefficient technologies obsolete or unattractive from a life cycle perspective. New construction and renovation projects shall meet the following minimum design requirements:
    - All lighting fixtures shall have an efficacy of over 110 lumens per watt, unless replacing existing lighting results in an energy reduction of 50 percent or greater for each lamp replaced.
    - Renovation projects shall replace heating equipment with a non-fossil fuel option, per the requirements of the "No New Natural Gas..." section above.
    - Heat pumps shall have a Coefficient of Performance of at least 2.5, unless the total space to be heated with such equipment is under 400 square feet.
    - Space to be conditioned shall be minimized and based on specific needs. Strong consideration shall be given to stairwells and other low-use spaces being constructed as outdoor and/or unconditioned space.
    - All space heating devices shall be controlled with a minimum of seven-day programmable wall thermostats that are not integrated into the device. This includes restrooms and all other conditioned spaces. That is, no baseboard or in-wall heaters controlled by on/off or dial switches integrated into the units.
    - Radiant heaters shall have timer or motion shutdown controls.
    - Heat recovery shall be integrated into all ventilated spaces over 5,000 square feet and shall have heat recovery of 70 percent or greater, where allowed by code.
    - No electric boilers as primary heat source. Electric boilers can be integrated only as back-up heating systems, secondary to heat pump or other higher efficiency systems, and designed to operate for no more than 200 hours each year.

    - Agencies shall, as necessary, integrate wording into construction and procurement documents to ensure these strategies are followed.
- **Purchase EnergyStar qualified appliances**: All appliance purchases by King County government shall be Energy Star qualified appliances, if an Energy Star rating is available for the type of appliance. Agencies shall set in place practices to ensure that credit card (i.e., P-card) purchases of equipment and appliances comply with this requirement. To ensure both safety and resource efficiency, employees are not allowed to bring, or accept donations of, heaters or other electrical appliances for use in County facilities, unless specifically approved by the County. When an energy-using device is deemed necessary for an employee's comfort or to perform assigned work, appliances will be purchased by County agencies and shall be Energy Star qualified, if an Energy Star category exists. The Procurement and Payables Section of the Department of Executive Services shall work to ensure compliance with this strategy.
- **Design for and install solar PV**: Design for solar electricity generation and install or make-ready for solar energy on all new construction of King County buildings. For all new King County facilities regardless of the jurisdiction of the facility location, install solar power that meets or exceeds the most progressive commercial solar installation code in the County, which is the 2018 City of Seattle code, section C411 and C412, as of early 2025. New facilities shall also design for solar orientation and minimizing obstructed rooftop areas to provide for solar installation during construction or in the future.

II. Green Building: Sustainability Requirements for Capital Projects

Background

Capital projects are uniquely positioned to impact King County's long-term sustainability, equity, and resilience goals because of the way that they intersect with our local environment, communities, residents, and economy. Capital projects have the power to counter historic disparities, influence the future of the County's infrastructure, carbon footprint, green job economy, material resource management, water quality and habitat health, preparedness for a changing climate, and enhance the sustainability and resilience of frontline communities. This attachment outlines requirements per the SCAP, as well as requirements established in King County Code 18.17 – Green Building Ordinance (GBO). King County's green building policy was established by Executive Order in 2001 and codified in King County Code by the Green Building Ordinance in 2005, covering all County-owned capital projects. The GBO ensures the planning, design, construction, remodeling, renovation, maintenance and operations of any King County owned or financed capital project is consistent with the latest green building and sustainable development practices. It directs County departments to incorporate the use of green building rating systems in project design for a holistic sustainable approach toward equitable, restorative and carbon neutral development. The Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard is a GBO reporting requirement where capital projects must account for their green building elements.

