

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan Community & Stakeholder Engagement Phase Three – Fall 2020 Summary Report



Phase Three Community & Stakeholder Engagement Overview

After over a year of planning, analysis, research, and community engagement, the city released a draft of the Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment on September 24, 2020. This plan builds on Bellevue's 2013-2018 Environmental Stewardship Strategic Plan and outlines a suite of actions for the next five years, along with long-term actions to put us on a path to achieve the city's long-term environmental goals. Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Plan serves as the roadmap for achieving the city's environmental sustainability goals. The plan covers five focus areas: climate, energy, waste, mobility & land use, and natural systems. Each focus area has high level goals, numerical targets, and strategies and actions for achieving those goals and targets.

This report summarizes the feedback we received on the Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan and how we addressed that feedback in the plan. The Appendix includes an analysis of the comments we received along with a compendium of all comments and letters.

Engagement Timeline

Engaging with the public – both residents and businesses – has been a key component of the Environmental Stewardship Plan update, to both build support for the plan and gather input from stakeholders. Community engagement for the Environmental Stewardship Plan update was spread over three phases:

- **Phase One: Refine goals and targets (fall 2019):** Understand key concerns & priorities and share progress under the last Environmental Stewardship Plan.
- **Phase Two: Develop strategies and actions (winter-spring 2020):** In parallel to an analysis of strategies, engage with the community to explore key strategies and talk about the actions needed for the plan's success.
- **Phase Three: Review draft plan (fall 2020):** Share the draft plan with residents and other stakeholders for comment.

During [Phase 1](#) of outreach, we heard from over 400 residents and stakeholders from across the city. Through surveys, pop-up events, presentations and workshops for the community we sought to understand the community's overall vision for environmental stewardship and how ambitious they want the city to be.

During [Phase 2](#) of outreach, we heard from over 600 residents and stakeholders from across the city on their level of support for potential actions for the plan. This input helped to refine the actions for the plan and demonstrate support for the proposed actions.

Overview of Phase 3 Outreach Efforts

Phase 3 of outreach has focused on sharing the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan and providing opportunities for the public and stakeholders to ask questions and provide comment.

To support the health and safety of the community during COVID-19 all engagement was conducted online through our website, www.engagingbellevue.com and through virtual events.

Environmental Stewardship Plan Online Town Hall

Residents of Bellevue have been actively engaged throughout the development of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. There is a high degree of interest in the issue of climate change and residents are eager to learn more and to find ways to partner with the city to achieve our goals. On October 1st from 6:00-7:30 p.m. 41 residents joined staff for a virtual town hall. Attendees were given an overview of the draft plan and there was significant time devoted to taking questions from the audience.

Sustainability Leaders Lunch & Learn

Bringing together the business, developer, and non-profit community has been an important part of this process. Feedback from this group has been key to crafting a plan that is both ambitious and feasible. This group first met in fall 2019 for a kick-off event and workshop. During Phase Two, Sustainability Leaders participated in several focus group discussions to explore the actions under consideration. On September 1st twenty of the Sustainability Leaders attended a Lunch & Learn Staff gave an update on the development plan and invited Sustainability Leaders to provide more specific feedback through our survey or through direct comments.

Online Survey

An online survey on EngagingBellevue.com was open from September 24, 2020 to October 21, 2020 and received 108 responses. While we received fewer responses (both overall and from minoritized groups) on this phase of the draft plan compared with previous engagement efforts, we expected that the full draft plan would draw comments from members of the public who had engaged with us on previous planning sessions for the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Plan.

Survey respondents were asked to share their level of support for the draft plan, the rate at which it should be implemented, and how much investment the City of Bellevue should make to implement the plan. Respondents then had the opportunity to elaborate on their responses through an open-ended text question and 61 individuals provided additional feedback on the actions.

- **Supporting Diverse Participation** – Bellevue is a diverse community and successful outreach and engagement should reflect that diversity. To assist the outreach team in understanding who was engaging in the process, survey participants were invited to share demographic information. Some highlights include
 - Representation from all neighborhoods with **42%** of responses coming from Downtown, Northeast Bellevue, West Bellevue, and Lake Hills.
 - **47%** of survey participants were in their 60s and 70s
 - **18%** of survey participants were from communities of color.
 - **23%** of survey participants do not own their current residence

Boards and Commissions

At the November 11, 2019 Council Study Session, Council provided direction for staff to engage with all boards and commissions on the Environmental Stewardship Plan to seek input on the overarching goals and the proposed actions. The original outreach plan was to engage with each board and commission twice – with an initial overview presentation at the beginning of the year, and then a second presentation on the proposed actions. Due to COVID-19 public meeting restrictions in the Washington Stay Home, Stay Health order, some of the spring-board and commission presentations were cancelled or postponed, as noted below. Staff presented to the following boards and commissions: Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, Parks & Community Services Board, Environmental Services Commission, Arts Commission, Youthlink Board, and the Human Services Commission.

Stakeholder Group Presentations and Comments

Staff also presented to various stakeholder groups including the Seattle Eastside Collaborative of the Living Future Institute, focused on supporting green building and sustainability development and the Bellevue Chamber Policy Council, and received comment letters from Climate Solutions, Cedar Grove, and Puget Sound Energy, which are included in the Appendix.

Overview of Phase Three Outreach Goals

During Phase Three of the Environmental Stewardship Plan update the outreach team sought input from the public and key stakeholders on the public's level of support for the draft plan, and also invited comments on the plan.

Through engagement efforts the ESI Team sought to understand community support by exploring the following questions:

- What level of support was there for the draft plan?
- How invested should Bellevue be in implementing the Environmental Stewardship Plan?
- How fast should Bellevue move to implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan?
- How would you like to stay involved in the future?

Overview of Outreach Findings

Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of survey responses from 108 individuals. The majority of survey responses were supportive of the plan but want it to be implemented faster and receive more investment from the city.

- **75%** of survey respondents strongly or somewhat support the plan
- **77%** of survey respondents believe that the plan should be implemented faster or much faster
- **79%** of survey respondents believe that Bellevue should be a leader in sustainability at the state and/or national level

Residents and respondents who took the survey and chose to leave additional comments were interested in both personal and city-wide environmental stewardship in the following areas:

- Plan implementation timeframe, costs, and goals, with the largest overall percentage of survey comments **(22%)**
- Lack of leading-edge actions on carbon emissions – comments focused on existing buildings retrofits, new buildings, electric vehicles, bans on natural gas, and working with city partners who provide community services (e.g. PSE, Republic Services)
- Lack of leading-edge actions in the plan overall
- Preservation of existing trees and open spaces
- Concern with waste streams including business waste, single-use plastics, and composting

Additional survey results are provided in an Appendix.

Virtual Town Hall

There is a high degree of interest in the work the city is doing to advance environmental stewardship and address climate change. During the Virtual Town Hall residents asked many probing questions to better understand what the city is currently doing and how the Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan will advance our work. Residents pressed the city to:

- **Take strong action to preserve our tree canopy.** Residents value mature trees; it will take years or decades for new plantings to provide the same kind of canopy coverage, habitat, and other benefits that older trees provide.
- **Find ways to make apartment and condo buildings more sustainable.** From promoting composting to providing more electric vehicle charging stations, residents are looking for the city to work with developers and property owners to help people who live in multi-family buildings to have more opportunities to make sustainable choices.
- **Be a regional leader on climate change.** Residents are pleased that Bellevue is part of the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) and want the city to be a leader in that group.
- **Find a balance between growth and open space.** Participants recognize that Bellevue is growing and understand that to fight sprawl we need to create more opportunities for people to live in Bellevue. At the same time, it's important to preserve open space and to work with the community to acquire land, especially near existing greenbelts. People want to see more investments in infrastructure that improves mobility options that make neighborhoods truly walkable.
- **Be ready to adapt to the changes that are already happening.** Participants in the virtual town hall noted that climate change is already occurring, and that Bellevue will need to adapt to changing conditions.
- **Work with PSE to speed up the transition to renewable energy.** Residents want to see the city continue to partner with PSE to help residents and businesses transition to renewable electricity and to electrify buildings faster.

Sustainability Leaders Lunch & Learn

During the Lunch & Learn Sustainability Leaders had the opportunity to ask questions about the draft plan and share accomplishments. Comments and questions were focused on what other organizations are already doing and how those actions can complement city goals.

- **Republic Services** is currently piloting electric trucks for waste collection in other cities. There is an opportunity for the city to provide input on what it would take to expand this pilot to Bellevue, particularly as waste trucks in Bellevue are up for replacement. These are heavier trucks and would have an impact on wear-and-tear to roads, so conversations with the Transportation Department will be necessary.
- **Sound Transit** is seeking to go all electric and achieve higher green building standards for the maintenance facility planned for BelRed. They are eager to work with the city to create vibrant and sustainable neighborhoods around transit centers. Additionally, Sound Transit is beginning to think about how they can account for embodied carbon (emissions that are created throughout the process of creating building materials).
- **Built Green** just certified the 20,000th home. They also asked if the city is set up to support Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) financing that could support sustainability improvement for large multi-family, commercial, and non-profit properties.
- **PSE** continues to plan for the implementation of the Clean Energy Transformation Act and purchase more renewable energy. PSE also recently collaborated with Republic Services to capture methane from landfills near the Columbia River to fuel trucks in the Puget Sound region.
- **Microsoft** announced their goal to achieve zero waste and carbon neutrality by 2030 and remove all historical carbon emissions by 2050. They are launching a first-of-its-kind center to recycle electronic equipment, as more companies move towards an all-digital work environment.
- **PCC** is pursuing Living Building Certification for its newly opened Bellevue store and for three other planned stores.

Feedback from Boards & Commissions

Staff provided an overview of the plan update process, environmental goals and targets, and relevant actions for feedback and input from each board and commission, per direction from Council on November 19, 2020. A summary of the presentations and discussions is provided below, along with hyperlinks to the agenda, attachments, and minutes for each presentation.

- **Planning Commission**

Staff provided an overview presentation to the Planning Commission on [February 26, 2020](#), and a follow up presentation on the relevant draft actions on [July 22, 2020](#). The actions presented to the Planning Commission included actions related to implementing policies in the Comprehensive Plan and potential land use code updates, including tree canopy, green building incentives, transit oriented development, low

impact development, and green affordable housing. The Commission members had many clarifying questions about the plan and noted the high degree of uncertainty around economic recovery and impacts of COVID-19 on development and transportation. Staff also recommended updating the Environmental Element of the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the Environmental Stewardship Initiative as a functional plan, rather than a program.

- **Transportation Commission**

Staff presented to the Transportation Commission on [January 23, 2020](#) and again on [June 25, 2020](#). The presentations focused on the mobility and land use actions in the plan and the commission was generally supportive of the overarching mobility goals, although some concerns were raised around the per capita vehicle miles travelled goal being too aggressive, but other commissions were supportive of the aggressive goals. The Commission was supportive of the Mobility Implementation Plan (previously referred to as the Transportation Master Plan) and was pleased to see how that planning effort bolsters the city's environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts.

- **Parks & Community Services Board**

Staff were scheduled to present to the Parks & Community Services Board on [January 14, 2020](#), but that presentation was cancelled due to weather. The agenda and packet were shared with the Councilmembers, and posted on Legistar. Staff were later able to present to the board on [September 10, 2020](#). The focus of this presentation was on the natural systems goals, and in particular the new recommended goal to have 100 percent of residents live within a walkable access to a park, open space, or trail head. The board was supportive of establishing this long-term vision for park access and planning for this in the next Parks and Open Space System plan.

- **Environmental Services Commission**

Staff presented to the Environmental Services Commission (ESC) initially on [January 16, 2020](#) and again on [August 20, 2020](#). The ESC was interested in opportunities to advance the city's recycling and organics collection efforts to improve recycling rates, and also suggested possibly strengthening the 2030 waste goal to align with the Countywide Solid Waste Management Plan goal of a 70% recycling rate. The ESC was interested in learning more about the Watershed Management Plan and how that can help to prioritize and focus stream restoration efforts.

- **Arts Commission**

Staff presented to the Arts Commission on [August 4, 2020](#). This discussion focused on strategies for reducing environmental impacts of arts and culture events and pieces,

considering how the arts and environment can mutually reinforce each other, energy efficiency strategies for supporting arts organizations during economic recovery, and a discussion around the idea of an eco-arts district in BelRed. The Arts Commission was supportive of these ideas and welcomed the opportunity to consider how Bellevue's arts and cultural programming can support our environmental goals.

- **Youthlink Board**

Staff presented to the Youthlink Board on [October 14, 2020](#) and provided an overall update on the plan, actions with potential for youth involvement, and opportunities for youth to engage in the plan update process and implementation. The Youthlink Board members were excited to learn more about the plan and about previous student volunteer and engagement opportunities which supported the work of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

- **Human Services Commission**

Staff presented to the Human Services Commission on [October 20, 2020](#). This presentation included a summary of the planning process, goals and targets, and actions relevant to the Human Services Commission, related to low income homeowner energy efficiency programming, the climate vulnerability assessment, and using an equity lens to achieve the city's tree canopy and walkable access to parks goals. The Human Services commission was supportive of further exploring the synergies between the Community Development Block Grant funded programs for weatherization and home repair, and how those could be bolstered or supplemented with our incentives for energy efficiency or free trees. The Commission was also interested in walkable access to health food as part of the environmental equity assessment and strategies to support e-bikes as an alternative to vehicles for lower income residents.

