



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

**AB 5623
November 19, 2019
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5623: Sustainability Update – K4C Commitments	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Resolution No. 1570 to adopt refreshed King County-Cities Joint Climate Commitments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager		
STAFF:	Ross Freeman, Sustainability Manager		
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Bruce Bassett	Benson Wong	Salim Nice
EXHIBITS:	1. Resolution No. 1570 & Attachment A: New Joint Climate Commitments (2019) 2. Original King County-Cities Joint Climate Commitments (2014) 3. Resolution No. 1389 (2007)		
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a		

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

SUMMARY

This agenda bill presents an opportunity for the Council to adopt a refreshed set of joint climate commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as part of the City’s ongoing multiyear participation in the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C).

Due to recent climate-related policy advances made in Olympia, along with the unexpected weakening of some federal emissions programs, and new technical developments, member cities decided in early 2019 to refresh the original 2014 commitments. At their recent October 23, 2019 biannual work session, held on Mercer Island, K4C members discussed the updated set of Joint Climate Commitments and provided feedback on final language (see Exhibit 1, and Attachment A).

The updated Joint Commitments document is very similar to the original 2014 commitments, with differences consisting mostly of: clarifications of certain phrases; more inclusive language; acknowledgment of new State legislation; and three new sections addressing (a) new technology (e.g. electric vehicles), (b) city operations, and (c) the need for climate change preparedness.

BACKGROUND

In order to make the best use of time, the Sustainability Manager often pursues much of the City's Greenhouse Gas reduction ("GHG") work via participation in programs coordinated by the K4C. Due to the interconnected nature of emissions, K4C actions can include local GHG initiatives with various partner cities, as well as advocacy before State agencies or at the State Legislature (sometimes in conjunction with Mercer Island Councilmembers), or action through sign-on letters.

The City of Mercer Island was a founding member of the K4C in 2011 and formalized its participation via an ongoing interlocal agreement. In 2014, more than a dozen K4C members, including Mercer Island, were seeking a more unified platform to guide GHG reductions, and assembled to develop a set of voluntary shared actions that would accelerate progress towards a clean and sustainable future. These principles –the "Joint Commitments"– are focused on practical, near-term, collaborative opportunities between cities and King County, and were built on the significant work that many cities and the County were already undertaking. The [original Joint Commitments document](#) from 2014 (Exhibit 2) was endorsed by Mercer Island, King County, and 11 other member cities (Shoreline, Seattle, Issaquah, Kirkland, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Tukwila, Renton, Redmond, Bellevue, Burien).

The 2019 refreshed Joint Commitments document has an overarching goal of achieving "Shared countywide GHG reduction targets that reduce countywide sources of GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline."

While all partners support the shared vision that the Commitments represent, it is not the intention that each partner will or can pursue every action. Instead, each partner actively pursues "strategies where action, investment and policy will have the most impact and influence." To emphasize this concept, it has been moved up the list of foundational principles in the document's preamble. In other words, actions and programs will look different for every member city, and the Joint Commitments are a collective vision, not a County mandate.

At the same time, it's also important to note that the overarching GHG goals of the Joint Commitments align with several goals or programs already underway.

- a) **2007:** In its May 2007 [Resolution \(No. 1389\)](#) (Exhibit 3), the Mercer Island City Council formally committed to strive for greenhouse gas emissions of 80% below current levels by 2050, for both the community as a whole and City operations.
- b) **2014:** The King County Growth Management Planning Council – a formal body of elected officials from across King County – voted in 2014 to adopt a shared target to reduce countywide sources of GHG's, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% in 2020, 50% in 2030, and 80% in 2050.
- c) **2019:** The Washington State Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, bills that will transition the electricity sector to clean sources by 2045, accelerate efficiency in the built environment, and reduce transportation related emissions.

The broad partnership represented by the K4C (which now also includes the Port of Seattle) is virtually unprecedented nationwide and is recognized as a very effective means by which to organize multi-jurisdictional GHG reduction work. Through its membership, Mercer Island has been able to amplify its influence and successfully advocate for, or implement, a range of progressive environmental measures.

Over the past few years, group achievements have included:

- Significant advancement of legislation in Olympia to support clean electricity legislation, appliance and building efficiency, clean fuels and vehicle electrification, and phasing out of hydrofluorocarbons
- The opportunity to participate in a new 130 Megawatt windfarm in central western Washington via PSE's new Green Direct programs
- Extensive support of enhanced commercial and residential energy codes (2018 cycle) to reduce heating and cooling costs for homeowners, and reduce energy use

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution No. 1570 to adopt the refreshed 2019 Joint Climate Commitments presented by the K4C.