King County

STRATEGIC
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHAT KING COUNTY IS DOING
to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change

Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

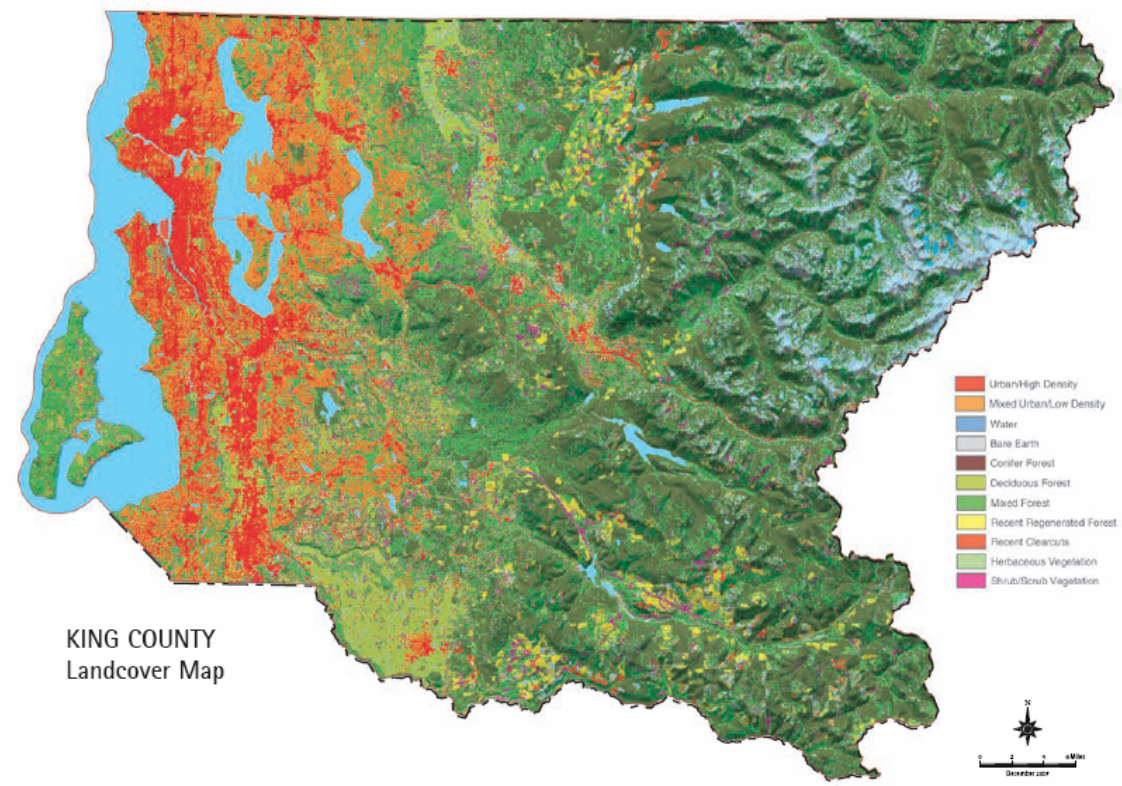
National Adaptation Forum, Denver - April 3, 2013

Matt Kuharic, Senior Climate Change Specialist, King County

Learn more: **www.kingcounty.gov/climate**
Contact: Matt.Kuharic@kingcounty.gov

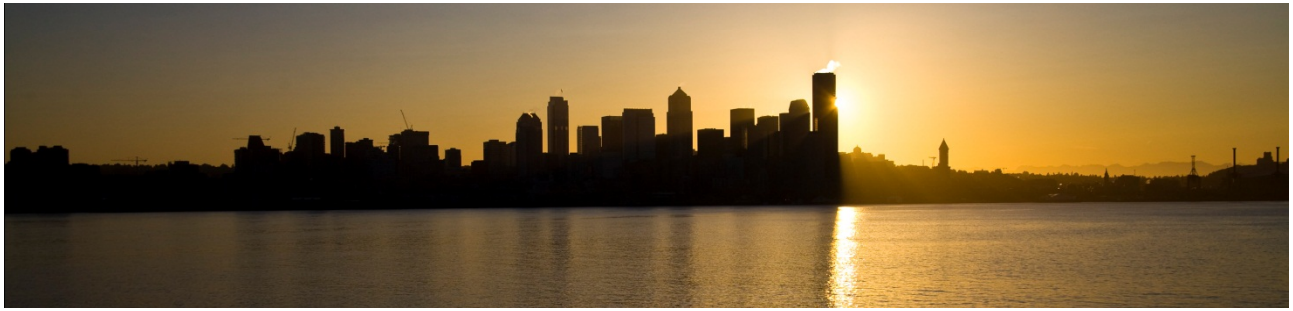
King County

Cascade mountains, glaciers, forests, farmland, urban coastline, rivers, big and small lakes, 39 cities, Puget Sound, 2 million residents



King County Government

- Transit
- Wastewater treatment
- Solid waste and recycling
- Parks and trails
- Public health
- Emergency management
- Local government in unincorporated areas
- $5.3 billion budget in 2012



King County

STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Adopted December 2012

"One-stop-shopping" for county decision-makers, employees, and the general public to learn about King County's most critical climate change actions