- **East Bellevue Community Council**

Staff presented to the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) on Tuesday [November 10, 2020](#), and provided an overview of the draft plan, summary of the outreach process, and a review of actions relevant to the EBCC. The Council was interested in the aspects of the plan which could have land use implications for East Bellevue, and were interested in understanding the comments from other boards and commissions, demographics of outreach participants, and costs and benefits of the actions. Specific comments can be found in the minutes from the meeting, linked above.

Public Comments

In addition to comments received through EngagingBellevue.com, the City Council received 16 emails from residents and several organizational stakeholders summarized below. The letters from residents are included in the Appendix and ask for the following updates to the plan:

1. Make the energy section stronger, in particular for existing buildings
2. Review and update the plan annually
3. Create a citizen advisory commission
4. More specific timelines for actions
5. Less studies, more action
6. More leading-edge actions

While respondents were largely supportive of the plan, the majority of comments received both by email and through the survey reflect desires for more leading-edge actions, including greater investment and faster implementation timeframes. Responses were particularly concerned with emissions, green building, existing building retrofits, trees, and implementation speed/cost analysis.

Stakeholder Comments

In addition to the survey responses, several comments letters were submitted by key stakeholders and members of the Sustainability Leadership Group. These letters are included in the Appendix. A summary of each comment is provided below.

- **Puget Sound Energy** reaffirmed their commitment to reducing carbon emissions, greening the electricity grid, providing reliable service, and partnering with customers to achieve their shared goals. PSE recommended further investigation into the costs of building electrification and cautioned against shifting emissions from one source to another. PSE also emphasized the importance of insuring sufficient infrastructure for significant policy changes such as building electrification.
- **Cedar Grove** encouraged the City to consider the true cost of recycling and organics collection in its waste rates, instead of embedding them into the overall garbage rate. Cedar Grove also reiterated the recent state legislation related to local government procurement and preference for using compost in city and public projects.
- **Climate Solutions** urged the city to go further in terms of reducing emissions and reducing the use of fossil fuels in buildings, to move towards all electric buildings in Bellevue. Climate Solutions underscored the importance of equity in energy and climate policies, to ensure no unintended consequences of climate mitigation strategies, and

encouraged the city to enact more aggressive policies around green building and energy efficiency.

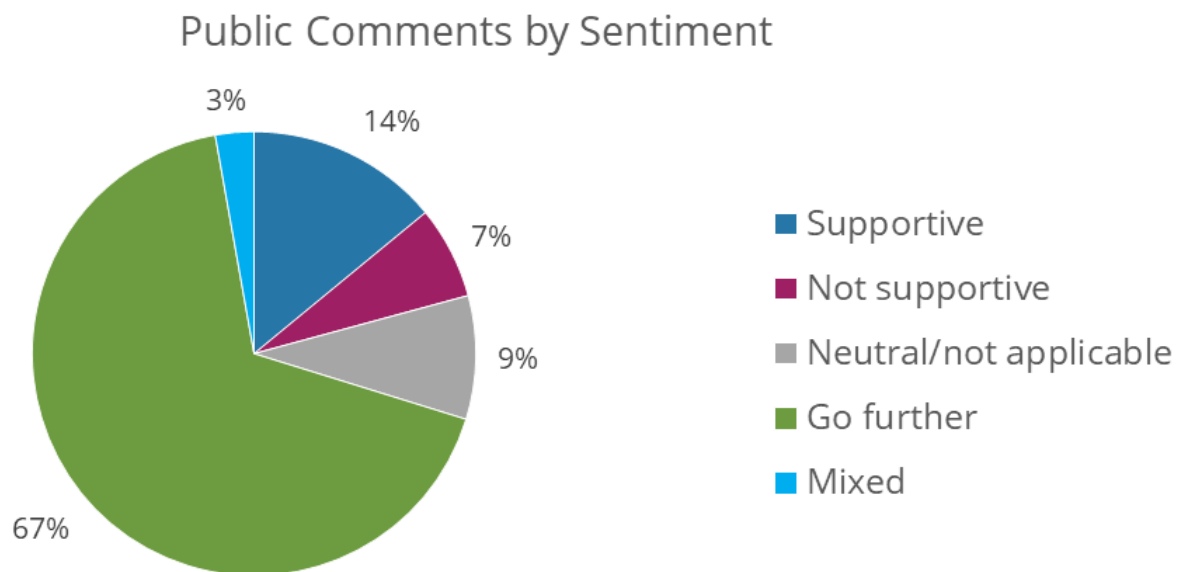
- **PCC Community Markets** recommends we consider 1) more concrete goals and actions on GHG reduction goals, especially in the near term, 2) a ban on single-use plastics, and 3) clarification or rewording on the municipal operations goal of 90% recycling which may exclude landfill waste and composting and could be replaced with a goal of 90% landfill waste diversion.

Staff also presented to two stakeholder groups, including the Seattle Eastside Collaborative green building group on October 22 and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Policy Council on November 11. Some takeaways from the discussions are as follows:

- **Seattle Eastside Collaborative** group was supportive of the plan and interested to learn more about the city's approach to incentivizing green building and supporting buildings in complying with the WA State Clean Buildings Act. Participants shared insights into some of Seattle's programs, such as the Construction and Demolition Waste Ordinance reporting requirements, and recommended Bellevue follow a similar approach, since developers and construction firms need to comply with this requirement in Seattle.
- **Bellevue Chamber Policy Council** was generally supportive of the plan but some participants wanted to review the detailed plan more thoroughly. David Hoffman from PSE shared that they have been involved in the process since the beginning and shared a comment letter with the city, which is largely supportive of the plan. PSE's primary concern is around natural gas, and they noted some of the concerns around infrastructure constraints and peak demand with electrifying new and existing buildings. Kevin Wallace asked for more information on the implications of clean energy and green building on housing affordability.

Comment Analysis

The following section includes several charts analyzing the comments received through the online survey, EngagingBellevue.com guestbook for public comments, and emails/letters submitted to the City Council and project team.



Comments that asked for additional actions, more leading-edge goals, faster implementation, etc. were classified as “go further”

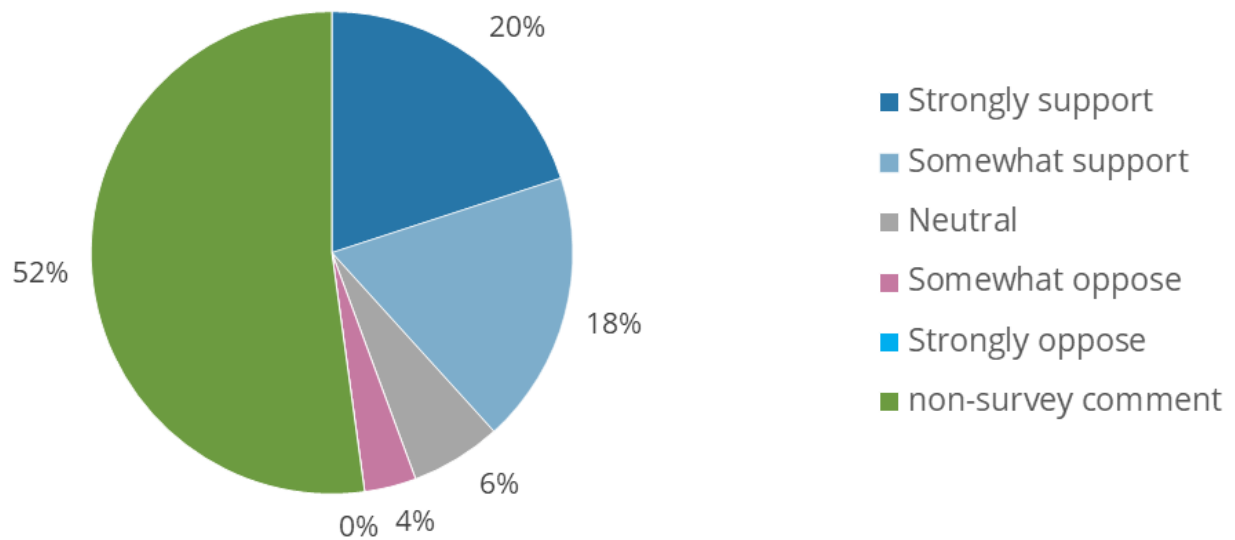
The draft plan received many comments about including more leading-edge actions in the plan. Those comments were primarily comprised of people who did not take the survey. Those that were survey respondents who commented requesting “go further” actions were largely supportive of the plan. Those who were only somewhat supportive of the plan were still largely interested in environmental stewardship, but felt that the plan could be stronger, especially in areas of carbon emissions, implementation timeline, leading-edge actions, and a general lack of quantifiable goals and metrics. These concerns were also shared by approximately half of

“My level of support for the plan would be higher if it included more detailed metrics, as recommended by the recently-released King County SCAP. Bellevue’s plan is very aspirational and includes a lot of ‘looking at’ and ‘reviewing.’ We are out of time for this kind of ‘action.’”

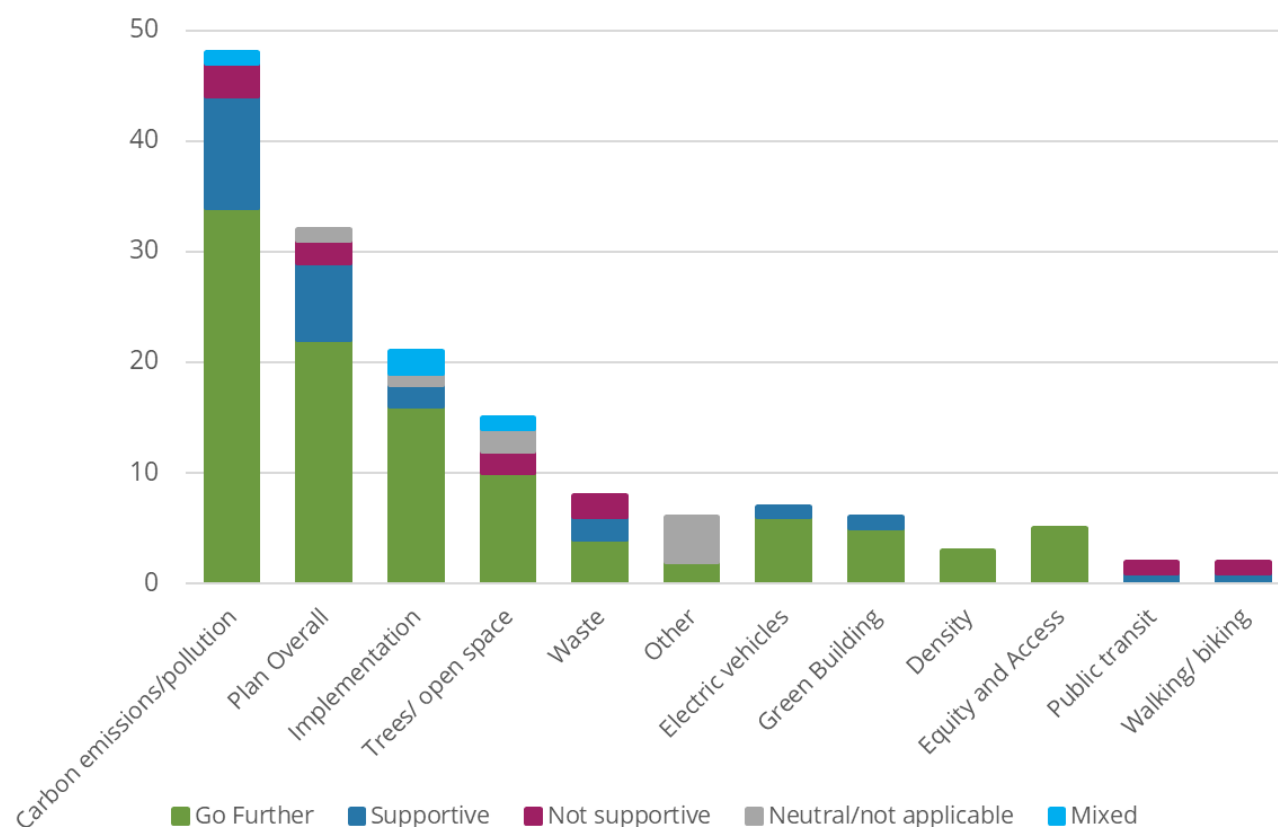
“Go Further” Draft Plan Survey
Commenter

the respondents who selected “somewhat oppose” who also left “go further” comments.

