King County Department of Development and Environmental Services SEPA GHG Emissions Worksheet Version 1.7 12/26/07

Introduction

The Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires environmental review of development proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. If a proposed development is subject to SEPA, the project proponent is required to complete the SEPA Checklist. The Checklist includes questions relating to the development's air emissions. The emissions that have traditionally been considered cover smoke, dust, and industrial and automobile emissions. With our understanding of the climate change impacts of GHG emissions, King County requires the applicant to also estimate these emissions.

Emissions created by Development

GHG emissions associated with development come from multiple sources:

- The extraction, processing, transportation, construction and disposal of materials and landscape disturbance (Embodied Emissions)
- Energy demands created by the development after it is completed (Energy Emissions)
- Transportation demands created by the development after it is completed (Transportation Emissions)

GHG Emissions Worksheet

King County has developed a GHG Emissions Worksheet that can assist applicants in answering the SEPA Checklist question relating to GHG emissions.

The SEPA GHG Emissions worksheet estimates all GHG emissions that will be created over the life span of a project. This includes emissions associated with obtaining construction materials, fuel used during construction, energy consumed during a buildings operation, and transportation by building occupants.

Using the Worksheet

 Descriptions of the different residential and commercial building types can be found on the second tabbed worksheet ("Definition of Building Types"). If a development proposal consists of multiple projects, e.g. both single family and multi-family residential structures or a commercial development that consists of more than on type of commercial activity, the appropriate information should be estimated for each type of building or activity.