



Recap of Recent Climate and Energy State Action and K4C Interests¹ for 2025

New priorities for 2025 are highlighted

Who we are

King County, and twenty-two partners representing more than 1.9 million county residents — Bellevue, Burien, Bothell, Duvall, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Tukwila, plus the Port of Seattle — are working together through the [King County-Cities Climate Collaboration \(K4C\)](#) to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action.

Our Shared Climate Goals and Actions

In 2021, King County and cities strengthened shared targets to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040; and 95% and net zero emissions by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline). In support of these targets, K4C partners have signed on to [Joint County - City Climate Commitments](#), in areas ranging from transportation and land use to renewable energy to waste reduction. The Joint Commitments articulate that building an equitable clean energy economy will require deep engagement with communities of color and low income, immigrant, and youth populations and committed to work in ways that are fair, equitable, empowering, and inclusive. In 2019, the Joint Commitments added preparing for climate change impacts to K4C's shared work.

Importance of State Action

While local governments have the responsibility to lead on climate solutions at the local level, a comprehensive and supportive policy and funding framework at the state level is essential to meeting our shared commitments. State policies and investments in climate and energy can also better position Washington State to be a leader in economic development.

Policy Interest Details for 2025 Legislative Session

These policy interests draw from the K4C's updated [Joint City - County Climate Commitments](#) from K4C legislative interests developed in recent years and are informed by anticipated proposals for state legislation. These policy interests are intended to advance shared climate commitments and to be a resource for local governments as they review state legislation, consider comment letters, and weigh in on state policies as they develop. **We recognize that each K4C partner has unique policy and state legislative priorities and may not pursue all of these interests**, but through focused, coordinated action, we can maximize the impact of our individual and shared efforts.

¹ King County's own formal legislative agenda is subject to review and approval by the King County Council.



Climate Policy

K4C supports comprehensive science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases.

2024 Recap:

- An attempt to repeal the Climate Commitment Act was rejected by voters, ensuring continued implementation of the policy and further investments in climate and climate justice work.
- [HB 1181](#) went into effect and the state began giving out grants to support work on climate and resiliency elements in comprehensive plans.

2025 Priorities:

- **Ensure impactful, sustainable, and equitable implementation of the Climate Commitment Act, including sustained funding for key K4C existing programs.**
- **Ensure CCA investments directly benefit tribal nations and overburdened communities as outlined by the State Environmental Justice Council.**
- **Bring funding from state and federal climate action policies and investments such as the federal Inflation Reduction Act and state Climate Commitment Act to support on the ground implementation of local climate action.**
- **Ensure impactful and equitable implementation of transformational state climate policies and laws including the Climate Commitment Act, Clean Energy Transformation Act, Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Energy Codes, Climate Change in Local Comprehensive Planning, and hydrofluorocarbon policies.**
- **Support policies that require climate preparedness, climate equity and GHG emissions reduction in Comprehensive Planning**
- **Support policies that establish regulation of methane emissions based on best available science and technology.**
- **Support policies that establish and use “cost of carbon” methods for analysis and decision-making.**
- Support amendments to existing legislation that **strengthen targets to align with best science**, and that provide additional structure or resources to reach the targets.
- Support policies encouraging **carbon sequestration**.



Transportation and Land Use

K4C supports comprehensive state policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by supporting transit, and opportunities to walk, roll, and bike, catalyzing investments in clean transit vehicles. K4C supports policies to focus growth inside cities and prioritizing centers well served by transit and other mobility options.

2024 Recap:

- Another bill promoting transit-oriented development, passed the House and failed to pass the Senate in the final weeks.
- The legislature appropriated additional Climate Commitment Act revenue in the 2024-2025 supplemental transportation budget.

2025 Priorities:

- **Support**, as part of a comprehensive strategy for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions:
 - **Support legislation for transportation funding** that aligns with state climate policy goals to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles and reduce miles travelled.
 - **Flexibility in how potential revenue streams, including Road Usage Charges, (RUC) are spent.** Support local government authority to use revenues to fund transit, multi-modal, pedestrian and road improvements that increase mobility and prioritize reaching climate goals.
 - **Support for integration of climate considerations** in comprehensive planning policies.
 - **Protection for and expansion of funding for public transit** and investments that support travel by walking, rolling, and biking.
 - **Continued funding and expansion as in previous years of the Commute Trip Reduction program** and the Regional Mobility Grant program.
 - **Policies and incentives to support equitable transit friendly development and easy connections** in vicinity of planned rail and high-capacity transit and employment centers.
 - **Development of land use strategies** that encourage dense, affordable healthy, sustainably developed neighborhoods that discourage displacement.



Clean Fuels and Electric Vehicles

K4C supports comprehensive state and regional policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by increasing Federal vehicle efficiency standards, adopting state or regional clean fuels standards, and increasing use of electric light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles.

2024 Recap:

- [SB 5431/ HB 1368](#) passed after a second year and will establish a zero-emissions school bus grant program and outline the transition to 100% ZEV buses.