Plan Support from "go further" comments



Public Comment by Topic and Level of Support



Comments that did not reference a specific section were classified as "Plan Overall"

Comments often addressed concerns with both proposed actions and plan implementation. Some common themes are as follows:

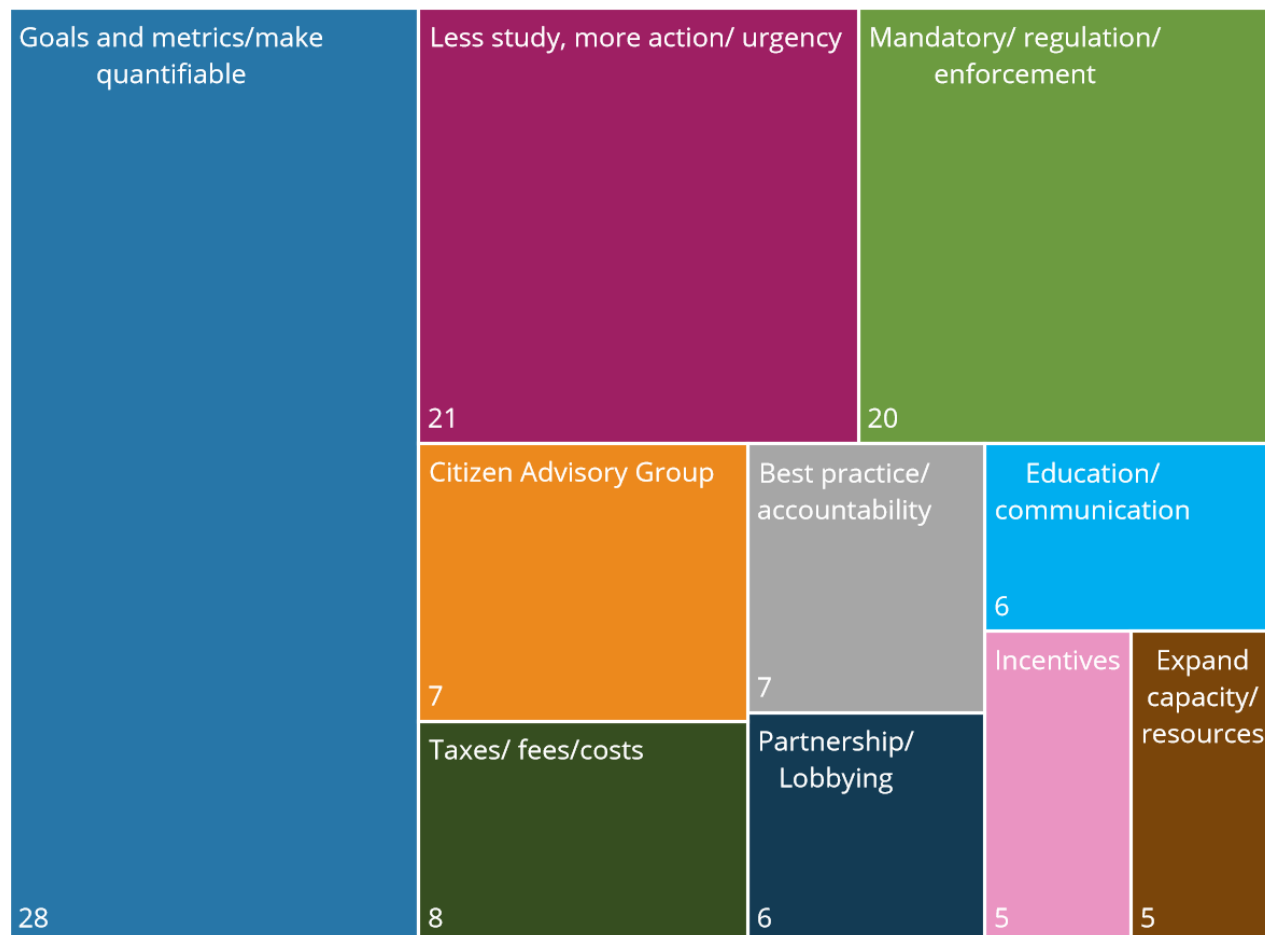
- Concern around language that "evaluates," "explores," or "studies" rather than committing to more sustainable actions
- Lack of quantifiable goals, timeframes, and publicly available, frequently updated metrics
- Holding our partners accountable and working with them to be more sustainable
- Lack of leading-edge actions, particularly around emissions, natural gas, green buildings, and building retrofits
- Speed of implementation
- Codes and enforcement of sustainable actions, particularly surrounding tree preservation and planting, replacing natural gas, electric vehicle capacity, and green building and equipment retrofits

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- Desire for greater education about existing programs both from the City and our partners (one frequent example was a lack of knowledge about PSE's green energy option programs)
- Desire for a Citizen Advisory Council to advise on implementation and ensure actions are on-track to meet goals

Preferred Mechanisms for ESI Plan & Implementation



Preferred mechanisms for implementation and plan scope with 5 or more mentions are shown in proportion with number of comments

Responding to Public Feedback

As noted earlier in the report, some of the overarching comments are as follows:

1. Make the energy section stronger, particularly for existing buildings
2. Review, update, and report on the plan annually
3. Create a citizen advisory commission
4. More specific timelines for actions
5. Less studies, more action
6. More leading-edge actions

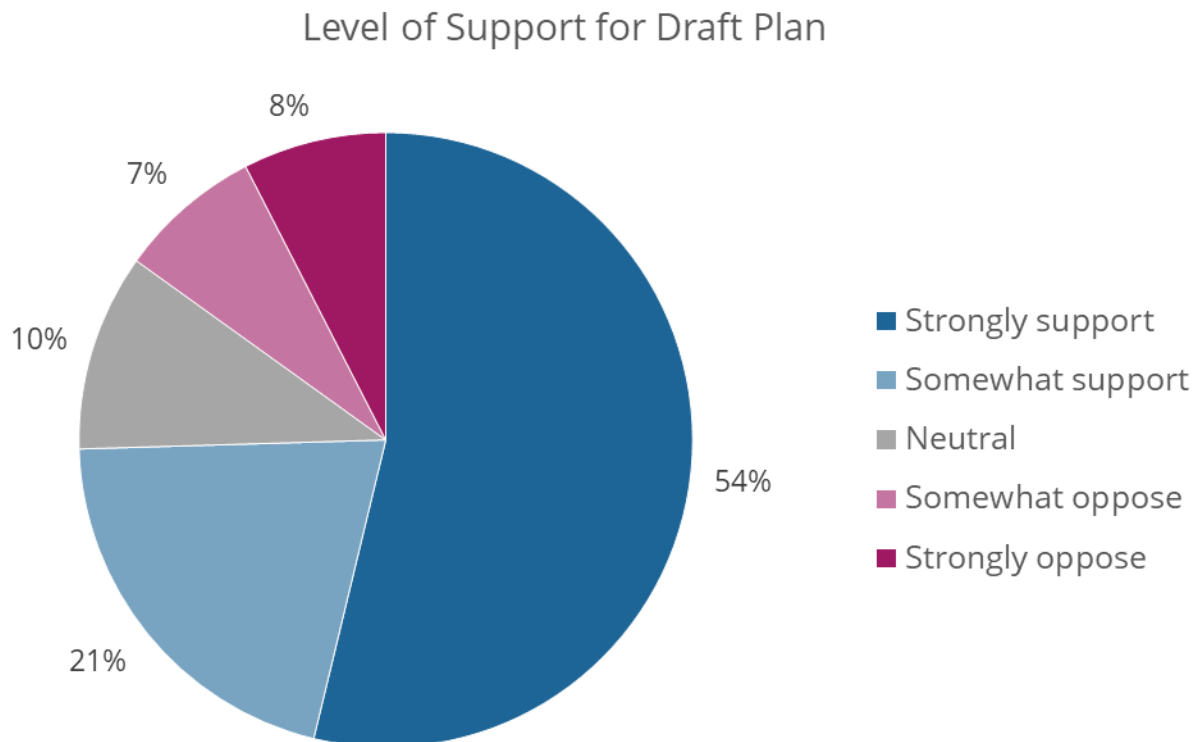
We have made some updates to the draft plan in response to these, and other comments received. Some of the more significant updates include:

- **Energy Focus area:** We will add an action to the plan to evaluate leading edge energy actions and report back to Council in 2023, after we have time to launch the energy efficiency actions in the plan and monitor the implementation of the Washington State Clean Buildings bill.
- **Assess progress:** We will review and report on progress annually and adjust and adapt workplans annually to implement the plan.
- **Citizen Advisory Commission:** We will engage with residents on an ongoing basis as part of the implementation, and as part of our annual progress report. We strive to engage with a diverse representation of residents and businesses, and particularly the stakeholders affected by any actions in the plan.
- **Timelines:** We have provided timelines for the actions in the implementation table.
- **Studies:** For some of the large-scale actions, we need to further study options and resource implications for the city beyond the analysis that was scoped for the plan update.
- **Leading Edge Actions:** The actions in the plan are all best practice, which are putting us on a path towards leading edge. We need to have a solid foundation of best practices and then can consider more aggressive actions. To respond to this feedback, we have added or modified the following actions:
 - a. Home energy retrofit program: will look at strategies for building electrification/ heat pumps.
 - b. Train contractors on building electrification / heat pumps, in collaboration with other cities and the K4C.
 - c. Develop plan for electrifying city facilities as part of long-term capital improvement plans.

These updates, along with other edits, have been incorporated into the final draft plan, which will be reviewed with Council at the November 16, 2020 Council study session.

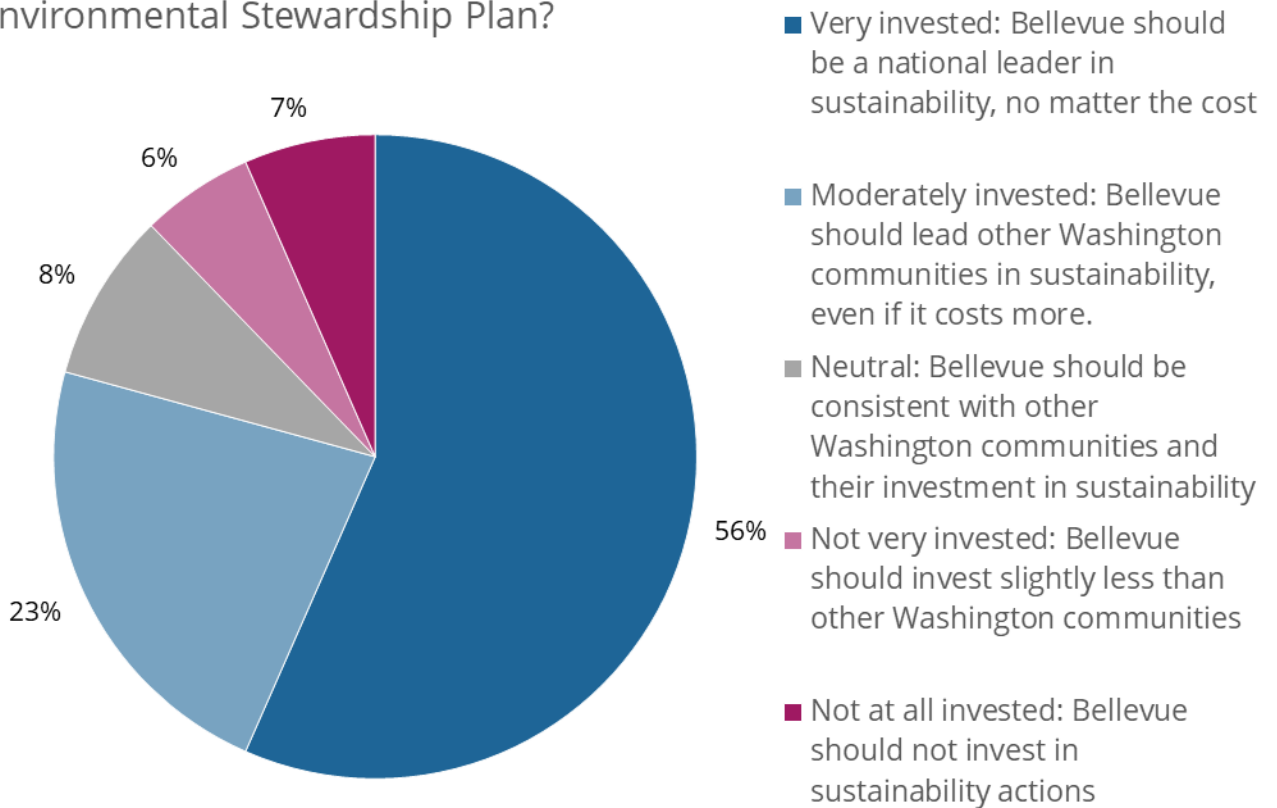
Appendix – Survey Responses

What level of support was there for the draft plan?



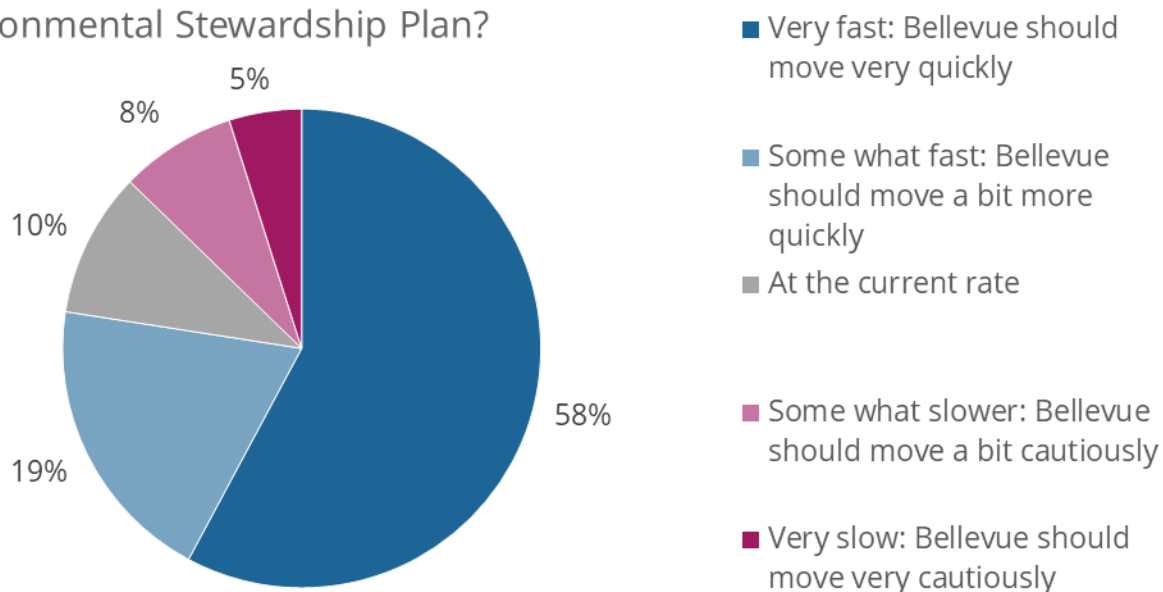
How invested should Bellevue be in implementing the Environmental Stewardship Plan?

