



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6325
September 19, 2023
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6325: Expressing Support for the King County Re+ Program (Resolution No. 1648)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Adopt Resolution No. 1648 expressing support for King County's Re+ Program.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director Alanna DeRogatis, Sustainability Analyst Cassidy Berlin, Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Resolution No. 1648 expressing support for King County's Re+ Program
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to present a resolution that expresses support for the Re+ pledge.

- The Re+ pledge is a nonbinding agreement from King County Solid Waste Division's Re+ Program that acknowledges the challenges and opportunities associated with work to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and preserve the life of the Cedar Hills Landfill.
- The Re+ Program is a major climate initiative from King County that aligns with the waste diversion goals in Mercer Island's Climate Action Plan, and the Re+ Pledge is a mechanism that allows cities to signal commitment to the goals of the Re+ Strategic Plan.
- The Re+ Pledge does not commit the City to specific action items, however, signing the pledge gives the City access to competitive Re+ city grant funding to support zero-waste sustainability initiatives.
- Proposed Resolution No. 1648 expresses the City of Mercer Island's support for King County's Re+ Program and authorizes the City Manager to sign the Re+ Pledge.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, King County's Solid Waste Division estimated that the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill would reach capacity by 2040 without intervention and that approximately 70% of waste sent to the landfill could be

diverted through reuse or recycling. In November 2022, King County published the Re+ Strategic Plan to establish a framework that reduces regional greenhouse gas emissions and will preserve the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill through substantial waste diversion.

[King County's Re+ Strategic Plan](#) emphasizes the development of a regional system-wide transition to a more circular economy through improved infrastructure and policy development at each level of government. The Re+ pledge is a non-binding, high-level agreement from the Re+ Strategic Plan that highlights the collaborative efforts that King County and member cities are making to reach our shared waste diversion goals.

In September 2022, King County presented on the Re+ initiative to the Mercer Island City Council and framed the Re+ Pledge as an opportunity to demonstrate support for the zero-waste goal that is central to Re+'s implementation strategy, which relies on securing participation from all levels of government. At this time, the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was being drafted and City Council opted to delay expressing support for the signing of the Re+ Pledge until the CAP was finalized.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

In April 2023, the City adopted a Climate Action Plan to embed sustainable practices in City and community operations. One of the goals of the Climate Action Plan is to reduce community waste and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the consumption and disposal of goods and materials. This goal aligns with the mission of the Re+ Program to re-imagine the regional solid waste system from one that is disposal-based to one that is focused on reduction, recovery, recycling, and regeneration. In addition, this goal aligns with King County's goal to implement all Re+ waste diversion practices by 2030.

Key actions for the Re+ Program include identifying new ways of processing organics and recycling, developing recycling markets for organics, paper and plastic, and a community panel to engage historically underrepresented and adversely impacted community members to help guide future outcomes along with developing new markets that will create local jobs in the private sector, help build the green economy, and ensure a just and equitable impact on the community. Support of the Re+ Program will help focus local governments on a joint effort and responsibility to make progress toward reducing local GHG emissions by increasing waste prevention and recycling, laying the foundation for developing a circular economy.

To date, King County staff have presented on the Re+ Program and Pledge to 30 cities, and 22 cities have signed the Pledge. Staff recommends adopting Resolution No. 1648 (Exhibit 1) expressing support for the Re+ Program and authorizing the City Manager to sign King County's Re+ Pledge.

NEXT STEPS

Signing the Re+ Pledge gives cities access to competitive Re+ city grants that can be used to support sustainable zero-waste initiatives. Staff will continue working with King County, Recology, and the community to increase recycling and landfill diversion efforts in alignment with the waste-reduction targets established in the Climate Action Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 1648 expressing the City of Mercer Island's support for King County's Re+ program and authorize the City Manager to sign King County's Re+ Pledge.