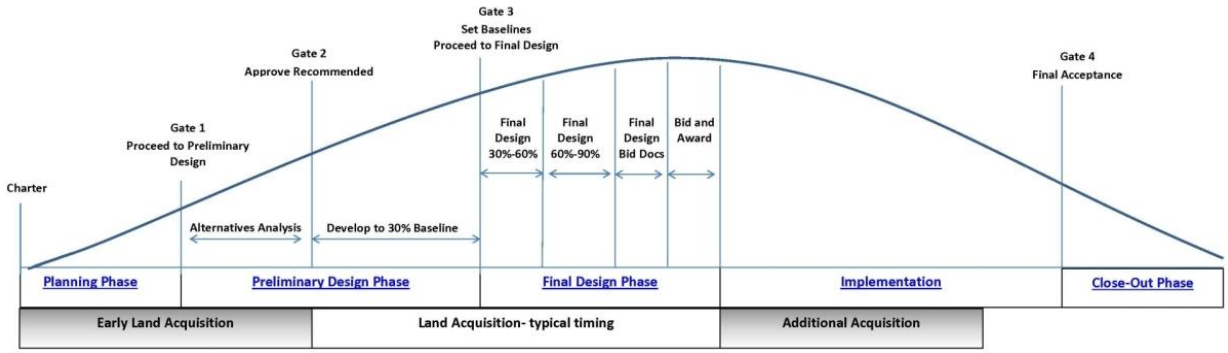
Green Building Requirements

- **Building Certification:** Buildings owned or lease-to-own by King County, shall achieve certification levels as follows:
    - New construction of a LEED-eligible building shall achieve either: LEED platinum certification or the Living Building Challenge certification, or both; and
        - LEED Platinum plus Zero Energy or Zero Carbon certification; or

        - Living Building Challenge CORE plus Zero Energy, Energy Petal, or Zero Carbon certification.
    - A major remodel or renovation of a LEED-eligible building shall achieve either LEED gold certification or the Living Building Challenge certification, or both.
- **Infrastructure Certification:** Capital projects owned or lease-to-own by King County that are large scale infrastructure or site related projects, including: new construction of conveyance, combined sewer overflow and pump station projects from the wastewater treatment division; new RapidRide and bus base electrification charging infrastructure projects by Metro Transit; and heavy-duty electrical infrastructure projects with 10 or more DC fast chargers by the solid waste division, shall achieve Envision Platinum certification. Capital projects owned or lease-to-own by King County that are large scale infrastructure or site-related projects by the Parks and Recreation Division, that are not subject to other requirements, shall achieve or maintain Salmon Safe certification.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard or Additional Certification:** Capital projects owned or lease-to-own by King County that are not subject to above requirements shall either achieve a platinum rating according to a King County or Division-specific Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard or achieve certification through an applicable alternative green building rating system, or both.
- **All capital projects**:
    - Shall meet King County Surface Water Design Manual requirements, regardless of jurisdiction location. If a project is located in a jurisdiction where the surface water design manual standards and requirements are different than King County's, the project shall implement the more stringent requirement;
    - Shall achieve a minimum diversion rate of eighty-five percent for construction and demolition materials and shall achieve zero waste of resources with economic value beginning in 2030;
    - Shall achieve applicable King County equity and social justice credits for capital projects regardless of the rating system used; and
    - Should use the practice of integrative process to maximize green building, sustainable development, community benefit and financial investment opportunities over the life of the asset.
- **Leased Facilities:**
    - For leases by a King County agency for King County operations at non-King-County-owned facilities, the agency shall seek to incorporate the latest green building and sustainable development practices in the County-occupied space.
    - For new leases of King County-employee-occupied-space of longer than five years, including lease-to-own projects, King County shall lease buildings that are certified through the LEED rating system at silver level or higher, are Energy Star Certified or are certified through an alternative green building rating system, but only when those ratings are consistent with the operational needs of the function. Buildings that do not meet these standards can be leased by the county if plans and financing are in place at the time of signing that will enable the building to meet this standard within twenty-four months of lease signing.
- **Exemptions:** Projects are only exempt from the Green Building Ordinance if they can confirm one of the following situations:

- Parent/Child (e.g., project itself has no construction, reporting occurs via subprojects); Administrative/Finance project not owned by King County (e.g., central charges, debt service);
- Study/Report/Assessment only (e.g., strategic plans, compliance report);
- No construction/other (e.g., security and fire alarm systems);
- Acquisition Only (e.g., property purchase);
- IT/Software/Programming (e.g., computers or software);
- Project on Hold;
- Project Reassigned.

The following summarizes the key requirements of the County's sustainability and ESJ mandates as they apply to each project phase.