How invested should Bellevue be in implementing the Environmental Stewardship Plan?



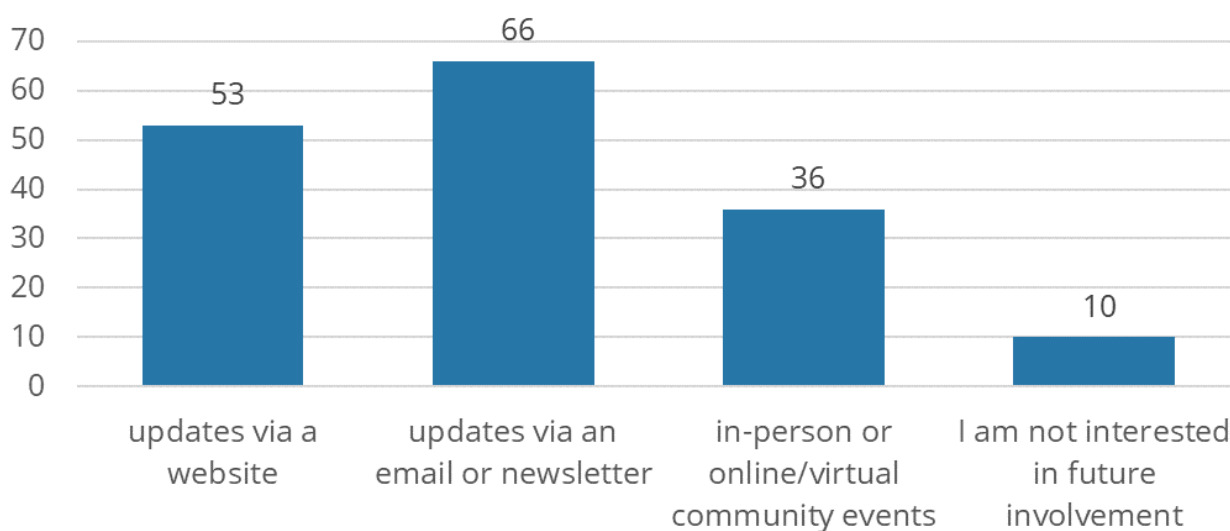
How fast should Bellevue move to implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan?

How fast should Bellevue move to implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan?



How would you like to stay involved in the future?

How would you like to stay involved in the future?



Appendix – Public Comments and Letters

The following comments and letters have been edited for formatting consistency only. No other changes have been made. Summaries are provided by the City of Bellevue.

Cedar Grove Composting

Summary

Cedar Grove is a composting company dedicated to diverting organic waste from landfills and making sustainable products from compost. As such, their recommendations deal largely with the ‘Waste’ part of the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

- use compost created in the city on city property and public projects as a way to be compliant with recently passed legislation and to expand recycling and composting programs
- unbundle recycling and compost fees from garbage so residents see the costs of the service
- suggests additional training in composting benefits related to soil standards and benefits for public employees

Materials Management & Waste

Strategy M.W.1 – Improve Green Purchasing Practices and Sustainable Materials Management in City Operations & M.W.1.3 – Support vendor stewardship programs or partnerships for ongoing or bulk purchases

Comment:

Specifically, with regard to Strategy M.W.1.1., Green, Local Procurement, and in light of the new Washington State compost law regarding compost and use (RCW 43.19A.120), the city should prioritize utilizing compost, created from its own city, business and residential recycling programs, wherever possible in parks, landscaping projects, stormwater management and more. Prioritizing green purchasing around soils would also position the city to utilize the new (2020) King County Universal Compost contract which allows cities to secure favorable bulk pricing for soil needs and offers free technical training for city staff. Additionally, the new law regarding compost buy back (RCW 43.19A.130) is also important to consider, especially as the city seeks to divert more material to composting, through this plan. RCW 43.19A.120 stipulates that municipalities must consider whether compost products can be used in government-funded projects when planning or soliciting and reviewing bids.

If compost products can be utilized in the project, city must do so, subject to a few exceptions.

Both actions, the compost laws and the county’s universal contract, make it easier for the City of Bellevue to support its own and the broader region’s organics recycling and waste diversion

goals by increasing its use of locally manufactured compost, created from its own municipal organics collection programs for residents and businesses.

The City of Bellevue has a robust organics recycling program and this is a great opportunity to bring those materials back to the city to ensure a sustainable program.

Comment:

Regarding waste diversion, it is important that the City of Bellevue consider and address contamination at the curbside. When the recycling or compost cart are contaminated with things that cannot be recycled or composted respectively, those materials are not truly diverted and still wind up in the landfill. But when that garbage is placed in the wrong container (either the recycling container or organics cart), a great deal of labor and direct cost is spent by processors to remove those materials, sort them, and pay for their disposal.

Materials Management & Waste Regarding: True Cost of Garbage Collection, Recycling & Composting
Comment:

By embedding the costs of recycling and composting into garbage rates, the City of Bellevue, Bellevue businesses and Bellevue residents do not know the true cost of those three distinctly unique services. There are consequences of embedding the recycling and composting rates into the garbage rates that may not be immediately obvious to the city or its businesses and residents. They include:

- Bundling rates, instead of showing the true cost of service, provides a huge barrier to entry for local, privately-held companies to bid against the large, national, publicly-traded hauling companies. It forces the proposer to estimate what the participation rates will be in order to propose costs, presenting the bidder with tremendous financial risk. The incumbent hauler holds a tremendous advantage with regard to knowing the current diversion rates, information not privy to a new bidder. This allows large, national, publicly traded firms to monopolize local contracts.
- With embedded rates, contamination increases. As seen in a recent study published by Cascadia Consulting for the City of Issaquah, one of the most frequent contaminants in the organics stream is “bags of garbage” – people simply throwing additional garbage bags that don’t fit into their garbage bin into the organics/compost cart. The “free” recycling and organics carts provided to residents and businesses in Bellevue disincentivize parties from rightsizing their garbage container to match their garbage volume and effectively incentivizes them to use their “free” recycle and organics carts for leftover garbage. By showing the city, businesses and residents the true cost of each service, they can subscribe at the proper level for each service and ensure they keep each waste stream properly separated, avoiding contamination.

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- This issue can be addressed by the city by, in any future RFP for waste services, requiring that the true cost of service be provided to the city, businesses and residents for each waste stream.

Materials Management & Waste Regarding: Mandatory curbside organics collection proposal

Comment:

If the curbside collection of organics becomes mandatory for residents, some mechanism for addressing contamination at the curbside needs to be in place by the city via the haulers such as a cart tagging program. When participation is mandatory, people sometimes are not invested in the program or its outcome and could be more likely to contaminate their bins with items that are not compostable, especially when the service is being offered for “free”.

I would refer the City of Bellevue to the City of Kirkland’s cart tagging program which Waste Management, Kirkland’s current hauler, and the city collaborate on.

Resources: [Washington Organics Council Contamination Workgroup Report](#)

2050 Target – 80% GHG Emissions Reduction

Comment:

The City of Bellevue has an opportunity to bring its organics recycling program full circle and make the city more climate resilient by incorporating compost in its parks, roads and stormwater projects. The benefits are innumerable including opportunities to store carbon, filter toxins, reduce irrigation needs and add valuable nutrients to the soil. The city can do this at its new and existing parks, roads, culverts, bridges, and more.

Additionally, the City can accomplish this by strictly enforcing the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Post Construction Soil Standard: [BMP T5.13 – Post Construction Soil Quality and Depth](#)

By enforcing that standard, especially on commercial and residential developments, the city will ensure it is using the best, most climate resilient, environmental practices and design standards as it relates to soil.

Additionally, with State of Washington’s new compost law (RCW 43.19A.120), regarding compost procurement and use, and the King County Universal Compost Contract and its respective, free technical training for municipal staff, the city has great opportunities to leverage existing BMPs and programs to accomplish goals outlined in this sustainability plan. The City of Bellevue is doing great work in this space and there is always room to do more and have an even greater impact.

Additionally, through stricter inspection and enforcement of projects, the city would see more compost use as projects strive to meet the existing post-construction soil standards and, in

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doing so, establish more robust end markets, protect waterways and natural habitats and manage stormwater; all key priorities articulated in this plan.

Strategy N.3 – Improve natural stormwater retention systems and reduce water pollutions & N.3.1 – Stormwater Retrofit

Comment:

The city can utilize compost, generated from the City of Bellevue's organics collection program in green stormwater solutions, fish passage improvement projects and other low-impact design projects.

Resources:

[Compost: The Sustainable Solution](#) – from *Stormwater Magazine*

The Nature Conservancy & Washington State University: [Solving Stormwater](#)

[Soils for Salmon](#)

"The City will lead by example."

Comment:

All City of Bellevue councilmembers, staff, businesses and residents can have a positive impact on climate resilience in Bellevue by the choices they make every day. And some employees are uniquely positioned to have a positive impact, through the application of knowledge and best practices. For instance, with regard to mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration in soil, preserving water, preventing toxic runoff from entering local waterways, staff training on compost use, available through King County, could be very beneficial.

Not only would individual staff members learn about climate friendly practices for tasks they are already doing in Bellevue parks and along Bellevue roads, but their awareness and knowledge will likely be shared with other City of Bellevue employees, businesses and residents, expanding the impact of that education and training, raising the city's collective awareness around climate.

Reference: [Composting in America Report](#), Page 17, under heading 'Create Markets for Compost':

"...cities and towns should also buy back locally-produced compost for use in public projects or to distribute to residents, community gardens or other local projects.¹⁵³ To achieve this, some municipalities require agencies to use local compost in their public works projects.¹⁵⁴ This helps create steady demand for the compost produced at local composting facilities and also helps ensure governments and their contractors use environmentally friendly practices. Cities can also require residents and businesses to use compost in landscaping renovations or large projects. This is done by more than 10

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Colorado communities as a way to promote water conservation, but also has the additional benefit of stimulating compost demand."

M.N.1.4 – Sustainable Landscaping Certifications & M.N.1.3 – Reduce pesticide and fertilizer impacts. Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use and impacts on city owned property.

Comment:

Ensure that WDOE post construction soil standards are incorporated. Perhaps consider other soil-related requirements such as stipulating that soils come from the city's own recycling programs to ensure a closed loop cycle.

[BMP T5.13 – Post Construction Soil Quality and Depth](#)

Another idea would be to build out rain gardens or food forests surrounding city properties to demonstrate to the city businesses and residents what can be done on their own properties or even at their apartments via a container garden to incorporate green design elements, contribute to the city's stormwater management, climate resilience and maybe even reduce their shopping trips by growing food in their yard or on their balcony.

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Climate Solutions

Summary

Climate Solutions, a clean energy nonprofit, highlights the opportunities the City of Bellevue has through adoption of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. They urge the City to strengthen the plan in the areas of building fossil fuel use, green affordable housing, existing building retrofits, and electric vehicle readiness. They recommend that the city consult with and assist minoritized, low-income, and/or BIPOC communities about all implementation actions to ensure equitable access to sustainability programs.

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

Climate Solutions thanks you for the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed update to Bellevue's Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan. Climate Solutions is a clean energy nonprofit organization working to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis. The Northwest has emerged as a hub of climate action, and Climate Solutions is at the center of the movement as a catalyst and advocate.

By passing the Environmental Stewardship Plan, the City of Bellevue has an opportunity to create a cleaner, safer, more livable, and more just community for its residents. Bellevue, like other Western Washington communities, is already seeing the impacts of higher temperatures, increased wildfires and smoke, greater exposure to droughts and decreases in snowpack, and more. Bellevue also has a responsibility help achieve Washington state's goals of reducing statewide emissions to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050, which will require significant reductions of the use of fossil fuels. These reductions need to be implemented in a way that will minimize the negative impacts to communities of color and other vulnerable communities, as well as ensuring that benefits from the City's actions are shared equitably. We have shared recommendations below on how to improve the plan's provisions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the buildings and transportation sectors.

We strongly urge the City to strengthen the provisions in the plan to reduce the use of fossil fuels in buildings and to move towards all-electric buildings in Bellevue. According to Bellevue's GHG emissions inventory^[1], the use of fossil gas (also known as natural gas) to heat, cool, and power commercial and residential buildings currently accounts for more than 15% of Bellevue's GHG emissions. Fossil fuel use in buildings also increases indoor and outdoor air pollution. Fossil gas cooking appliances such as those used in many large multifamily buildings emit nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), ultrafine particles, and formaldehyde, which compromise indoor air quality^[2]. Living in a home with gas cooking increases a child's chance of developing asthma by 42%^[3]. The COVID-19 pandemic heightens

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these risks, as small increases in exposure to PM 2.5 lead to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate^[4]. These impacts are disproportionately felt by vulnerable communities: Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian people, as well as people with lower socioeconomic status, have higher risks of death from particle pollution^[5].

