

December 18, 2020

Dear Chase,

People for Climate Action - Seattle would like to express our sincere thanks for your willingness to visit and engage with us at our recent December 15th meeting. We appreciate your work, and are grateful for you taking time out of your evening; it's so important for us to be able to hear directly from the mayor's office. However, in addition to expressing our appreciation, we want to say up front that we are profoundly distressed at the city's ongoing failure to achieve urgent climate goals.

We understand that the pandemic has wreaked havoc with both budgets and work assignments throughout city government this year. We are grateful that despite this, the city has been able to move forward with some climate-related actions, such as maintaining funding for the new position in OSE to head the Climate Advisory Committee and devoting \$200,000 for building electrification in 2021. We ask that the mayor make an early commitment on the 2022 budget to direct \$20 million from the JumpStart initiative to low-income building electrification, as the council voted in its original spending plan. We believe that this early commitment will enable OSE and the Office of Housing's HomeWise Weatherization program to adequately plan scaling the electrification program to 100 times its current size for 2022.

We are pleased that the city has decided to sign on to the K4C agreement and will be working together with King County on reducing GHG emissions, as this kind of regional cooperation has been a major focus for our group. We are looking forward to seeing a proposal on the urban tree canopy, as well as revised deadlines for the deliverables from the January, 2020, Executive Order, Advancing a Green New Deal for Seattle. We are also hoping that there will be a public conversation on some form of congestion pricing/road use charges, with the proceeds used to improve transit and multi-modal transportation. We want to work together with the city to make progress on reducing GHG emissions, and we believe that transparency is key to that effort.

However, as mentioned above, we are profoundly disappointed and concerned about the lack of accountable and actionable plans to change the city's current disastrous trajectory, especially in light of the recently released [2018 Seattle emissions inventory](#), which reports that city emissions have risen, not fallen, since the last accounting in 2016. Seattle is nowhere near cutting emissions the required 7% per year, and does not seem to be on track to even identify a pathway to accomplish this.

As promised, we would like to offer the following resources:

- [King County Climate Action Toolkit](#)
- [PCA's Climate Action Priorities for Cities](#)
- [Seattle Climate Hub](#)

Thank you again for attending our meeting. Please do reach out to us if we can be of assistance in the city's efforts, for example, by providing public comment on proposed legislation. We will continue our efforts to influence the city to address this crisis with the urgency it requires.

For our common home,

Dr. Elizabeth Burton
on behalf of People for Climate Action - Seattle