- **Project Initiation:** Scope project budget to meet GBO and SCAP requirements, including sustainable rating system project required to achieve.

- **Planning Phase:** Include sustainable rating system the project will utilize in the project charter.
  - Determine who on the project team is responsible or accountable for the sustainability requirements.
  - In consultant procurement documents, include applicable SCAP, CWHH, ESJ, GBO and SCC language/requirements to ensure that these items are accounted for in baseline budget. Include elements in all consultant procurement documents: RFP, Contract, Scope, Level of Effort (LOE), Budgets, and Specifications.
  - *At early-stage design meetings,* review Annual Green Building Report, green building rating system checklist, C&D plan and report templates, include deconstruction assessment so that project team is aware of all reporting criteria that are required. Complete Annual Green Building Report each year project is active.
  - At early-stage design meetings, identify what types of climate change impacts may affect the project and incorporate planning for these impacts into scoping and planning. For example, is the project boundary in a floodplain? If yes, the project team would need to incorporate flood considerations in its design.
  - Evaluate the project's opportunities to achieve net zero GHG emissions, build applicable elements into project baseline; by 2030 100 percent of new construction and whole building renovations must achieve net zero GHG emissions.
  - Review six Clean Water Healthy Habitat goals and identify opportunities to achieve multi-benefits within the project across reduced toxins, cleaner controlled stormwater,

resilient marine shorelines, functional floodplains, better fish habitat and expanded forest and greenspaces.
    - Plan and hold an eco-charrette to brainstorm all sustainability and climate resilience opportunities for project. This should cover opportunities to implement intent and priority actions of GBO, 2020 SCAP, CWHH, ESJ.
    - Review ESJ credits for capital projects. Start developing ESJ Plan for project to capture what ESJ credits will be pursued and what strategies and task will be needed to achieve ESJ credits.

- **Preliminary Design Phase (<30 percent Design):** During alternatives analysis, use Life Cycle Cost Analysis, social cost of carbon calculation, and embodied carbon impacts in capital planning, alternatives analysis, selection of construction materials, and other large investments.
    - Integrate the most efficient energy and water codes in the County into project design, regardless of facility location.
    - Complete a 30 percent Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard/LEED/Alternative Rating System checklist and C&D Plan. All projects must: Achieve a Platinum rating using the King County Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, the LEED rating system, or an approved alternative rating system
    - Complete a 30 percent Compost Plan to account for potential compost utilized on the project.
    - Ensure applicable ESJ credits are being pursued. ESJ Plan has been created.
    - Create a plan to reach a minimum of 85 percent C&D waste diversion from landfills; and zero waste of resources by 2030. Conduct a deconstruction assessment to maximize source separation of materials.
    - Develop an energy model to estimate the annual energy use of the facility, based on specified equipment and assumed operating conditions.
    - As a part of creating the project's baseline budget, evaluate climate change impacts on the proposed project and project alternatives. Identify what project modifications may be needed to mitigate those impacts and what the cost of those modifications will be. Build those costs into the baseline.

- **Final Design Phase (Post 30 percent design – bid and award):** Ensure project Baseline budget includes ability to achieve all sustainability requirements.
    - Update energy models, ESJ plans, green building checklist to ensure design is on track. Is the project meeting Platinum? Is the project prepared to divert at least 85 percent C&D materials from landfills? Is project meeting energy, emissions, water reduction targets of 2025 SCAP? Is the project meeting CWHH goals? Is the project implementing efforts in the ESJ plan?
    - Write specifications and construction bid documents to reflect sustainability requirements - 2025 SCAP, CWHH, ESJ and GBO. Ensure this includes sustainable materials, low embodied GHG materials, pro-equity sourcing.
    - If needed, complete a more detailed evaluation of climate change and equity impacts on the preferred alternative and update any project modifications that may be needed to mitigate those impacts. Ensure project Baseline budget includes funds needed to implement climate preparedness measures.

- **Implementation/Construction Phase:**

- Divert a minimum of 85 percent of C&D waste from landfills during capital phase and zero waste of resources by 2030.
- Track if sustainability materials are actually being used and verifying specs are being followed. Quantify cement and cement substitutes used. Quantify compost used.
- Track and quantify use of apprentices and SCS firms. Capture demographic data of performance and benefits.