We suggest the following edits to the energy actions currently outlined in the plan:

- We urge the City to pass policies requiring that new building construction be all-electric, and pass these in the near term rather than in the long term. Jurisdictions around the country are already taking this action, including 35 cities in California who have passed all-electric building policies^[6], and there are Washington cities that are poised to do the same. Given the longevity of infrastructure, actions need to be taken in the near-term to ensure deep and longer-term emissions reduction. By introducing policies that mandate new buildings be constructed all-electric, the City will prevent the need for expensive retrofits down the line. Additionally, we urge the City to support legislative efforts at the state level to move towards electrification.
- We support the provision on green affordable housing and recommend that electrification be included as a green housing benchmark. If new affordable housing continues to be constructed with gas infrastructure, low-income residents will bear the highest burden of costs for rising gas prices down the line when most people have moved to electricity. Low-income customers are also eligible to receive energy assistance for electric utility bills through Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), a protection that does not exist for gas customers.
- We recommend that the City consider incentives to not only increase energy efficiency in existing buildings, but also for retrofits from fossil fuels space and water heating to electric heat pumps. Highly efficient heat pumps not only reduce energy use for heating but also include cooling benefits; as we sustain hotter temperatures and more wildfire smoke in our region, increasing air conditioning will be important to protect the health of Bellevue residents.

The transportation sector is Washington's largest source of GHG emissions, and it is also responsible for other toxic air pollution that damages our health. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency estimates that 1,100 Washingtonians die each year from outdoor air pollution.^[7] Reducing pollution from our transportation sector is both a climate and health imperative, and increasing access to clean travel options will greatly benefit community members. We support the plan's provisions on transportation to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and to support vehicle electrification, as both strategies are needed to decarbonize and are complementary of each other. Recent Climate Solutions research concluded that a combination of these two strategies is likely to reduce personal transportation costs by over \$4000 per year by 2050, including yielding as much as over \$600 million in annual health savings across Washington and

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Oregon. Residents should have the option to safely and conveniently get around without a personal vehicle, and all remaining vehicle travel (personal, transit, and freight) will need to be electrified to meet the city's emissions reduction goals.

To meet these objectives, we recommend the following edits to the transportation actions in the plan:

- We strongly support an EV-readiness policy and would recommend that it is implemented as soon as possible. Buildings of all types that provide parking should be covered by this requirement—while existing state law covers some multi-family and commercial buildings, Bellevue can and should go beyond this minimum requirement. This low-cost policy is strategic to ensure that new construction includes parking accommodates future EV charging without the need for expensive retrofits. Access to convenient charging is a major concern when people consider buying an EV, and the majority of EV charging is done at home^[8],^[9]. Seattle has already passed such an ordinance and King County is considering one currently that would cover unincorporated parts of the county. Given that neighboring jurisdictions are already acting, it makes sense for Bellevue to do the same to ensure that new development is future-proofed.
- In addition to the Clean Fuel Standard, we recommend that Bellevue support implementation of the Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate that passed at the state level in 2020.

Finally, we strongly encourage the City to take these actions in close consultation with vulnerable populations such as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities and low-income communities to ensure that the plan is implemented equitably. We are glad to see planning measures to prioritize climate equity and conduct an environmental equity assessment, and we hope that outreach to BIPOC communities and low-income communities will be incorporated for every measure.

Climate Solutions urges Council to approve the Environmental Stewardship Plan with these edits, and to work on implementation measures that will engage the community and create significant cuts to Bellevue's GHG emissions. We would be happy to work with the City of Bellevue on any these actions.

Sincerely,

Deepa Sivarajan
Washington Policy Manager
Climate Solutions

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PCC Community Markets

Summary

PCC recommends we consider 1) more concrete goals and actions on GHG reduction goals, especially in the near term, 2) a ban on single-use plastics, and 3) clarification or rewording on the municipal operations goal of 90% recycling which may exclude landfill waste and composting and could be replaced with a goal of 90% landfill waste diversion.

Hi Brooke,

Thank you again for inviting us to participate in the development of Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Plan. It looks like the survey and comment links have since expired. I'm hoping it's not too late to provide some thoughts and comments below! Overall, this plan is very thorough and well thought out. Wonderful job!

Comments/Observations:

- **Climate Change Goal:** It'd be great to see more concrete focus areas listed under near-term and short-term actions to achieve the 50% and 80% GHG reduction goals. The other goals all have associated GHG emission reductions, so that could tie in well with this goal strategy. Not many people realize this, but refrigerant leaks can be a huge contributor of GHG emissions. Sustainable refrigerant management was ranked #1 on Project Drawdown's solutions to reverse climate change. I encourage the city to include sustainable refrigeration under this goal strategy.
- **Waste Goal:** Banning plastic film bags and polystyrene should be strongly considered given the availability of alternatives in the market. Compostable packaging is an effective strategy/medium for diverting organics from the landfill into composting. Ensure that residents AND commercial entities can dispose of approved compostable packaging in compost (like the City of Seattle). This should be considered concurrently with any single use plastic bans where retailers have to transition to compostable cutlery/package.
- **Municipal Operations Goal:** 2050 target says "90% recycling rate or zero waste." These are two very different goals. By definition, zero waste is $\geq 90\%$ landfill diversion of total waste (landfill, recycling, compost (which city buildings should have by 2050)). "90% recycling rate" leaves out organics and landfill waste. I recommend rewording to simply "zero waste or $\geq 90\%$ landfill diversion." Your city-owned buildings are already at 70% recycling rate. I'm confident that the City's buildings can easily achieve this goal before 2050!

Best Regards,
Brent Kawamura
Senior Sustainability Specialist | PCC Community Markets

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Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

Summary

Puget Sound Energy, Bellevue's energy provider, reiterates its public commitment to clean energy adoption, electric vehicle readiness, and equity. PSE will continue to offer clean energy options, natural gas offset programs, energy management/reduction services, and solar/distributed energy options to its customers to support reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years.

October 16, 2020

Jennifer Ewing
Environmental Stewardship Program, City of Bellevue
450 110th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Dear Jennifer,

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is Washington State's oldest and largest privately-owned electric and natural gas utility. Today, PSE delivers safe, reliable and affordable energy to approximately 1.1 million electric customers and 840,000 natural gas customers across ten counties in Western and Central Washington. PSE's customers include residential, commercial, and industrial customers of all sizes. We strive to be our customers' clean energy partner of choice and we continually work with them to develop innovative ways to serve their energy needs and their environmental goals.

In 2019, PSE worked closely with the Washington State Legislature to develop the Clean Energy Transformation Act –one of the nation's most aggressive electric sector emissions reduction standards. When we publicly supported that Act, we made many commitments to our leaders and to our customers. We committed to providing Washington residents with coal-free power by the end of 2025; to meeting the aggressive new emissions reduction standards in a cost-conscious and equitable way; to working collaboratively with our State's leaders to reduce emissions in the transportation sector; and to studying new ways to generate and store the energy our customers need. We know that in order to meet those commitments, our company and our industry cannot do this alone.

Yet we also know that our customers and communities are living through unprecedented times with the COVID-19 pandemic and affordability challenges throughout the region. We have kept the well-being of our customers front of mind during the crisis, providing nearly 14,000 affected customers with \$7.7M in bill assistance through our Crisis-Affected Customer Assistance Program (CACAP). The funds are aimed to help customers who recently became unemployed,

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partially unemployed or cannot work due to COVID-19. PSE also voluntarily ended customer disconnections in early March before there was a mandate and has extended payment plans and changed bill due dates to help customers in need.

Beyond supporting our customers through this difficult time, our mission today is deep decarbonization and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Our customers want clean energy and we are committed to working together to make this a reality. As part of this commitment we are actively working in a number of areas, including:

- Being an early leader in addressing climate change, investing billions in renewable resources and energy efficiency for homes and businesses;
- Working with our customers to save 67 billion electric kWh and 600 million natural gas therms through energy efficiency programs;
- Studying battery storage technology in a variety of scenarios, including the ability to provide wind and solar energy storage;
- Serving as the largest utility producer of renewable energy in the Pacific Northwest;
- Innovating to modernize the grid, helping customers save money and energy while improving reliability and reducing PSE's carbon footprint;
- Helping Washington address transportation, its single largest source of emissions, by investing in electric vehicles and the development of LNG for maritime and commercial transportation;
- A long history of operating hydroelectric power projects that provide clean energy to thousands of local homes and businesses as well as obtaining multiple power purchase agreements for clean hydroelectric and wind power; and
- Creating ground-breaking renewable energy programs like Green Direct, which provides commercial and municipal customers the ability to purchase 100 percent of their energy from dedicated, local, renewable energy resources.

As PSE drives towards the clean energy future, we are mindful that our success will necessitate successful collaboration with partners—residential customers, commercial and industrial customers, state government, local governments and others. Through your climate planning process it is clear that you share many of the values that PSE and our customers hold. The draft plan contains many promising ideas that could help preserve our beautiful region for future generations to come.

Because we know that many of the draft measures if enacted will have far reaching implications and could have unintended consequences (such as leakage or equity challenges) for residents and PSE's customers, we strongly implore the council to insist on thorough evaluation of these proposals before consideration for further action by the council. At a high level, the costs, feasibility, and impacts should be closely studied to ensure that the outcomes match the intent

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and there are no unforeseen impacts. PSE looks forward to providing input as draft action items are discussed in more detail. Together, the City of Bellevue and PSE can reduce emissions and keep energy reliable and affordable with a meaningful dialogue and thoughtful plan.

Please see PSE's comments on the draft plan below. As the electric provider in Bellevue, PSE looks forward to discussing these thoughts with you in more detail.

Energy Supply

Washington State not only has a long history of clean hydroelectric power generation, but it also has a history of being at the forefront of State-led climate actions, including being one of the first states to require carbon emissions reporting, establish a renewable portfolio standard and set carbon reduction goals; passing the Energy Independence Act which required renewable energy and energy efficiency, well ahead of many other states; and established one of the country's most strict carbon emission performance standards for natural gas electric generation; and most recently the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) which is the most aggressive state carbon laws in the country aimed at making the electric grid carbon free by 2030. The Energy Independence Act has driven the development of clean energy resources for more than a decade and the Clean Energy Transformation Act will continue to do so.

Given the regional nature of our energy grid, efforts to comply with statewide legislation involve a complex calculus of supply and demand alongside an unrelenting focus on safety, reliability and costs. PSE is committed to carbon reduction –we supported the passage of the CETA legislation and continue to find ways for customers to reduce carbon. We also deeply value efficiency and achieving carbon reduction at lowest cost and feel that this is best accomplished through working together to maximize the value of low carbon resources across the state, region and country rather than a patchwork of different standards with jurisdictionally limited local carbon reduction regulation. A patchwork approach can add inefficiency, require continuous reconsideration of unintended consequences, and slow progress on something that is a far reaching global issue. Working together with common goals and common approaches will enable efficiency and greater carbon reduction at lower cost.

PSE welcomes participation and partnerships that align with the strategies we are continuing to develop in coordination with our external stakeholders. These partnerships include:

- Green Power Program
- Solar Choice
- Carbon Balance
- Green Direct
- Battery Storage Pilots
- Community Solar

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- Net Metering

PSE will continue to expand these offerings and introduce new ones as we move down the path towards carbon-free electricity. We look forward to working with our community partners to ensure successful implementation of existing programs and to pilot new programs and technologies as they become available.

Direct Fuel Use in the Built Environment

Puget Sound Energy serves 840,000 customers with safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service. We also recognize that customers have choice in their energy services. Our region has become increasingly concerned about greenhouse gas emissions, and on our gas side of the business we have:

- Developed programs such as Carbon Balance, which allows customers to reduce their carbon footprint by purchasing third-party verified carbon offsets from local projects that work to reduce or capture greenhouse gases,
- Increased incentives for energy efficiency improvements that reduce building energy consumption,
- Planned for and acquired natural gas alternatives like Renewable Natural Gas and we are investigating other low carbon fuels such as hydrogen, and
- Committed to net zero methane leaks on our gas distribution system by 2022.

We support State efforts to increase the efficiency of buildings through House Bill 1257 and increased efficiency in buildings. We look forward to partnering on projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while meeting customer needs in a safe, reliable, and cost effective manner.

Fuel Switching

Puget Sound Energy recognizes that the path to maximizing the reduction of greenhouse gases requires creative and innovative thinking, and appreciate the opportunities we have had to work with our local government partners on these solutions.

When considering policies that affect customer choice in fuels, or incent customers to switch from one fuel, such as natural gas, propane, oil, and wood to another fuel, such as electricity, PSE asks that our partners continue to ensure that the following pieces of the equation are considered:

- Does the change actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions? PSE is committed to meaningful and real greenhouse gas emissions reductions and works to deliver these reductions while avoiding leakage across administrative boundaries. Simply shifting emissions to another location does not actually reduce emissions.

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- Is there sufficient infrastructure available to support the fuel change? If not, how can it be developed? In promoting electricity as a fuel, the requirements and timing of infrastructure needed to support the higher demand must be considered to ensure that change can be supported and reliability maintained. Also important to consider is the technology maturity and supply chain for the appliances and devices purchased and installed by customers.
- What will the change cost be and who will bear those costs? Fuel switching decisions are made by individual homes and businesses. Full consideration of costs, including equipment, fuels, and infrastructure, as well as any policy design should be considered. If costs are not considered and policies carefully designed, benefits could fall to those who can most afford them while costs fall to those who cannot.
- How will jobs be affected? Ensuring that there is adequate supply of skilled workers to support change, as well as providing for those workers who may be adversely affected by the change, must be considered to ensure sustainable policies.

