



## Green Building Practices

### Objective:

Minimize King County's operational environmental footprint

### Strategy:

Incorporate sustainable development practices into the design, construction and operation of county facilities and county-funded projects

### Why is this strategy important?

Since the construction, remodeling, and ongoing operations of buildings consume many resources, green building practices are vital for reducing the initial and ongoing expense and impact of our facilities. For applicable King County buildings, we seek the Gold level of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System . For non-LEED buildings (infrastructure), we use an internally-developed scorecard to define and optimize sustainable infrastructure project attributes, including the fairness in distribution of facilities that may present environmental burdens to nearby residents.

### How is our performance?

91.5 percent of county capital improvement projects are in compliance with the King County Green Building and Sustainable Development Ordinance. The target for this measure is 100 percent.

The King County Council adopted the Ordinance in 2008 which calls for new county-built capital projects that are eligible to plan for and attain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold or other highest possible level rating. LEED-eligible projects shall submit a completed LEED Checklist, which documents which LEED points the project team expects to achieve. The Checklist is submitted to the King County Green Building Team when a project is at 30 percent design and again at project completion.

The Ordinance also requires that all non-LEED-eligible King County capital projects incorporate green building and sustainable development practices whenever possible. These projects must submit a Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard to the King County Green Building Team when a project is at 30 percent design and again at project completion. Most county capital projects fall under the requirement to use the Scorecard.

### Moving forward

In 2012, GreenTools Program staff will continue to encourage King County divisions to submit Scorecards and LEED Checklists in order to reach 100 percent compliance. In addition, additional efforts will be made to improve performance and utility of Scorecards and Checklists to maximize green building and sustainable development opportunities. GreenTools staff will also provide a number of

more in-depth trainings on such topics as: use of specific Scorecard categories, LEED v3, Low Impact Development (LID), renewable energy, and use of a new Green Operations and Management Guidelines Manual.

In 2013, King County will improve and renew its Green Building and Sustainable Development Ordinance, which presents an important opportunity to strengthen and improve this policy. Coordination is needed with the Capital Project Management Work Group and Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget to ensure the Green Building Ordinance requirements are well established early in the development of capital projects, well before project scope and budget are determined, in order to effectively implement green building and sustainable development.

King County's Equity and Social Justice Legislation requires agencies, through new capital investments to seek to remedy known unevenness in determinants of equity. Project managers will be supported in their use of equity impact assessment tools to help reveal and address equity and social justice considerations in the siting and delivery of facilities and services.

## Related Links

### Green Building

#### King County Performance Report for Green Building

#### King County Capital Projects Oversight

#### King County Equity and Social Justice

## Technical Notes

Data provided by King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). Other acronyms for the Green Building chart are Financial Management Division (FMD) and King County Department of Transportation (DOT).

## Charts and Maps