- **Close-Out Phase:**
  - Incorporate sustainability in operations and maintenance documents when the project is completed and turned over to O&M groups.
  - Complete a final Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard/LEED/Alternative Rating system checklist and Construction & Demolition Report. All projects must:
    - Achieve a Platinum rating using the King County Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, the LEED rating system, or an equivalent level using an approved alternative rating system.
    - Document actual performance of implementing ESJ credits.
    - Reach a minimum of 85 percent C&D waste diversion from landfills and zero waste of resources by 2030.
  - Complete a final Compost Report to report on vendor, quantity, and type of compost used on the project.
  - Quantify actual performance for criteria in Annual Green Building Report – energy savings, water savings, emissions savings, C&D diversion percentage and tonnage, FSC wood, cement substitutes, carpet.

III. Sustainable Purchasing Policy and Guidance

Background

King County Government has made a commitment to sustainable purchasing practices to reduce its environmental and human health impacts and promote socially responsible procurement. The purpose of the Sustainable Purchasing Policy is to ensure purchases of sustainable goods and services whenever they meet performance and availability requirements, price is not prohibitive, and they advance environmental sustainability goals and priority actions of the King County Strategic Plan, Strategic Climate Action Plan, Green Building Ordinance, Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, and Pro-Equity Contracting Executive Order. The Sustainable Purchasing Executive Policy CON 7-22-1EP, KCC 18.20 Sustainable Purchase Policy and the Sustainable Purchasing Guide require all County employees to follow these purchasing requirements when making any purchase, including the use of environmental standards, certifications and ecolabels, and outline the roles and responsibilities of personnel involved with the specifying and buying of sustainable goods and services.

Sustainable Purchasing Requirements excerpts per the Sustainable Purchasing Policy

Agencies shall purchase goods and services in a manner that protects human health and the environment, is fiscally responsible, and promotes social equity and other benefits to the community. Agencies shall consider life-cycle costs in addition to lowest initial cost of a good or service. Agencies shall include steps in their procurement planning process to meet the directives of the environmental,

social, and fiscal impacts in this policy. The requirements and recommendations within this policy apply to all purchasing mechanisms per King County Code 2.93.

1) The following environmental benefits shall be evaluated and prioritized for purchasing decisions:
   a) Reducing waste generation by choosing products that are durable, reusable, repairable, refillable, recyclable, compostable, salvageable, deconstructable, or made with recycled content or remanufactured parts;
   b) Lowering embodied greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with a product's manufacture, transportation and use;
   c) Saving energy through the purchase of energy-efficient products and equipment and increasing the use of renewable energy such as solar or wind power;
   d) Conserving natural resources including water, petroleum, rare earth minerals;
   e) Minimizing the purchase of products containing toxic chemicals, especially perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals (PBTs), with a goal of phasing out all usage of products containing such chemicals;
   f) Minimizing pollutants to air and water, including indoor air emissions;
   g) Promoting transparency, including disclosure of environmental, health, economic, and social risks through the use of environmental certifications and ecolabels (as defined in Section D of this policy), Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), Health Product Declarations (HPDs), and vendor sustainability ratings; and
   h) Other environmental impacts that may be relevant or indicated in the Sustainable Purchasing Guide including best practice guidance for choosing plant-based foods for office catering.

2) The following social benefits shall be evaluated and prioritized for purchasing decisions:
   a) Using products that contain non-toxic or safer chemicals and do not contribute adverse human health or environmental impacts during their manufacture, use, or disposal;
   b) Using vendors and eco-labelled products that promote labor and human rights, including those certified as fair trade, sweatshop-free, or made without child labor; and
   c) Using pro-equity contracting, including Small Contractors and Suppliers (SCS), Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (M/WBE) vendors.

3) The following fiscal benefits shall be evaluated and prioritized for purchasing decisions:
   a) Reducing consumption by choosing reusable and repairable products, and leasing or renting, rather than buying;
   b) Ensuring performance, durability, and quality of products to maximize the useful life of assets;
   c) Accounting for all costs that are based on a total cost of ownership (TCO), life cycle cost assessment (LCCA) including social cost of carbon; and
   d) Leveraging the County's and other public entities' buying power to increase access to sustainable materials and products by using existing partnership agreements (i.e., piggybacks and cooperatives) and seeking opportunities to create new partnerships.

