

In November 2014, the Redmond City Council passed a resolution “Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the K4C Joint Letter of Commitment” which the mayor signed. Since then, a refresh of the Letter was recommended, reflecting updated emissions inventory & analysis, and new state laws.

Here are the differences between the old and new Letters. The new Letter:

1. Recognizes that each partner may not pursue all actions, and will act where it has the most impact and influence given the unique characteristics of each jurisdiction;
2. Notes the greenhouse gas reduction targets adopted by the Growth Management Planning Council, and proposes that K4C partners adopt targets consistent with GMPC’s goals;
3. Updates the county’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory and the analysis of pathways to reach countywide goals;
4. Incorporates stronger language around equity, climate justice, and transition for workers;
5. Defines new goals to be achieved by 2050 for Transportation and Energy Efficiency;
6. Adds actions to reduce use of fossil fuels like natural gas in buildings;
7. Adds language regarding tools that support implementation of the commitments; and
8. Adds new sections for electric vehicles and preparedness for climate impacts.

The new Letter contains the following specific commitment updates:

- Reduce direct countywide sources of greenhouse gas (or GHG) emissions by at least 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline. Pursue actions to sequester carbon.
- Adopt GHG reduction targets that are consistent with those established by the Growth Management Planning Council and that support countywide emission reduction goals.
- Advocate for a market-based price on carbon pollution which provides revenue that supports funding for renewable energy and green building.
- Increase transit service and mobility with a goal of reducing countywide driving per capita by 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2050, compared to 2017 levels, understanding that different areas of the county have varying levels of transit access.
- Update and implement Vision 2050. Increase mobility and accessibility options for biking, rolling, and walking so more people have fast, convenient, and low GHG emissions ways to travel.
- Increase use of electric vehicles such that 100% of light duty vehicles, and at least 60% of medium duty, and 40% of heavy-duty vehicles are electric by 2050.
- Enact local code and programs to incent or require electric vehicle charging within buildings or on development sites.
- Implement the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act (or CETA).
- Build on CETA, which provides for 100% clean electricity supply by 2045, through deep energy efficiency improvements and improved management of peak demands.
- Participate in utility Integrated Resource Plan (or IRP) and Energy Plan development processes and emphasize interests for acceleration of transition and equitable distribution of benefits through regulatory and rulemaking forums.

- Strengthen conservation and use of renewable natural gas, and support the transition to electrical systems to reduce natural gas and other fossil fuel use in existing buildings by at least 20% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

Next time, more updates to the K4C Letter of Commitment.

Please sign the Letter.