



**COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Item No. 7b

ACTION ITEM

Date of Meeting March 27, 2018

DATE: March 7, 2018

TO: Executive Director Steve Metruck

FROM: Elizabeth Leavitt, Senior Director, Environment and Sustainability
Lindsay Wolpa, Regional Government Relations Manager

SUBJECT: Joining K4C, King County-Cities Climate Collaboration

Amount of this request: \$0 (these funds were previously approved)

Total estimated cost: \$7,000 annually

ACTION REQUESTED

Request Commission authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with King County to become an official member of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last several years, the Port has made significant strides in enhancing our work around matters relating climate change and sustainability. That included the formation of the Environment and Sustainability Center of Expertise along with the charting of the Commission's Energy and Sustainability Committee (the Committee).

Through work of the Committee and the new Center of Expertise, the efforts of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) came to the attention of Port staff. The work of K4C demonstrated the power of collective action and is aligned with port goals. As it currently exists, K4C is a collaboration of King County and thirteen cities (Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Tukwila) to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action.

If approved, the Port of Seattle will become the first non-City government to become a K4C member.

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JUSTIFICATION

Joining K4C as its first non-City member is well supported by the Century Agenda and goals of the Commission’s Energy and Sustainability Committee.

The Port of Seattle Commission unanimously chartered the Energy and Sustainability Committee by motion on January 26, 2016. The charter tasked the Committee to develop and propose Policy Directives to help guide the development of policies to support the Port of Seattle’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions effort, with a focus on energy efficiency and alternative energy generation. Commissioners Felleman and Gregoire were named as Chairs of the Committee.

The Chairs brought together 23 advisors to participate in the formation of the policy recommendations. The advisors came from diverse sectors of our community including environmental, business, labor, social justice, academia, think tanks, maritime, aviation, construction, and government agencies.

Significant work is already underway to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts of port operations, and other environmental areas at both the Port of Seattle and the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA). The Co-chairs’ recommendations to the full Commission, informed by input from the Committee work groups, were meant to enhance the Port of Seattle’s ongoing energy conservation and GHG emissions reduction efforts.

The Committee focused primarily on GHG emissions generated directly by the Port. However, we acknowledge the Port’s efforts to measure and address the GHG emissions of port tenants and customers in its contributions to the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy, sustainable aviation fuels, electrification of airport ground support, or identifying sources of renewable natural gas.

Through one of the Committee’s work groups, the topic of Port membership in K4C was initially proposed. The Port’s Energy and Sustainability Senior Director began participating in K4C steering committee meetings in early 2017 and determined that official membership was appropriate, and included funds to do that in the 2018 approved budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost associated with the Port of Seattle becoming a K4C member was included in the Energy and Sustainability Department’s approved 2018 budget. As we do each year, staff will evaluate this item in connection with the 2019 budget in regards to maintaining membership with K4C.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST

- (1) Presentation slides
- (2) Draft Memorandum of Agreement

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PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

November 28, 2017 – The Commission approved the 2018 Budget, which included \$7,000 within Environment and Sustainability’s budget for the purpose of joining K4C.

October 24, 2017 – The Commission approved the motion implementing recommendations of the Energy and Sustainability Committee and setting strategic priorities.