Sustainable Purchasing Strategies and Requirements

- **Goods and Services:** Agencies are required to purchase goods and services using the following:

- Refer to P&P "Sustainable Purchasing Guide," which:
  - Requires and recommends standards, certifications and ecolabels by goods and services;

Identifies County contracts that include sustainable goods and services; and
Lists requirements of County policies including those identified in the Strategic Climate Action Plan, Executive Orders, and County Code related to sustainable purchasing.

- Refer to the following State policies and guidance:
  - Use of recycled aggregates – develop and establish objectives and strategies for the reuse and recycling of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials (RCW 70A.205.700);

Avoid the purchase of expanded polystyrene products, except for when necessary for drugs, medical devices, and biological materials (RCW 70A.245);

Use of non-compostable plastic trash bags with a minimum of 10 percent recycled content (RCW 70A.245); and
Avoid the purchase of products containing intentionally added PFAS and other PBT chemicals, unless there is no feasible alternative (WA State EO 04-01, WA State EO 20-01).

- **Reduce Consumption:** Use strategies to reduce consumption, including:
  - Reuse, repair, and repurpose goods and materials; Purchase goods that are durable and long-lasting; Purchase of goods with minimal packaging;
  - Utilize manufacturer's take-back programs;
  - Purchase of recyclable and/or recycled products;
  - Purchase of salvaged or deconstructed materials;
  - Life-cycle cost assessment that accounts for raw material extraction, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, use, maintenance; and disposal of the product, including environmental and social costs; social cost of carbon; and
  - Consider the quality, durability, and repairability of purchased goods to make choices that maximize the useful life of assets.

Environmental Standards and Certifications

- Environmental Standards: Agencies must evaluate available environmental standards, certifications, and ecolabels when conducting alternatives analysis and/or writing specifications for procuring goods.
- Environmental standards used by the agency must meet one of these three measures:
  - Federal Guidance – "Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and ecolabels"
  - Third Party Certifications that:
    - Were developed and awarded by an impartial third-party;
    - Were developed in a public, transparent, and broad stakeholder process; and
    - Satisfy the standards for certification developed by the International Organization of Standards or other recognized standards-setting or accreditation organizations.
  - Sustainable purchasing guidance from P&P staff.
- The evaluation should include review of minimum environmental standards, certifications, and ecolabel requirements listed by goods and service categories in the Sustainable Purchasing Guide.

- If the evaluation concludes that there is an appropriate and relevant ecolabel, then they must be included in the specifications.

IV. County Fleet Vehicles: Requirements for Purchasing and Operating County Fleets

Background

King County has established targets to reduce emissions from County fleets. Departments are required to transition to zero-emission and electric vehicles per King County Code **18. 22 Electric Vehicles for County.** To effectively reduce emissions from County fleets there is a need to limit purchase of new internal combustion fleet, as King County makes this transition. In 2022, King County Executive Order established an Internal Combustion Engine Purchasing Moratorium, to prohibit the purchase of any new internal combustion light duty vehicles, including hybrid vehicles. Pursuit-rated vehicles in the Sheriff's Office are exempted from this moratorium for reasons related to officer safety as long as a comparable hybrid option is purchased, if available to officers. Departments can submit a Waiver – Electric Vehicle Exemption Light Duty Vehicles for approval by the Executive Climate Office if barriers exist requiring purchase of a light duty internal combustion engine vehicle.