Energy Use in the Built Environment

Puget Sound Energy has a long history of providing financial incentives, education, and technical assistance to help our residential, commercial, and industrial customers manage their energy consumption. Our investment in energy efficiency is good for our customers and our environment and we are committed to continuing to support all energy efficiency that is cost effective for our region. We recognize that each customer has unique needs which we hope to address through a suite of options ranging from appliance rebates to industrial strategic energy management. Existing programs that provide excellent opportunities for community/utility partnerships include:

- Efficiency Boost–Providing increased incentives for income-constrained customers
- Single Family and Multi Family weatherization programs–Providing incentives to retrofit homes to reduce energy consumption
- Strategic Energy Management–Providing technical assistance and financial incentives to help large customers manage their energy consumption across a portfolio of sites
- Existing Building Commissioning–Providing financial incentives to fine-tune building systems to maximize efficiency
- Lighting rebates and grants–Providing financial incentives for the design and installation of efficient lighting systems
- Small Business Direct Install–Providing free energy assessments and low-cost/no-cost upgrades to small businesses
- New Construction programs–Providing technical assistance and financial incentives for single family, multi family, and commercial new construction

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- Custom Grant programs–Providing financial incentives for custom-designed energy efficiency projects in commercial and industrial buildings

Our programs encourage customers to go “beyond code” when choosing efficient equipment options or designing their buildings, and thus will change as codes become more stringent. Puget Sound Energy also invests in pilot programs to test new energy saving programs and technologies –a great opportunity for private/public partnerships. We look forward to continuing to partner and build on these programs in the future.

Distributed Resources

PSE welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Bellevue on development of distributed energy resources. Puget Sound Energy has worked with customers to install more than 10,000 net metered solar arrays, provided grants this year to 10 local organizations to install solar arrays on their facilities, and is piloting battery storage at several locations. When considering the addition of distributed resources for residential, commercial, or industrial customers PSE recommends that consideration be given to how any policies or programs are deployed to ensure reliability for all customers, as well as equitable participation. PSE will continue to be active in supporting and seeking distributed resources where they can cost-effectively support customer needs.

Electric Vehicles

Puget Sound Energy supports the development of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for customer-owned electric vehicles. PSE had the first customer-facing electric vehicle program in Washington State and has continued to expand its electric vehicle program offerings over the past 6 years. Most recently, PSE has a public charging station in Lacey, with plans to add similar stations at several other locations in our service territory. PSE also supports personal charging stations and runs pilot programs to better understand the impact of EV charging on the electric grid. As more local government fleets and individuals invest in electric vehicles, PSE is proud to partner on the infrastructure to make these changes possible. PSE has also installed workplace charging stations in locations like Kenmore City Hall and Inglewood Shores Condominiums. PSE has also partnered with King County Metro to electrify its transit fleet.

Equity

During the historic COVID-19 pandemic, PSE suspended disconnections for nonpayment and waived deposits for new customers and all late fees. PSE also worked with customers to establish long-term payment arrangements for up to 18 months for residential customers, and 12 months for small commercial customers. In addition to payment arrangements, PSE is in the process of creating a new COVID-19 bill payment assistance program that goes beyond any existing local and federal assistance programs. PSE looks forward to working together with frontline communities on building a cleaner energy future.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Bellevue's Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan draft. We look forward to working with you and our customers to secure a clean energy future for our region.

Sincerely,

David Hoffman
Local Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager
Puget Sound Energy

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Public Comments Received via Email

September 17, 2020

Hello Ms. Ewing!

Thanks for the helpful response to my inquiries! I'm looking forward to being able to review the draft Plan. Could you possibly email me the link to the ESI website so that I can access the draft Plan?

I hope that the ESI planning/monitoring efforts will include some discussion of the cost to implement the various strategies that will be followed to achieve the Plan's goals/metrics. I urge you to consider adding some comments about cost in the final version of the Plan.

Regards,

David Plummer

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September 29, 2020

Hi there!

Following are my comments on the draft Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan:

1. The document should be reformatted to add section and paragraph numbers using a normal decimal numbering system, e.g.,

1. Introduction

1.1. Aims and objectives

1.2. Hypothesis

2. Methodology

2.1. The survey

2.1.1. The questionnaire

2.1.2. The sample

All tables, figures, and illustrations should be labeled and numbered, either sequentially or with a number based on the document section/paragraph number, e.g., 'Figure 1. Climate Actions', or 'Table 3.4-1. Climate Actions', etc. All tables, figures, and illustrations should include source references. Include a list of the figures, tables, etc., in the table of contents. Expand the "Acronyms" table to include all special terms, such as 'sustainability', 'climate equity', 'green buildings', 'clean fuel', 'K4C', 'climate vulnerability assessment', etc.

The document lacks a document number, and an indication of the identity of the person or persons who prepared the document (the principal authors), who it was approved by, and the date it was approved/released. Get rid of the flowery treescape cover and replace it with a more formal technical-document cover page; example of suggested cover page is attached. Use a noun for the title ('environment' vs 'environmental', an adjective - aren't you setting forth a plan for improving CoB's environment over the next several years?)

2. Delete pages 3, 4, 5, 6; place the list of companies/names at the end of the document with an explanation of what specific contribution all these individuals made; if they contributed no text or data, there's no need to identify them in the plan. The cover letter (page 3) does not belong in the document; it can just be used as a release announcement for the plan.

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3. There is no list of references; this should be added at the end of the document with all the references, citations, etc., that were used in the preparation of the document.

4. In several places ('Letter', pg 3, 'Introduction', pg 11, 'Progress ...', page 16) it is asserted that Bellevue has a long history of individuals, organizations, and other parts of the City (??) working to protect and improve environmental quality. However, you fail to mention the obvious, namely, that the City staff and present and past City Councils have worked aggressively and continuously to degrade the City's environment; an obvious example is the rezone of the Bel-Red area, a decision in which the City staff and Councils chose the alternative (more development) that had the most intense environmental impact.

These kinds of inaccurate statements should be balanced with facts, not more hyperbole. The fact is that the City's development is controlled by internal and external oligarchies; and citizen participation in the City's governance is very low; this means that there is very little that citizens can, or are willing to do to reduce the negative impacts on the City's air, water, visual, sound, or thermal environments, and certainly they are more/less powerless to influence the City's dedication to the growth paradigm. The City's environment control plan needs to reflect these realities, not promulgate a plan that is full of glamorous generalities.

5. Remove all buzz words from the plan. Polysyllabic nouns like 'resilience', 'interconnectedness', 'sustainability', etc., only serve to decrease communication, not improve it. On page 19, it is asserted that 'Protecting and enhancing the environment is a core value for the City of Bellevue'. This statement is absurd, as is the balance of the first paragraph on this page. The chart on page 20 has text (below the chart) that refers to 'key stakeholders' as being interested in 'ambitious action,' committed to community, and having the city be a leader of bold action: how were the key stakeholders (apparently identified in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 outreach summaries) chosen, and what were the criteria used to select them? What is the specific source of the bulleted list on page 21? As part of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 surveys and workshops, were the participants provided, or did they provide, information on the cost of achieving the goals of the plan; if not, why not; and what would their responses be if 'cost' was a consideration in setting the plan's goals?

On page 4 of the Phase one summary report, the paragraph "Sustainability LeadersWorkshop" ends with an uncompleted sentence.

On page 4 of the Phase two summary report, there is mention of 'multiple focus groups' being held in March and May 2020: who were the participants in these focus groups, and what were the main topics discussed? There are many assertions in the Phase two report, with no references as to the sources; e.g., it is asserted that 'youth' are significantly aware that their generation will be affected by climate change: what is the source of this assertion?

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On page 6 of the Phase two summary it is stated that certain City staff met with the ESI team and 'outside experts' to review research and best practices: who were the 'outside experts', and what research and best practices were reviewed? On the same page, there is a tabulation of 'criteria' used to evaluate potential actions; one of the criteria was 'cost effectiveness': what was the source of the cost information, and what were the measures of effectiveness used in this evaluation?

6. Tables, such as the one on page 18 need references to the sources of the data used to construct the table; as presented, the table on page 18 is worthless.

7. Why did the City focus their information gathering for the plan on contact with Bellevue citizens and businesses; why wasn't more effort devoted to technical analysis, research, and cost estimating?

8. What is the basis for the numerical values and achievement time frames of the short-term and long-term targets in the tables shown on pages 28-31, and what analyses or reports are available for public review to confirm their selection and time periods.? If such analyses and reports are available, their identity/source should be added to pages 28-31, or to the follow-on Strategies and Action pages in the plan for each of the strategy categories.

9. Delete pages 117, 118, and 123.

10. Expand the brief discussion on costs (page 120) to provide a 5-year budget estimate, and a reasonably detailed discussion of the source of funding (increased property and B&O taxes, increased utility rates, special levies, etc.). Either expand this section (pp 120-122) to include annual reporting on all 71 indicators, or reduce the number of indicators so that a full report on the indicators will be provided. Delete strategies C.1.5, M.1.2, M.3.1, M.3.2, E.1.1, E.1.3, E.2.2, E.3.1, E.2.2, E.2.3, N.3.1, N.4.2. Many of the balance of the 71 strategies cannot be evaluated, as the descriptions are too brief. And there is no indication of how department budgets will be affected by the tasks described. For example, the Community Development Department is "assigned" tasks in 26 of the 71 strategies: does this department have the budget and resources to carry out the work described/implied by the strategy descriptions; if not, will budget proposals be submitted for the 2021-2027 budget? When will these task descriptions be fleshed out so that readers can understand what is being proposed to be done, and when will the costs and schedules for doing the work be identified?

11. Add a new section to require the formation of a citizen advisory group who will meet, say, 6 times per year to receive citizen comments, CoB staff reports, and have discussions on the ESI initiative.

RSVP, David F. Plummer

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October 2, 2020

Hi One B-Viewers!

CoB staffers (and perhaps the City Council) have been proclaiming the City's dedication to and accomplishments in improving the City's environment. And the staff has recently released a draft of an Environmental Stewardship Plan. But here's an interesting short comment on the world's sustainable development goals that ought to be considered along with the staff's claims that "the City has a long history of partnership and collaboration and in stewarding our environment, and we seek to continue to build on those efforts.":

[https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/30/the-worlds-sustainable-development-goals-arent-sustainable/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=25833&utm_term=Flashpoints OC&?tpcc=25833](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/30/the-worlds-sustainable-development-goals-arent-sustainable/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=25833&utm_term=Flashpoints%20OC&?tpcc=25833)

It seems strange to me that the staff can assert that the City has a strong history of 'stewarding' our environment when we're constantly confronted with the physical realities (buildings, population growth, traffic congestion, sound, tree canopy, etc.) of our City. Maybe CoB should adopt the 'Sustainability Development Goals' metrics mentioned in the link above, but with the changes suggested by Jason Hickel in his article.

Cheers,

Dave P.

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October 13, 2020

Dear Council and Jennifer Ewing,

We are at a crucial decision point about our city's health. As you look to make difficult decisions about our city's goals, I would like you to know my opinion about the Environmental Stewardship Plan, as you join other King County cities who have done the same to keep carbon emissions low.

First, I thank you for this Environmental Stewardship Plan that has good ideas and covers important concerns about clean air and lowering carbon emissions by 2030. And yet, the 5-year evaluation timeline seems like the stance of a council that is afraid to move forward for fear of what - retribution from the building and energy industry. Would you place our health second to that concern?

I've been to cities where citizens have had to wear masks, not because of COVID-19, but because of polluted air. We recently had a sample of bad air. Then we recently had our winds and our rains. We are lucky. We must not depend on just the whims of weather. Other cities have proven they can have clean air while growing economically strong when sustainable methods of building and transportation are put into place. It's a new era. This is the time to be a leading-edge city by setting specific and effective sustainable goals. We must make our plan proactive, putting in yearly measurements and analysis to meet our fast growth, and to prevent the increase of serious pollution.

Bellevue is an amazing city. Let's keep it beautiful, clean, and healthy.

Sincerely,

Marlene Meyer

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October 13, 2020

Dear Bellevue City Council and Environmental Stewardship Program Manager

My daughter and I have lived in Bellevue for 15 years. I am 65 and a life-long Washington state resident. I currently teach online and am endorsed to teach middle school math and science. My daughter is a recent graduate of the UW Evans Master's in Public Administration program and is working as a Campaign Manager in a local State Representative race.

We appreciate Bellevue's draft Environmental Stewardship Plan, which covers important areas. However, we are concerned that the plan is not strong enough. Large numbers of scientists tell us that we must cut our greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations. It's time to really step up and aim for leading-edge climate action. Please strengthen the Plan, especially the "Energy" section focused on Buildings. Buildings are responsible for half of our GHG emissions! Also, shorten the timeline for evaluation from 5 years to 1 year, so that we are at least reviewing our emissions figures yearly, and adjusting our actions to stay on track for our 2030 target. That 2030 target is critical for all of us, especially for the generations who follow me (Andrea) and including me (Fiona) and my brother Galen!

Thank you,

Andrea Scott-Murray and Fiona Murray

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October 13, 2020

To Jennifer Ewing and all who participated in creating the Environmental Stewardship Plan, I would celebrate with you the progress made in creating this plan. The amount of effort and skill that went into making it is very obvious. The plan will have a positive impact on the city and its citizens especially in awakening many to the reality of our climate crisis, and demonstrating the seriousness and complexity of responding to it. You are to be congratulated for this serious step in the continual development of Bellevue's Vision.

