



Minimize King County's Footprint

Objective:

Minimize King County's operational environmental footprint

What is happening in King County?

King County has long recognized that it can reduce operating costs and emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants by reducing its energy use, meeting more of its energy needs with local renewable resources, and taking advantage of opportunities to produce energy (including renewable energy), where practical. Energy continues to be a major cost to the County, and reducing this expense will contribute to the County's ability to maintain critical services.

The County is making significant progress toward achieving a 15 percent reduction in energy use by 2015 in buildings and facilities. The County's normalized (corrected for weather) facility energy use is down over 9 percent compared to our 2007 baseline. In the rolling stock sector, which includes transit and fleet vehicles, growth in transit service has resulted in an overall increase in transit energy use. In general, such increases in public transportation energy usage are offset by community-level reductions in private vehicle energy usage, and so are considered beneficial. The County has been actively working with the American Public Transportation Association to develop standardized energy efficiency goals for transit systems that more accurately capture the community-level energy efficiency benefits of increasing transit ridership.

What role does King County play?

The actions the County takes to reduce energy use, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, are tightly linked to making progress toward the County's long-term climate goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 80 percent between 2007 and 2050. King County must also recognize the depletion and impact of fossil fuels and the benefits of energy independence and commit itself to continuous improvement in the ways it produces and uses energy in the next 20 years.

King County plans to track total operational hazardous waste produced beginning in 2013 in order to monitor these key features of our environmental footprint.

What else influences these indicators?

While it is important for King County government to make the best use of its energy assets and opportunities, its operational use of energy represents only a fraction of the energy used in the county as a whole. King County's decisions about transportation, land use, and promotion of new technologies in the energy arena set the stage for community-level reductions in both energy use and greenhouse-gas emissions.

In 2013, King County will update its Green Building Ordinance, which presents an opportunity to further advance the adoption of high performance facilities and infrastructure.

Related Links

[King County Energy Plan](#)

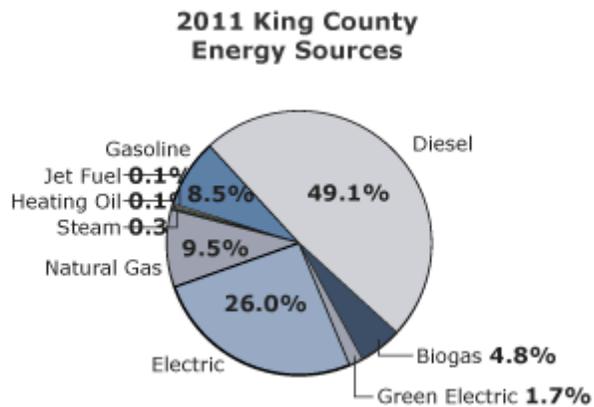
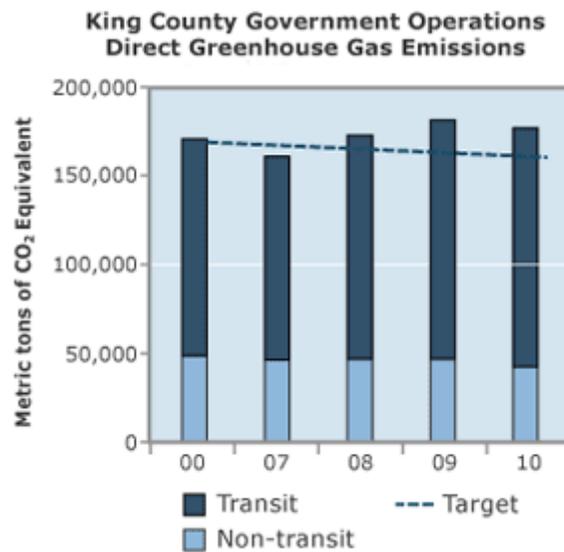
[King County Green Building](#)

[King County Climate Change Response](#)

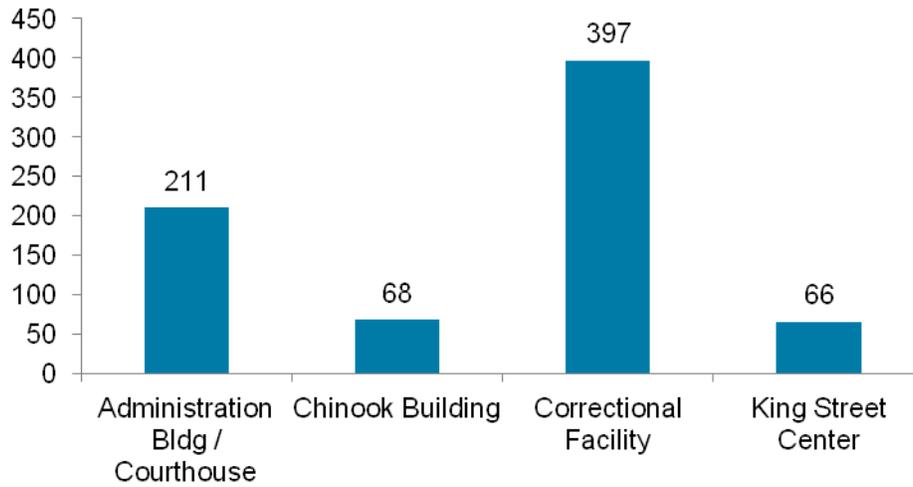
Technical Notes

Data provided by King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Charts and Maps



2011 Solid Waste Produced at King County Buildings (tons)



Data Source: Cleanscapes and Wright Runstad