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If you would like to receive periodic e-mail updates about county business, please e-mail me at kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov with "E-mail updates" in the subject line.

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3 King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert District 3, Winter 2008



Preparing for 2008

Some important issues coming before the King County Council in 2008 include the following:

- **Comprehensive Land Use Plan - four-year update**
- **King County Charter - 10-year update**
- **Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan update**

For more information on any of these issues, or for other current county news, please visit my website, www.kingcounty.gov/lambert.

As we begin 2008, I would like to wish you a happy and prosperous new year and share with you some details about the many important issues we are working on this year at the King County Council.

Among the many items on our agenda will be a four-year update of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and shorelines rules for unincorporated King County, and a 10-year update of the King County Charter, our constitution.

I am very excited about updating our Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan, and the opportunity we have this year to rethink how we handle and dispose of our garbage for a sustainable future.

With the pending closure of King County's last landfill at Cedar Hills in eight to 10 years, King County is reviewing alternative disposal methods that are more eco-friendly and less costly.

It is essential that we rely less on fossil fuels for our growing energy needs and to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Both of these concerns can be solved by better utilization of our garbage. Instead of being "garbage," it should be treated as a resource.

Increased recycling should be our top priority, but some waste still cannot be reclaimed in its existing state. Waste-to-energy (W2E) using Advanced Thermal Reclamation is the next phase of recycling. This zero-waste system developed in Europe uses new technology to recapture and reuse all of the raw materials and energy contained in the waste stream, with little or nothing left to dispose.

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Overlooking downtown Hamburg, Germany, this fully operational waste-to-energy plant exceeds all European environmental standards for air and water quality.

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After having studied W2E for two years, I believe this process prevents the need to bury our garbage, reduces greenhouse gases, and protects environmental quality while putting to use a resource that otherwise would go to waste. That is true sustainability. The City of Copenhagen produces one-third of its energy needs with waste-to-energy.

I would like to share with you information that I brought back from a study mission to Germany last year. The Green Party-backed German model incorporates recycling, waste prevention, and waste-to-energy processes using the newest technology and responsible waste management practices. A Waste-to-Energy Showcase video presentation is available through a link on the front page of my website at www.kingcounty.gov/lambert.

I hope you will join me in our efforts to protect the environment and dispose of our waste responsibly.

Kathy recently participated in the International Sustainability Institute's annual Trash Fashion Bash at the Seattle Art Museum. This event is designed to get business and public leaders thinking about how they can help to reduce excessive waste. Kathy's "dress" was made from an old AIDS Walk banner. All of this year's haute couture at the Trash Fashion Bash was made from materials headed to our landfills.



Protected land in King County

Currently, 61% of King County is owned by a government entity or protected through land trusts or conservation easements that own or regulate the development rights.

This 61% does not include King County's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), which requires private landowners in rural King County to keep up to 65% of their private property in its natural state.

When private land is purchased by public entities, it is taken off the tax rolls. Also, as land is protected from development through conservation efforts, the taxes are generally greatly reduced or eliminated.

