



**Whereas,** we, King County and the undersigned cities of King County, wish to work together to directly respond to climate change and reduce global and local sources of climate pollution;

**Whereas,** we believe that by working together we can increase our efficiency and effectiveness in making progress towards this goal;

**Whereas,** we are interested in achieving this goal in a way that builds a cleaner, stronger and more resilient regional economy;

**Whereas,** we are interested in focusing on local solutions to leverage and partner with related collaborative efforts;

**Whereas,** partnering on sustainable solutions will advance progress towards Cities' environmental, climate change, and energy goals such as those adopted by the nearly half of King County Cities that have signed on to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement;

**Now, therefore,** we agree to participate in this effort and collaborate regionally with our County and City partners to develop and coordinate the following:

- Outreach: Develop, refine, and utilize messaging and tools for climate change outreach to engage decision makers, other cities, and the general public.
- Coordination: Collaborate on adopting consistent standards, benchmarks, strategies, and overall goals related to responding to climate change.
- Solutions: Share local success stories, challenges, data and products that support and enhance climate mitigation efforts by all partners.
- Funding and resources: Collaborate to secure grant funding and other shared resource opportunities to support climate related projects and programs.

***My city will participate and contribute to the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration by dedicating staff and a financial contribution, based on my city's population, per Exhibit A.***

Designated Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pledge and Collaboration Objectives

The Pledge is a partnership between the Cities of King County and King County itself to increase the effectiveness of local sustainability and climate change solutions by working together. The Collaboration aims to:

- Develop regional emissions targets and track progress towards these goals
- Share local success stories and challenges
- Pursue and share grants, resources and group funding sources
- Provide coordinated outreach and messaging on climate change solutions
- Raise the profile of climate efforts of King County Cities and the County itself
- Coordinate City and County sustainability efforts through workshops, presentations and other efforts

## What is the plan?

To achieve these objectives, the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration started hosting bi-monthly Sustainable Cities Roundtables on climate solutions in January 2011. In addition,

- During the summer of 2011, cities will be encouraged to commit to the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration Pledge and participate in the Sustainable Cities Roundtables<sup>1</sup>.
- As the collaboration develops, participating city staff will develop resources to support local efforts, such as:
  - Creating a directory of local climate solutions resources including a technical expert resource directory
  - Developing a list of consultants with local experience and expertise
  - Documenting and sharing best practices and lessons learned from local projects and programs
- When City pledges provide sufficient funding, additional staffing will be hired to implement joint projects in the pledge focus areas and pursue additional resources to support city sustainability efforts.
- Members will have the opportunity to participate in Sustainable Cities Roundtable series and workshops that help to advance local and regional climate solutions.

## Who is participating?

Multiple entities have participated in developing this initiative, including King County, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, and the cities of Bellevue, Black Diamond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie and Tukwila.

- All King County Cities are encouraged to participate
- Cities will begin signing the pledge at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Cities Roundtable

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<sup>1</sup> 2010 Sustainable Cities Roundtable details: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/greenbuilding/roundtable.asp>

## How is this Different from Existing Efforts?

The King County-Cities Climate Collaboration is the only collaborative climate effort focused solely on local King County-based efforts. Existing networks, such as ICLEI and the Mayor's Climate Protection Initiative, provide resources, camaraderie and political legitimacy, but their scope is on a much larger scale. The Collaboration is focused on the needs of local King County governments.

Collaboration can be an effective motivator for change: it can increase commitment; catalyze action; promote mutual learning through social networks; and strengthen local governments' ability to attract sustainable development investments from both the private sector and grantor agencies. Within the Collaboration, King County municipalities can work together on tangible projects and programs, standardize goals and measures for assessing progress, and share best practices and lessons learned. Collaboration through this effort is also a great way to achieve results with limited resources.

### Why Work with King County?

Early on, Collaboration cities asked King County if it could be a vehicle for helping organize Collaboration activities, provide fiscal management and participate in this local focus on climate solutions. King County has a history of striving to assist its cities and towns with a broad range of sustainability and environmental efforts. Collaborating with King County government provides additional resources and political legitimacy that can help move the effort forward.

### Why is this Important?

To address climate change, action needs to be taken at all levels of government. Climate policy, projects and programs can be fragmented and inconsistent, and many of the tools needed to develop cohesive responses are lacking. Localities must overcome financial, technical, informational, capacity-related and institutional obstacles. Currently, local climate change action has achieved more success than national efforts, but there is a great need to further address sources of climate pollution. For significant emission reductions to occur, city and county governments need to work together.

