



## Advocacy

### Objective:

Reduce climate pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change on the environment, human health, and the economy

### Strategy:

Advocate for and participate in the development of federal, state, and regional climate response strategies and resources that advance emission reduction goals

### Why is this strategy important?

Climate change is both a local and a global challenge. To make a broader impact in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and preparing for climate change impacts, action must be taken not only by King County government but also by the residents, civic organizations, businesses, and cities in the region. Beyond the county, actions must be accomplished across Washington, the nation, and the world. King County is implementing a range of strategies that engage and partner with others to promote solutions at the national, state, regional, and local scales.

### How is our performance?

King County continues to participate in, support and advocate for appropriate local, regional and national efforts and organizations focused on reducing GHG emissions and preparing for climate change impacts, including through its state and federal policy interests and agendas.

At the local level, King County is leading new partnerships with cities. In 2011, Executive Constantine kicked off the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, a partnership between the County and cities to enhance climate change and sustainability efforts. County and city staff are partnering on outreach, coordination, solutions and funding. By June 2012, nine King County cities--Seattle, Shoreline, Mercer Island, Snoqualmie, Tukwila, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, and Issaquah--have formally committed staff and funding to this partnership.

King County is also supporting regional and national efforts. For example, in 2011 the County participated in the development of the Washington State Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy and played a leadership role in Growth Management Planning Council work to develop new climate change-focused Countywide Planning Policies. The County also partnered with national organizations, including Climate Communities, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the Responsible Purchasing Network and the National Association of Counties Green Purchasing Taskforce, to support projects such as the STAR Communities Index, a national sustainability rating system and framework.

## **Moving forward**

King County supports appropriate comprehensive approaches to reducing GHG emissions, such as market-based emissions reduction programs, renewable energy standards for electricity production, and vehicle emissions performance standards, which send appropriate price signals for reducing emissions. King County advocates for these types of comprehensive approaches at the state and federal level as well as for initiatives and grant and loan programs that support local investments in projects and programs such as community solar and energy efficiency retrofits. Over the coming years, King County will further collaborate with regional partners to respond to climate disruption through innovations in policies, practices, infrastructure, programs, and services. In 2012, King County submitted a Strategic Climate Action Plan to the King County Council. The plan synthesizes and focuses King County's most critical goals, objectives, and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change.

## **Related Links**

**[King County Climate Change Response](#)**

**[Other Government Responses to Climate Change](#)**