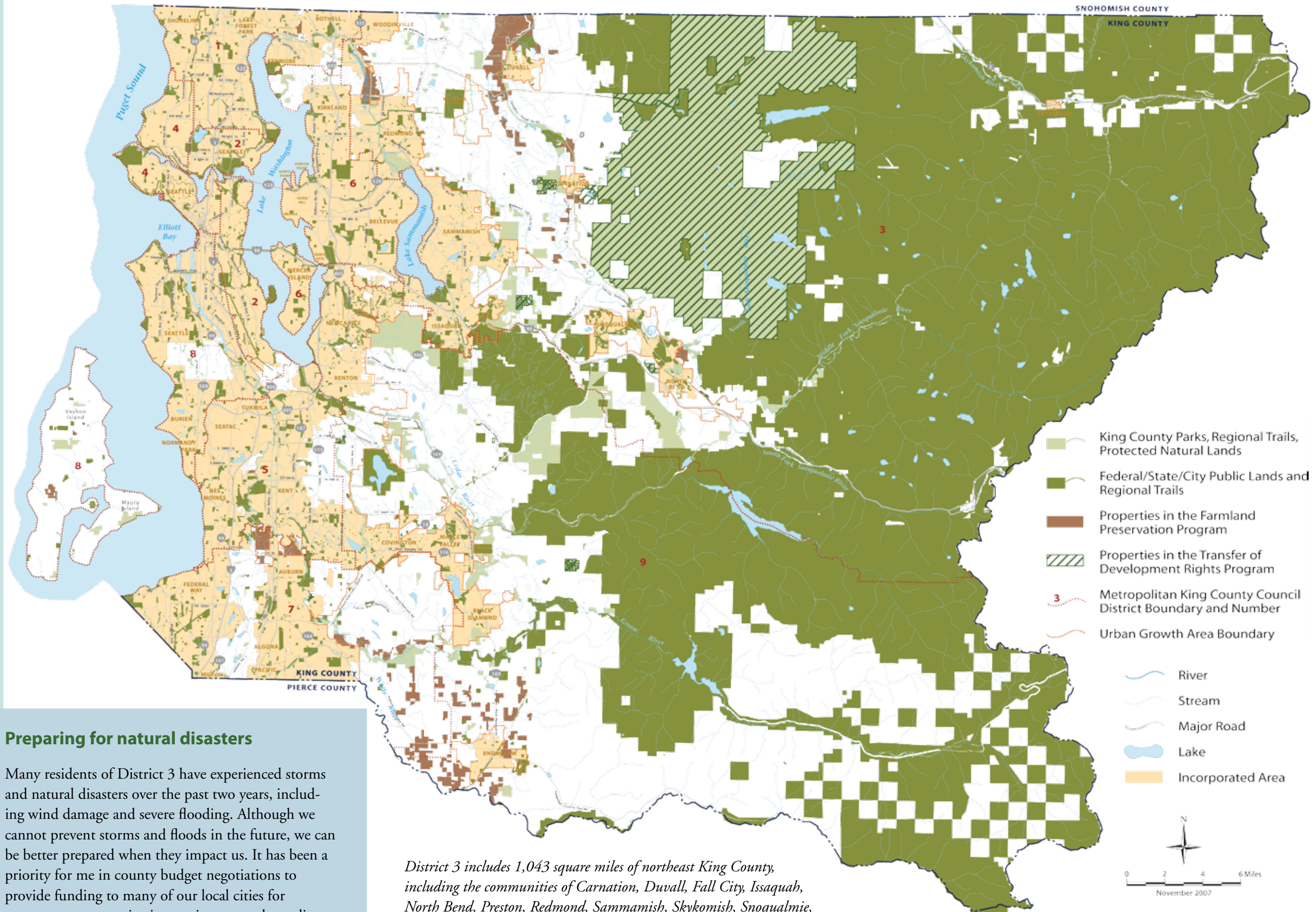
In order to raise the same amount of revenue to operate our government, it requires redistributing the tax load across the remaining taxpayers.

Protecting our natural environment is important to all of us. The question is what percentage of land should be in public hands so we have a balance between protecting our environment, having housing for our citizens, and affordable property costs.

Please email my office at kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov to let me know your priorities and ideas.

Preparing for natural disasters

Many residents of District 3 have experienced storms and natural disasters over the past two years, including wind damage and severe flooding. Although we cannot prevent storms and floods in the future, we can be better prepared when they impact us. It has been a priority for me in county budget negotiations to provide funding to many of our local cities for emergency communication equipment and supplies, so each community can be as prepared as possible when facing natural disasters.



District 3 includes 1,043 square miles of northeast King County, including the communities of Carnation, Duvall, Fall City, Issaquah, North Bend, Preston, Redmond, Sammamish, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, and a small part of southeast Bellevue.