County Fleet Vehicles Requirements

- **SCAP targets:**
    - All agencies with fleet vehicles are expected to request resources or otherwise budget to meet the SCAP targets in the King County Code 18. 22 for fleet electrification, including the necessary budget for vehicle purchasing (as appropriate), vehicle charging infrastructure, and the necessary staffing and training for associated planning, programmatic support, and strategic implementation.
    - Agencies are also encouraged to pilot and test new technologies in forging the path toward electrification and reduced fleet emissions.
    - With the adoption of the Washington State Clean Fuel Standard and reduced incremental costs of alternative fuels, agencies should expand the use of alternative fuels to reduce emissions in the near-term as zero-emission infrastructure is implemented.
    - Agencies for whom Fleet Services manages fleet procurement, but manage their own facilities, are responsible for capital planning and delivery of EV charging infrastructure to support EV vehicles.
    - Agencies should work closely with Fleet Services to identify charging needs and are expected to develop plans for charging infrastructure implementation.
- **Internal Combustion Engine Moratorium Waiver:** To seek approval for a waiver from the Internal Combustion Engine Moratorium, departments must demonstrate that the following criteria can be met:
    - **Criteria 1:** Vehicle Needs/Critical to Operations:
        - Describe the primary use of the vehicle and why it needs to be purchased. If this is a replacement for an existing vehicle, why does it need to be replaced? (e.g., new program, unforeseen collision, sudden catastrophic vehicle malfunction, other extenuating circumstances). Provide documentation.
    - **Criteria 2**: No Feasible EV Alternative or No Feasible EV Charging
        - Demonstrate that no feasible EV alternative can be used to meet this need.

    - Which EV model options were considered? Include a list of the EV options considered and cost analysis if applicable (if total cost of ownership over the life of the vehicle is more than 20 percent higher to purchase the EV option, note in this section). Describe why these EV options do not work (i.e., vehicle specs do not meet business needs, cost analysis does not support purchase, no charging is available or anticipated to be available in the next 6 months to meet this need).
    - Demonstrate there is no charging available and no opportunity to add charging in the next 6 months to support this need.
    - Which plug-in hybrid/hybrid options were considered? List hybrid options considered.
- **Criteria 3**: No Substitute Vehicle Available
    - Demonstrate that there are no substitute vehicles within the existing King County fleet (e.g., underutilized vehicles) that could be swapped or temporarily utilized for this operational purpose until a viable electric vehicle can be procured. Include any details.
- **Criteria 4**: No Ability to Electrify and Redeploy a Gas-powered Vehicle
    - Demonstrate there are no similar vehicles in the fleet ready to electrify to allow for redeployment of the gas-powered vehicle to meet this need until a viable electric vehicle can be implemented.

V. Operational GHG Measurement and Reporting Principles

Background

The following principles outline how King County will measure and report on operational GHG emissions adopted in this SCAP. King County develops GHG emissions inventories to inform action and measure progress toward adopted targets. King County's operational emissions are categorized into three "scopes":

- **Scope 1 emissions** include direct GHG emissions and removals that occur as a part of operations, including fuel combustion from King County-owned vehicles; natural gas used at King County facilities; landfill gas at Cedar Hill Regional landfill; and land use change, including carbon sequestered by forest growth on King County-owned lands.
- **Scope 2 emissions** include indirect emissions associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, steam, heating, and cooling.
- **Scope 3 emissions** include all other indirect sources of GHG emissions, such as King County employee business travel and commuting or the life cycle GHG emissions associated with the production, use, and disposal of purchased materials and services. Purchasing is the County's largest source of Scope 3 emissions.

Operational GHG Reporting Priorities

For SCAP County operational targets, King County should include all Scope 1 and 2 emissions and removals, consistent with adopted protocols and best practices. Scope 3 emissions are not included in reporting on this target. However, King County is still working to quantify and reduce Scope 3 emissions, for example, by addressing employee commute-related emissions through the Commute Trip Reduction program and by reducing embodied emissions of construction materials like concrete used in County projects.

VI. Operational GHG Emissions, Carbon Offset, and Renewable Energy Policies

Background

King County is committed to reducing operations GHG emissions. There are many strategies and approaches organizations can use to reduce emissions. King County has established guidance on how to prioritize investments in reducing operational emissions. King County is also a large renewable energy producer and seller, has established a Forest Carbon Program, and has established internal carbon fees. There are also opportunities to develop and sell climate and energy related environmental attributes, such as related to vehicle electrification and carbon sequestration strategies. The intent of this section of operational guidance is to:

- formalize and clarify priorities for GHG emissions reductions;
- outline the rationale for County sale of environmental attributes;
- provide dedicated funding to accelerate deeper, faster GHG emissions reductions and climate preparedness benefits; and
- ensure consistency of approaches across varying lines of business.