2025 Priorities:

- **Protect core provisions of the Clean Fuels Standard**, ensuring maximal reduction of the carbon intensity of fuels by 2038.
- **Support the development of comprehensive transportation sector decarbonization plan** that evaluates reductions in vehicle miles travelled, land use strategies, vehicle electrification and renewable hydrogen technologies, and transit.
- **Support and engage in state legislation and rulemaking to regulatorily phase out sale of new gas-powered vehicles.**
- **Incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets** and lower pollution from transportation fuels.
- **Incentives for electrification of medium and heavy duty vehicles**, with consideration for mechanisms that allow for access by owner – operators.
- Support existing legislation that establishes **accessible, reliable, interoperable, and fairly priced electric vehicle (EV) charging** and support policy updates to require EV charging stations and EV-ready parking spaces as part of new commercial and residential development.
- Support **equitable incentives** to promote adoption of electric vehicles by residents.



Renewable and Resilient Energy Supply

K4C supports existing state renewable energy commitments including the Renewable Portfolio Standard and the Clean Energy Transformation Act that provide for 100% Clean electricity supply by 2045 by partnering with local utilities, state regulators and other stakeholders on a countywide commitment to clean energy resources. Support policies that meet our future energy needs through energy efficiency, grid modernization, and renewable generation while phasing out fossil fuels.

2024 Recap:

- [HB 1589/SB 5562](#) passed after a second attempt and would have allowed PSE to more thoughtfully plan for the gas transition. However, a voter initiative repealed much of the law in November.
- An attempt to pass a community solar bill did not make it out of the House.
- The legislature appropriated additional CCA funding to a wide range of clean energy investments.

2025 Priorities:

- **Support a clear, articulated pathway for retirement of fossil fuel energy supplies** that protects ratepayers, creates jobs, supports a just transition, and maximizes replacement with new renewable resources.
- **Protect core provisions of the Clean Energy Transformation Act.**
- Support **changes in the utility Integrated Resource Planning process** that promote equitable consideration of environmental and health benefits and greater emphasis on energy efficiency and demand management.
- Support existing state law that requires **increasing percentages of new energy load to be met by renewable sources other than hydropower.**
- Support **distributed solar energy generation.** Current state law limits the size of solar arrays that qualify for retail electricity rates. We support policy changes that would expand utility limits for these systems and allow for development of larger solar installations while considering both the benefits of increased distributed solar energy generation and ratepayer fairness.



Green Building and Energy Efficiency

K4C supports state policy changes and investments that will help us to reduce energy use in existing buildings 25% below 2017 levels by 2030, achieve net-zero GHG emissions in new buildings by 2031, and reduce fossil fuel use in buildings by 20% by 2030.

2024 Recap:

- The legislature funded a few different building decarbonization and efficiency programs with additional CCA revenue, including more funding for Clean Buildings compliance and \$55M for affordable housing energy efficiency and electrification investments.
- [HB 1391](#), which would have established a comprehensive statewide Building Energy Upgrade Navigator Program to help building owners access electrification and energy efficiency services and funding, did not pass for a second time.

2025 Priorities:

- **Protect stronger Washington State Energy codes and adjust to I-2066 landscape.**
- Support **equitable policies and funding mechanisms to reduce energy use** and save money for residents and businesses.
- Support **policies that enable the beneficial electrification of buildings**, with a focus on equitable access to programs and just transition for workers.
- Support **policies, tools and programs to reduce construction-related emissions**, including embodied carbon in construction materials.
- **Provide State Department of Commerce grants** to leverage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments by local governments.
- Support **policies that enable or encourage permanently affordable green homeownership** development projects.
- Support **policies and funding that support the retrofit of existing building stock** to lower the carbon footprint of existing residential and commercial buildings.



Consumption and Materials Management

K4C supports state policy and investments that will help us achieve a 70% recycling rate countywide and achieve zero waste of resources for materials that have economic value for reuse, resale, and recycling by 2030.

2024 Recap:

- The “ReWRAP Act”, a second attempt at comprehensive extended producer responsibility law, failed to pass.

2025 Priorities:

- Support policies that **replace the take-make-waste linear economy** with a more **circular economy** where **waste is minimized, materials are kept in use longer** and **natural systems are regenerated**.
- Support policies that **reduce emissions from solid waste management by increasing reuse, recycling and composting statewide** and **support new processing infrastructure innovations such as co-digestion**.
- Support policies for **Extender Producer Responsibility**, which will **increase the reuse and recycling rate of residential packaging and paper products** across the state to 75% by 2030 and **reduce residential recycling costs for rate payers**.
- **Support policies that reduce food waste** and reclaim edible food from the waste stream and provide it to those in need.
- Support policies that develop opportunities for **soil carbon sequestration** and **mitigating the impacts of climate change** through the application of compost.
- Support policies that **reduce methane emissions** from solid waste management including landfill operations, especially those that divert food waste from the landfill.
- **Support policies that use a lifecycle and consumption emissions approach to reduce emissions**, so reducing the risks of carbon leakage.



Climate Preparedness

K4C supports policy changes and investments that increase community resilience and reduce climate change impacts on K4C communities and the King County region.



King County - Cities

CLIMATE COLLABORATION

2025 Priorities:

- Support policies that require climate preparedness in Hazard Mitigation Planning.
- Support policies and investments that **reduce specific climate change impacts equitably** (e.g., flooding, sea level rise, wildfire, urban heat, public health risks), **increase state and local capacity** to address climate change impacts, and **increase frontline community resilience**.
- Support dedicated **funding for implementation** of climate preparedness actions or policies.
- Support investments in **climate change impacts research, resources, and engagement** that benefit state and local action on climate change.