Uses the organizing structure and model of the County's Strategic Plan

Strategic, Coordinated, Accountable, Performance Based

Plan to be updated by 2015

King County

STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Adopted December 2012

Focus #1: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

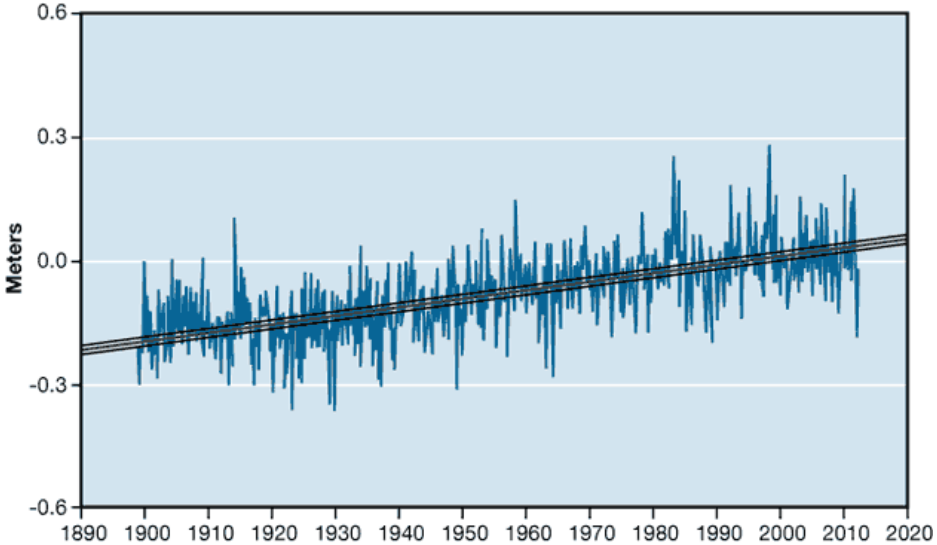
- Transportation and Land Use
- Energy
- Forests and Agriculture
- Consumption and Materials Management

Focus #2: Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

Each area includes two goals: one at each of two different scales - <u>County Services</u> and <u>County Operations</u>

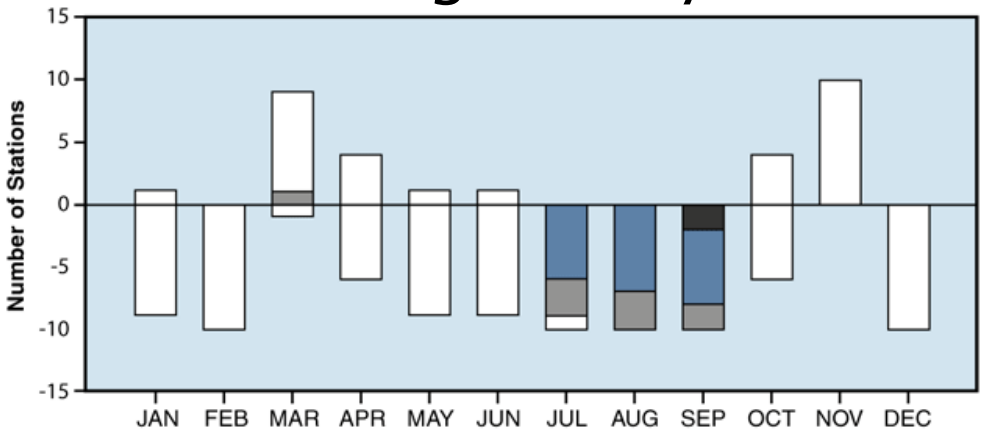
The Headlines – King County

Sea Level Rise in Seattle



48 days with no rain in Seattle, tying the second longest period on record – Summer 2012

Flow trends from 10 King County Rivers



Rising temps, decreasing snowpack, acidifying Puget Sound

Impacts to health, property, forests, salmon

Severe issue for the environment, economy and public health

STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Goal Area	County Services
Preparing for Climate Change Impacts	King County will work with local cities and other partners to prepare for the effects of climate change on the environment, human health and the economy.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Integrate climate change issues into emergency management.

- Plan for impacts on public health.

- Further develop reclaimed water program.

- Manage flood risk.

STRATEGIC
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2012 Accomplishments - Manage Flood Risk

- completed 5 levee repair projects
- completed 6 projects that raised the elevation of homes or barns
- constructed 6 new farm pads that help protect farm animals and equipment during flood events
- 60 acres of flood plain on the Tolt, Snoqualmie, Cedar, and White rivers were acquired

STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Goal Area	County Operations
Preparing for Climate Change Impacts	King County will plan and prepare for the likely impacts of climate change on County-owned facilities, infrastructure and natural resources.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Educate and train staff.

- Develop preparedness plans.

STRATEGIC
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2012 Accomplishments - Infrastructure and Natural Resources

“Provocative” Discussion Questions

- What’s the “best” amount of community engagement in local government climate action planning?
- How do we ensure implementation of all these great plans?
- Being realistic about funding adaptation - how do we get it all done?
- Are we focusing on the biggest climate impacts or the most understandable? (And is that ok?)
- How to measure progress?

King County

STRATEGIC
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHAT KING COUNTY IS DOING
to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change

Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

National Adaptation Forum, Denver - April 3, 2013

Matt Kuharic, Senior Climate Change Specialist, King County

Learn more: **www.kingcounty.gov/climate**
Contact: Matt.Kuharic@kingcounty.gov