Looking forward, I would like to comment on what the next step in this process should include. As we learned from the K4C period between 2014 and the present, aspirational goals are very hard to achieve. Serious research on developmental progress have shown this to be universally true. Aspirations and goals have to be integrated into regulations and requirements to be effective. An example at the state level is the Clean Energy Transition Act. Look at the massive impact this has on your Plan's goals. Look at the effect the new building codes have on those goals. Similar regulation needs to take place at the city level as well that fill out the missing parts – like existing commercial and residential building HVAC equipment, for example. The science is clear, sources of all GHG emissions must be replaced with clean sources. The use of regulation allows these changes to be made economically if time is allowed for replacement of equipment on an end-of life basis. Owners need to know well ahead of time so they are not met with uncertainty or make poor choices when their equipment fails. Regulations that define the end-of-license date for fossil fuel equipment should be enacted soon so they have that time.

Thank you for the ESP and I would encourage you in 2021 to start development of the Transportation and Energy regulations that will allow us to accomplish it.

Bill Westre

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan

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October 14, 2020

Good Day Council Members;

I am a resident of Bellevue. My wife and I moved here 9 years ago and enjoy the lifestyle opportunities, easy access to the surrounding area and the diversity this City embodies. I graduated from college, many years ago, with a degree in Environmental Science and Mathematics so the Bellevue draft Environmental Stewardship Plan which covers many important areas in its organization and layout is a structure that needs maturation.

The ESP as it is currently drafted is lacking in leading edge effective actions. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and a large number of scientists tell us we have 10 years to reduce the GHG emissions by half or natural systems will take over and no amount of intervention will halt the ravages of climate change here, across the state and across the planet. Our children and future generations are at risk. It's time to really step up and aim for leading-edge climate action. Please strengthen the Plan, especially the "Energy" section, which addresses Buildings where half of our GHG emissions are generated. Also, shorten the timeline for evaluation from 5 years to annually, so that we are reviewing our emissions figures yearly, and adjusting our actions to stay on track for our 2030 target. That 2030 target is critical for all of us, especially for our young people.

In the many surveys and town hall meeting your residents overwhelmingly want bold and leading-edge actions (70+%). The current state of the Draft ESP has NO leading-edge actions. It comes across as a list of what the various departments consider "safe" to address.

As the graph on page 37 of the Plan shows, our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings, which together account for 47% of emissions. However, the "Energy" section of the plan is weak on clear action and fairly heavy on things like "pilot programs," "evaluating effectiveness," and "reviewing opportunities." Cost effective technology and approaches are available today to address these challenges. Please strengthen the Plan in this area. You can do this by adding timeframes to say when evaluation/review must be complete and action started, specifying outcomes (for example, how many green buildings or retrofits are being aimed for), and adding actions from existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit, and other sources.

Also, the Plan says on page 3 that "This work will require commitment and collaboration with our residents, businesses, and other organizational partners..." To put this collaboration into motion, the Plan should aim to enlist the help of a small number of volunteers with varied expertise to serve on a climate action advisory commission. Bellevue has a number of residents who are eager to serve in such a role. To give one example, People for Climate Action (PCA) Bellevue includes members who have spent significant time researching the climate actions that cities

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across the U.S. are taking to achieve emissions reductions. Various organizations (including PCA) can suggest other local contacts with important expertise, such as in the area of energy and buildings. Given tight budgets, engaging such volunteer expertise can make all the difference for the climate action work we must achieve.

As the Council for the City of Bellevue your leadership is paramount to make the ESP a leading edge plan.

Thank you.

Bruce Bowman

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan

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October 14, 2020

Dear Bellevue Council Members and Environmental Stewardship Leaders,

Thank you for all your work on the plan and for doing everything you can to ensure a livable future for ourselves and our families. It is vital to make significant progress on green gas emissions in the next decade and Bellevue cannot fall behind. Scientific* consensus tells us we must cut these emissions in half by 2030 to avoid runaway, catastrophic impacts. I appreciate the commitment Council and City Leaders have for taking aggressive actions to ensure a legacy of livability and economic vitality.

In the recent Council review of the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan, Council's direction was to take bold and aggressive action. I appreciate the improvements in the plan to date however the Plan still falls short of our collective vision. As such, the Plan needs to be strengthened even more. Please include the following in the Plan:

- Strengthen the Energy section where Buildings account for almost half of our greenhouse gas emissions -
 - Shorten the timeline for evaluation from 5 to 1 year so we are reviewing our emissions figures annually and adjusting our actions to stay on track for our 2030 target
 - Move beyond "pilot programs," "evaluating effectiveness," and "reviewing opportunities" to concrete actions:
- Add timeframes to say when evaluation/review must be complete, and action started
 - Specify goals and outcomes ex. how many green buildings or green retrofits are being aimed for.
 - Add actions from existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit, and other sources
- Create an annual cycle of feedback and action planning of the whole Plan -
 - Pages 120-121 state the Plan will be "evaluated and updated on a five-year cycle." As the 2030 mark is so critical (cut emissions by half by 2030), we must reduce emissions much faster than the 6.4% reduction of our past 9 years. Waiting 5 years to evaluate is too long
 - Include in the plan an annual measurement and report. Formalize an annual review and action planning process
- Create and board-based Climate Action Advisory Commission -
 - The Plan says on page 3 that "This work will require commitment and collaboration with our residents, businesses, and other organizational partners...." Put this collaboration into motion immediately in 2021
 - Bring together a balanced group with various expertise who meet bi-monthly

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- Include developers and the business community
 - Invite Developers who have experience with Green Building and Retrofit, including residential retrofit
 - Invite Business Community members such as Microsoft, who already have strong environmental plans and expertise
 - Invite PSE
- Include residents and citizen groups with expertise
 - People for Climate Action (PCA) Bellevue includes members who have spent significant time researching the climate actions that cities across the U.S. are taking to achieve emissions reductions
 - Solicit citizens groups with important expertise, such as in energy and buildings
 - Incorporate this group in the annual evaluation and action planning process

Please ensure Bellevue is aiming for leading-edge climate action in our Environmental Stewardship plan. Do not accept anything less. We are all counting on you to do the right thing.

Thank you so much!

Barbara Braun

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October 14, 2020

Dear Bellevue City Council,

I am a Bellevue resident and have attended the outreach sessions for the Environmental Stewardship Plan. I want to thank the City Council for putting money in the budget to hire a consultant and to support the development of a climate action plan as presented in the Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP).

The ESP is outstanding for its clarity, visually and verbally. For example, goals and focus areas are succinctly but effectively well defined. The Wedge analysis is excellent for visualizing the various ways GHG can be reduced to meet a target. It was very useful to include the benchmarks for other cities and communities. The ESP clearly set out the framework for Phase II when strategies will be analyzed against a stated criteria. I was impressed by the thought that went into the criteria.

Yet, I was disappointed that the ESP went for the Bold approach—not the Leading Edge, which most of the public supported, and I thought the City Council had suggested a more Leading-Edge approach in its October study session. The urgency of addressing global warming requires a Leading-Edge approach.

The plan needs to set an aggressive target of 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. There should be yearly updates and not wait for 5 years as we will have lost precious time. We need to reduce emissions faster than the 6.5% of our last 9 years.

We need to take aggressive steps to reduce energy use in our buildings. The ESP is weak on details in this area. Just relying on incentives for new construction is not enough. There needs to be programs for retrofitting our existing stock of residential and commercial buildings, making sure lower income residents can participate in these programs through subsidies. Reducing and replacing natural gas is critical as natural gas is a big contributor to emissions. Timeframes need to be established to analyze the progress being made so corrective steps can be taken.

I am repeating my request that any Advisory group include citizens—not just the business community. There are many qualified residents, including members of People for Climate Action-Bellevue who have been instrumental in urging the City of Bellevue to take stronger, measurable action to address global warming. They have studied climate action plans in cities that place a focus on emissions reductions. They have passion and expertise that needs to be drawn upon.

The urgency of global warming is calling us to work harder (Leading-Edge goals) and sooner (adopt goals for 2030). The citizens of Bellevue want to protect our environment.

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Kristi Weir

Bellevue, WA

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan

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October 15, 2020

Hello Jennifer and Council Members,

I have lived in Bellevue since 1993, and have always been proud to find my city government rise up to meet the growing and changing needs of our citizens. I found City Council partnership in my work as a Director on the Bellevue School Board for 14 years. I felt that the Bellevue City Council was always able to comprehend change in our residents' lives and respond to their needs with true, fearless leadership. This is one of those moments.

Not everyone is paying close-enough attention to the climate science. Not everyone has the possibility to comprehend our stark future of diminishing returns and narrowing options. But you all have access to the fullest understanding of what's happening in our world and what we can do to impact it. Large numbers of scientists tell us that we must cut our greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations.

All of our citizens didn't know that some Bellevue families needed Wrap-Around services, Family Connection Centers and affordable housing. But City Council Members knew the needs and protected those citizens.

All of our citizens didn't automatically think Light Rail was needed in Bellevue. But City Council Members knew that our future growth would bring over reliance on crowded highways, and worked hard to pursue public transit progress and bring people along.

I'm always going to drift into the space of advocacy for kids and families, and spend my time and influence expecting you to meet their needs, but the truth is that environmental stewardship is the most important thing you can do for any of our children, whether they're living in section 8 housing or in a lakefront mansion.

Please strengthen the Plan, especially the "Energy" section, which addresses Buildings where half of our GHG emissions are. Also, shorten the timeline for evaluation from 5 years to 1 year, so that we are at least reviewing our emissions figures yearly, and adjusting our actions to stay on track for our 2030 target. That 2030 target is critical for all of us, especially for our young people.

Our children cannot do this for themselves. By the time they are wielding power, they will be left with the consequences of our actions now. For our sake and theirs, we must push ourselves to the leading edge.

Sincerely,

Chris Marks

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October 15, 2020

Hello City Council -- my name is Jennifer Keller (Jan Keller), and I consider myself very fortunate to be a longtime Bellevue resident. I love how green and beautiful our area is. I want to see us taking care of this place, which means we must work to prevent climate change from turning into serious climate disruption in the future, for everyone but most especially for our young people.

I am a member of People for Climate Action Bellevue, but I am communicating for myself today. I want to thank you for all your hard work during the pandemic and during this time of asking important questions about social justice and the use of force by the police.

Thank you for your efforts toward improving the city's Environmental Stewardship Plan. I was glad to see that the updated Plan has some sound ideas and is well organized. There's a lot of good information there, laid out in a clear fashion! I do have some concerns about the Plan, however.

I want to acknowledge that we face a lot of uncertainty since the start of the pandemic. Even so, this is an absolutely critical time for our city to lay out strong climate action plans. When we build back from the current economic setbacks, we must build back better-- with cleaner energy sources and with greater efficiency in our buildings and transportation. Planning for that now can help us accomplish it when it's feasible.

It has been made clear by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report from 2018, sometimes called "SR15," that we must limit Earth's heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius or less, which means we must cut our greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030. That IPCC target is in line with our target of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030, which is the County goal and our agreed-upon target in the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration or K4C, which I'm very glad that Bellevue signed onto again recently (thank you). It's an ambitious target, but without such a target, we will be faced with runaway heating of the planet. We need to do our part to cut emissions. It's the future of our young people we're deciding about.

All of that means we must aim for strong, leading-edge action in our Environmental Stewardship Plan. Here are my recommendations for improving the Plan.

- Make the "Energy" section (covering energy and buildings) stronger: The graph on page 37 of the Plan shows that our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings. Together, these account for 47% of emissions. But when I look at the "Energy" section, I see a lot of "pilot programs," "evaluating effectiveness," and "reviewing opportunities." I don't see much in the way of strong action, which is what we need in order to meet our targets. See my other suggestions, below, for

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specific ways to strengthen this part of the Plan, or any element in the Plan that is worded as exploration, study, or assessing, rather than truly being about action.

- Include timeframes in steps oriented toward exploration: From what I see, there are a lot of steps that use verbs such as “assess,” “explore,” “study,” “pilot,” “consider,” or “review.” These steps point in a good direction, but are unlikely to move us as quickly as we need to move. To these, we need to add a phrase such as “Begin to act on our findings no later than...” followed by a timeframe, such as “the summer of 2021” or “the beginning of 2022.”
- Move exploration-oriented steps toward action: Again, in the Plan, I notice a lot of verbs such as “assess,” “explore,” “study,” “pilot,” “consider,” or “review.” These make it sound as if we did not face an urgent timeline.

We need actions, requirements, and/or regulations, of course with some time built in for residents and businesses to adjust and find their way into patterns of greater efficiency (which in many cases bring cost savings in the long run too). We can allow ourselves to be inspired by some of the well-known businesses in our area that are placing requirements on themselves. If they are recognizing the value of taking definite action as businesses, we can recognize that as a city. We don't have to devise actions from scratch, of course, because we can draw on existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit, and other sources of lists and case studies.

Exploration and study have already been done, all over the world, and they point at excellent ways to reduce emissions, increase jobs, increase resilience (that is, avoid the costs of catastrophe), and improve health. Let's use what has already been learned and begin to move.

- Shorten the cycle for evaluation and update: The Plan says, on pages 120-121, that it will be “evaluated and updated on a five-year cycle.” I can understand that this might be a fairly ordinary way to approach a city plan. But we are not in an ordinary situation. For this plan, the ten-year mark (2030) is absolutely crucial. We know that the 10-year mark for reducing emissions by 50% is crucial, and we know that this is much faster than the 6.4% reduction of our past ~9 years. If we just try some evaluations and pilots, plus a limited number of actions, then circle back in 2025, what would we do if we were behind our targets? We almost certainly wouldn't be able to catch up. That time would be lost, and our young people might well face life-threatening outcomes. So, as a basic process for this plan, we need to take a good look every year as our emissions data comes in, then ask ourselves whether we're on track for our targets. If not, take more action! A deeper evaluation at about 5 years is probably a good idea, but truly, waiting 5 years to make adjustments is just too long.