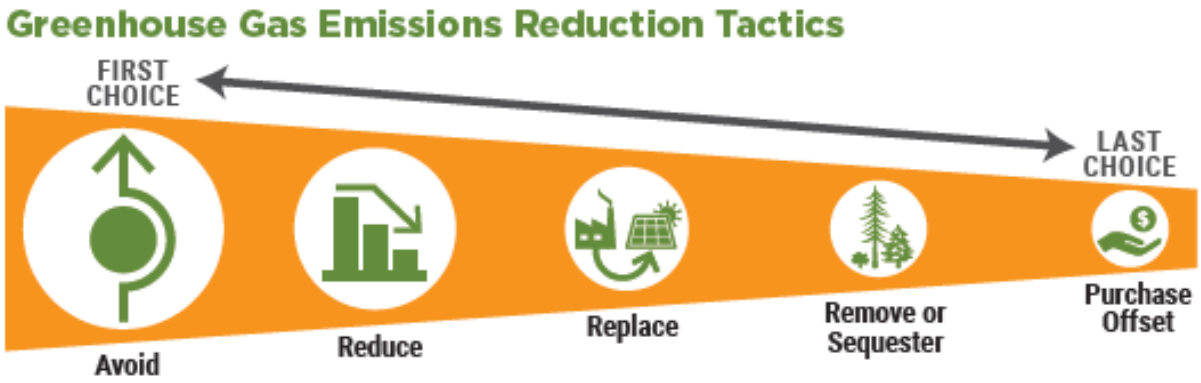
Operational GHG Emissions Priorities

To achieve its operational emissions, energy, and fuel goals, King County prioritizes strategies that:

- are the most cost-effective;
- achieve transformative and long term GHG reductions; and
- advance equity, public health, and other environmental benefits such as clean water and improved air quality.

Investments to reduce operational GHG emissions should be prioritized in the following order:

- 1st: Avoid (e.g. by driving fewer miles in government vehicles).
- 2nd: Reduce (e.g. through energy efficiency projects).
- 3rd: Replace (e.g. through cleaner fuel use in vehicles; by transitioning building energy use from fossil fuel natural gas to electricity; and/or by transitioning electricity supplies to green sources (such as PSE's Green Direct program).
- 4th: Remove or sequester, with a preference for investing in County owned projects (e.g. through forest restoration or soil carbon projects).
- Last: Purchase Offsets. As a final option, and only in certain cases, purchase externally sourced offsets or credits.



King County should prioritize the use or sale of County energy, carbon offsets and related environmental attributes in the following ways:

- Carbon and energy projects. King County agencies are encouraged to develop renewable energy, carbon offset, and related projects. The internal use of the energy or environmental attributes of the projects is encouraged to help achieve operational climate and energy goals.
- Benefits of sale. King County recognizes that the financial, leadership, public-private partnership, and/or educational values of sale of the energy and carbon and energy attributes may outweigh the benefits of their use towards operational goals.
- Local preference for sale. If the price between potential buyers is close to equal, King County prefers to sell these attributes to local buyers to support local partnerships.
- No double counting. Any renewable energy, carbon offset, or other environmental attributes that are sold externally may not also be used to meet the County's operational targets or commitments.

Reinvestment in climate action. For County owned projects or programs that sell energy, carbon offsets, or related attributes, revenues beyond project development costs must be reinvested in SCAP related actions.

- Covered revenues. Revenues from the following sales must be reinvested:
    - Renewable energy produced
    - Renewable energy attributes such as Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs)
    - Carbon offsets
    - Internal carbon and energy fees and set asides
    - Credits associated with use of electric vehicles and low carbon fuels
- Reinvestment: revenues should provide additional funding. Reinvestment of revenues from carbon and energy projects is intended to provide additional funding to accelerate climate action and should not displace existing funding for programs that result in GHG emissions reductions and climate preparedness benefits.
- The policy for reinvestment allows for exceptions in cases of financial emergency; is not to affect Rate Stabilization Policies; and is not intended to impact revenues that are subject to requirements of Federal, State, regional and local laws that require minimum investments in specific programs, demographics, or locations.