## What will this Pledge funding do?

In support of this effort, King County has already pledged funding to expand the Sustainable Cities Roundtable to a monthly event, with every-other month focused on local and regional climate issues and initiatives. These roundtables are opportunities for sharing best practices, discussion, hearing from experts, workshops and brainstorming on specific projects.

When pledged city funding levels are sufficient, the Collaboration will hire full/partial staff support for Pledge priorities. For the first year the goal is to hire a King County Community Energy Action Corps<sup>2</sup> Member, budgeted at \$17,000 full time or \$9,000 part-time. In future years, the Collaboration may also host an annual symposium, or annual symposium session track addressing local climate solutions.

Cities that sign the pledge will also sign a Technical Service Agreement that includes a detailed Scope of Work for this effort. The Collaboration's Scope of Work will be voted on annually by participating Cities and King County and requires a majority vote by three quarters of participants. Contact either of the below representatives for more details.

### Show me the Money (Funding the Pledge)

It's a familiar story: the "green" program sounds nice but how will we pay for it? The King County-Cities Climate Collaboration Pledge includes annual fiscal commitments of its signatories, sometimes helping fund staff support that we perhaps can't afford in our own cities. While the pledge amount is relatively small, what if you already feel like you are scraping the bottom of the barrel for funds?

A recent ICLEI Fact Sheet<sup>3</sup> on sustainability program funding sources provides some ideas:

- Consider the General Fund. As this work assists the efforts of multiple departments, the Collaboration could be considered a general City benefit.
- Leftover federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) or other stimulus-related funding. If grant expenditures weren't as high as predicted, they could be directed towards membership.
- Utilities budgets may sometimes provide membership funding. Greenhouse gases come from multiple sources such as landfills, streets and sewers. These departments may be good matches because of the strong nexus between climate pollution creation and mitigation.

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<sup>2</sup> The Community Energy Action Corps is an AmeriCorps National and Community Service Volunteer program that allows members to work for local governments on Environmental Stewardship projects. This program requires a cost match from participants to fund the positions.

<sup>3</sup> For the full factsheet, see [www.icleiusa.org/library/documents/ICLEI\\_Sustainability\\_Funding\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.icleiusa.org/library/documents/ICLEI_Sustainability_Funding_Fact_Sheet.pdf).

- For future years consider incorporating membership costs in solid waste or other utility fees.
- Some Cities institute cost-saving programs through energy efficiency retrofits and operational changes. If your city has or is considering such a program, consider dedicating your savings towards a membership aimed at capitalizing on similar programs.
- Environmental Education and Outreach budgets of various departments may also be a natural fit for budgeting the Climate Collaboration.

## Pledge Funding: Population Tiers

The Pledge tiers for Collaboration members are based on signatory cities' population sizes. The original tiers were derived by a sample budget to operate the Collaboration including staff needs, events funding, and expanding the Sustainable Cities Roundtable. Three variations of Pledge Tier levels were developed to meet the projected budget. The variations were evaluated by a steering committee based on their fairness to each city, what budgets could realistically incorporate, and what would be sustainable for annual pledging over time. The tiers selected actually were those least expensive for larger cities, and were agreed upon by a wide range of city types, including rural cities, cities of different sizes and different locations across King County.

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### For more information about this effort, contact:

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# Exhibit A:

## Financial Contribution Matrix

<u>Population Categories</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Population</u>
<b>Under 5,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>Level 1</b>
	Skykomish	198
	Beaux Arts Village	299
	Hunts Point	394
	Milton	831
	Yarrow Point	1001
	Carnation	1,786
	Medina	2,969
	Clyde Hill	2,984
	Algona	3,014
	Black Diamond	4,151
<b>5,000 - 19,999</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>Level 2</b>
	North Bend	5,731
	Normandy Park	6,335
	Pacific	6,514
	Duvall	6,695
	Newcastle	10,380
	Enumclaw	10,669
	Snoqualmie	10,670
	Woodinville	10,938
	Lake Forest Park	12,598
	Bothell	17,090
	Covington	17,575
	Tukwila	19,107

<u>Population Categories</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Population</u>
<b>20-39,999</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
	Kenmore	20,460
	Maple Valley	22,684
	Mercer Island	22,699
	SeaTac	26,909
	Des Moines	29,673
	Issaquah	30,434
	Burien	33,313
<b>40- 65,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
	Sammamish	45,780
	Kirkland	48,787
	Shoreline	53,007
	Redmond	54,144
	Auburn	62,761
<b>Over 65,000</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>Level 5</b>
	Federal Way	89,306
	Renton	90,927
	Kent	92,411
	Bellevue	122,363
<b>Over 250,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>Level 6</b>
	Seattle	608,660
<b>King County</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>Level 7</b>

*Note: Population data from the Puget Sound Regional Council's download of 2010 census data*