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We can create an Environmental Stewardship Plan that truly aims for sustainability. It's worth considering what sustainability means: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of our young people, and future generations, to meet their own needs.

A livable climate is absolutely essential for the future of our young people. Please ensure that Bellevue aims for strong, leading-edge climate action in our Environmental Stewardship Plan. Thank you.

Jennifer Keller

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October 16, 2020

To Jennifer Ewing and the Bellevue City Council,

I am a Bellevue City resident and a retired public school educator. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan which I found to be well organized and which covers a lot of important areas.

However, I am concerned that the plan is not strong enough. Bellevue must be willing to take on some crucial and very challenging targets. These targets such as a 50% emissions reduction by 2030 are not just 'nice to have'. The scientists who wrote the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report of 2018 made this very clear. We must aim for strong, leading-edge action in the Plan if we are to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations.

This is particularly true in the 'Energy' section of the Stewardship Plan. As shown by your graph on page 37, our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings, which together account for 47% of emissions. However, the 'Energy' section is light on clear action and relies heavily on "pilot programs" "evaluating effectiveness", and "reviewing opportunities".

I am asking that this section of the plan be strengthened by adding timeframes to say when the evaluation/review must be complete and when action is to be started, as well as specifying the outcomes (ie how many green buildings or retrofits are being aimed for). Additionally, actions from existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit and other sources should be utilized.

Finally, I encourage you to engage with volunteers who are committed to mitigating climate change, who have the time and the knowledge and the desire to work with you and help you to craft a plan that will meet these challenging goals. There are many in our community with expertise in the area of energy and buildings. Given tight budgets, engaging such volunteer expertise can make all the difference for the climate action work we must achieve.

A livable climate is essential for our future. Please help ensure that Bellevue aims for leading edge climate action in our Environmental Stewardship Plan!

Thank you,

April Stevens

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October 16, 2020

Good morning Bellevue City Council and Ms. Ewing,

I am a retired Bellevue resident, proud parent and grandparent. I appreciate this opportunity to comment and the hard work the Bellevue Council and Program Staff put into the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP). It covers important areas but I'm concerned the plan is not strong enough.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report of 2018 makes perfectly clear— we need to cut emissions by half by 2030 to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations. As the graph on page 37 of the ESP shows, our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings, which together account for 47% of emissions. Please strengthen the ESP, especially the “Energy” section, which addresses buildings, where nearly half of our GHG emissions emanate.

In addition, please shorten the timeline for evaluation of the ESP from five years to one year. The ESP says, on pages 120-121, that it will be “evaluated and updated on a five-year cycle.” This might make sense for other City plans, but for the ESP, the ten-year mark (2030) is critical.

We have to reduce emissions much faster than the 6.4% reduction of our past ~9 years and waiting five years to evaluate is too long. If we discover in 2025 that we're behind our targets, we will not be able to recover and we will face life-threatening outcomes. We need to do an evaluation every year as our emissions data comes in, asking ourselves whether we are on track for our targets? If not, we must take immediate additional actions.

A livable climate is essential for our future, especially for our young people, and the 2030 target is imperative. Please ensure that Bellevue proposes the required climate action in our Environmental Stewardship Plan.

Thank you,

Paul Bruno

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan

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October 16, 2020

Comments on Bellevue's Draft Environmental Strategic Initiative Plan

Executive Summary

The summary on page 8, 3d paragraph, describes Bellevue's aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by mid-century as "drastic". This could strike readers as unrealistic or too expensive. A better way to describe the goal would be "ambitious but realistic".

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Page 9 refers to performing a climate vulnerability assessment and prioritizing investments in historically underserved and underrepresented communities. Some readers may wonder how much of a problem this is in Bellevue specifically. It sounds like a goal that comes from a wider metropolitan or countywide context. In that case maybe it should focus on participating in programs at that scale to improve GHG conditions in older communities near industrial or transportation-related sources of excessive emissions.

Mobility and Land Use

Page 9 and page 41 address enhancing livability of Bellevue's neighborhoods by providing residents with easy access to a variety of mobility options, including especially amenities such as parks. Another land use that would encourage non-vehicular access would be small-scale, neighborhood-oriented retail uses. More residents including single-family should be able to walk to such districts, or at least have good bike access. Think cargo bikes, perhaps even electrified. There are very few if any such districts in Bellevue as presently zoned.

Natural Systems

Reference to the hoped-for 40% tree canopy sound like ideals that have been talked about in Bellevue for years, but typical tear-downs and re-builds make this laughable. Where the 'historic' 1950's-1970's lot development kept a lot of trees, the past couple of decades skin even tall 70-80-year old firs off and plant a few saplings. Unless the City is serious about changing this mind-set, the 40% tree canopy will have to be achieved mainly in parks and perhaps by subsidizing forest preservation and growth beyond city limits.

I am writing to submit attached comments on the above document, from the standpoint of a long-time Bellevue resident (40+ years). I believe the City has done well to strive for the "City in a Park" objectives, and this document clearly describes the challenges that now are upon us.

Thank you for circulating the draft plan for public comment. In a time when it was difficult to communicate with community groups, the authors seem to have successfully addressed many public comments on earlier versions of the document. I commend the City for listening to the

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input from well-informed community stakeholders including People for Climate Change and Sustainability Ambassadors.

Please keep me informed of further stages of public review, and opportunities for further involvement.

Pete Marshall

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan

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October 16, 2020

Dear Council Members Robinson, Nieuwenhuis, Robertson, Zahn, Lee, Barksdale and Stokes.

I'm confident that many fellow Bellevue residents appreciate, as I do, your commitment to strong climate actions. We saw you affirm that by unanimously endorsing the updated K4C emissions reduction commitment letter recently. Thank you!

Reflections on "Leading Edge"

I do also appreciate the considerable work that City staff has done to prepare their draft Environmental Stewardship Plan update. To some extent, I see it as their effort to satisfy the Council. I also see that, to some extent, it attempts to satisfy the "will of the people".

Unfortunately, the draft plan does neither satisfactorily. I say that because it has no action in it that can be categorized as "leading edge", despite a majority of the Council, and a majority of the public surveyed, having gone on record requesting staff to pursue that highest level of achievement.

To refresh my memory, I've recently played the recording of the November 12th 2019 Council meeting at which City staff (Jennifer Ewing and Emile King) presented their outline of the ESP update, and asked for Council guidance on the plan's goals. (Of course, Council member Barksdale wasn't present because he hadn't yet officially been seated, but the rest of you were there.) Five of the six of you in that meeting asked City staff to move the ESP package more toward the upper or "Leading Edge" category of goals, where feasible. (Jennifer Robertson was the only one who did not encourage a push toward "Leading Edge".)

I've also reviewed the public survey results that are summarized in the current draft ESP update. On average, about 70% of the public that responded in the various separate City surveys said that they wanted the City to pursue the highest or "Leading Edge" goals.

However, in a recent meeting that Bellevue People for Climate Action members had with City staff, staff members admitted that there wasn't one action in the current draft ESP that they could categorize as "Leading Edge." In short, the draft plan hasn't yet risen to the level of achievement desired by the public or by a majority of the City Council.

Reflections on City responsibilities

That said, the draft plan does address certain actions that are popular with the public in some regards. For example, there are several actions in the ESP draft directed toward green spaces and the tree canopy, which many folks have been calling for. Truth be known, however, science tells us that boosting the tree canopy in a city by a few percentage points, while aesthetically pleasing, doesn't have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One can therefore conclude that City staff responded to the popular aesthetic interest in trees, but didn't

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respond to the dominate call to target actions on the “leading edge” of climate action. So, the staff strategy seems to be this: satisfy a lot of people on the one hand, but ignore them on the other.

This leads me to the question of a city’s responsibility to study, plan and act to benefit the public good. Especially in cases of public health, the public often depends on the City to study and take actions that are in the public’s best interest –without requiring a public survey and guidance on which specific detailed actions the City needs to take to reach the desired outcomes.

There are many examples:

- Speed limits, traffic lights, street lights;
- Water system design and maintenance;
- Sewer system design and maintenance;
- Hygiene and health standards in public places;
- Building construction permitting and safety standards;
- Fire and emergency preparedness and emergency response;
- Garbage collection service; and,
- Public safety policing.

I bring up all of these City responsibilities because they are all public health and safety functions that require expertise, planning and execution of services that the public wants, but that the public typically lacks much detailed knowledge of how to plan and implement. Consequently, the City rarely asks for detailed public guidance on such functions. The end goal of achieving a high level of public health and safety is generally understood, and the public assumes that the City can gather the expertise to do what is needed to meet that end goal. There is only public outcry when the expected outcome isn’t met.

So, I ask you, why is planning and implementing actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions any different?

The City has committed to a necessary GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030, without asking the public what the appropriate percentage should be. Presumably the City did this because reputable scientists are telling everyone in the world that this is the minimum percentage needed to prevent runaway climate catastrophe. In this instance, the City did the right thing and didn’t ask the public what the emissions percentage target should be for 2030. King County and

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the City have explained to the public that this is what reputable scientists tell us is the needed outcome, so the public has accepted it.

The City of Bellevue has, inappropriately, however, in this past year, asked the public if they want low, medium or high (i.e. "Leading Edge") climate and environment actions --as if there is a choice to meet the 2030 emissions reduction commitment. Thankfully, a majority of the public has responded correctly that they want the City to reach the highest level --i.e. "Leading Edge". Then, the City has gone even further and asked the public to tell them what actions the City should take, as if the general public knows enough to guide the City to achieve the emissions commitment they have made. I call that avoidance of the City's public responsibility. This makes about as much sense as the City asking the public what level of emergency response service they want in their neighborhood --low, medium or high? And then asking the public how many and what type of fire engines and ambulances are needed and where to locate them. That's not responsible government!

I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY EDUCATED ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM AND ITS MANY NEEDED SOLUTIONS. THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO, IN EFFECT, RECOMMEND THE SOLUTIONS THEY WANT TO SEE. THE CITY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO STUDY, PLAN AND EXECUTE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD. THE CITY DOES NEED TO DETERMINE THAT, AND THEN EXPLAIN HOW THE NECESSARY PLAN IS NEEDED FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD, SO THAT IT IS UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED.

In short, coming out of the gate, the City has the wrong approach to the climate action planning process. The City seems to be avoiding its regular and common responsibility to determine what is needed for the public good, and then responsibly explain the plan to the public, rather than ask the public for guidance.

Reliable and inexpensive help is available

While the general public hasn't yet climbed very far up the climate actions learning curve, there are a few folks here in town who have already climbed pretty high. I know several of these personally, and I'm confident that there are enough to make up a good advisory committee. It would be very smart for the City to tap this inexpensive resource made up of people who would likely donate most or all of their time for the public good in order to cut our community greenhouse gases. I'd be very happy to help round up a Climate Advisory Council (or whatever name you might prefer), to help the City shape the ES Plan into a strong and reliable roadmap to achieve the 50% Greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030. Just let me know, and I'll offer up names and contact information.

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Why let a small minority hold up the will of the majority?

In closing, I'm sure that I'm not alone in appreciating that a majority of the Council has voiced interest in a strong plan with "Leading Edge" aspects. However, based upon discussions PCA members have had with City staff, it appears that a clearer direction from Council to City staff is needed if we are to get a strong plan. The current draft ESP will not achieve the 50% GHG emissions reduction by 2030 that the Council recently recommitted to achieving. Also, the ESP draft has nothing in it that is "Leading edge."

In particular, right now, the draft ES plan is nearly silent on actions needed to reduce GHG emissions in our existing building stock. Charts on the City's website show that existing buildings are responsible for half of our GHG emissions today. So, we can't possibly hit the 50% emissions reduction target in just ten years, if we don't rapidly tackle the huge GHG emissions associated with existing buildings. (By the way, Washington cities have the power and capacity to tackle existing buildings. In some parts of the country, cities have already implemented actions that mandate improvements in their existing buildings stock.)

While the draft ES Plan shows a lot of work has been done by City staff, it's potential impact on GHG emissions is, nevertheless, weak. A clear direction from the Council is needed to strengthen it. If a unanimous consensus cannot be reached to deliver that message, then a Council majority voice must speak up and deliver it. We can't let a restrained minority view, if one is ever voiced, hold up what the majority knows is necessary to protect our future collective health and economic well-being. We need a much stronger plan.

PLEASE STAND UP FOR WHAT IS NOT ONLY RIGHT, BUT URGENTLY NECESSARY!

Many people besides myself will be very grateful for your follow through!

With sincere appreciation for all that you do,

Court Olson

My standard PS: Each day reflect on the climate future you are building for future generations.

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October 16, 2020

Dear Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Leaders,

Thank you for your action and support of protecting the environment through the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. Climate change and environmental degradation is the most critical problem facing mankind today. The US government is mostly ignoring the problem, so action must be initiated by local governments and pushed up to the national and global levels.

I appreciate the update to the plan to have more concrete goals, rather than "studies", "evaluations", and "reviews". We need to focus on the biggest environmental problems, with plans that have aggressive deadlines. We can't get bogged down with endless proposal/review cycles.

I believe the biggest risk in the plan is how to make progress in the face of pushback by developers, utilities, and businesses who view environmental progress as threatening to their business. The City Council says they need to hear more from the citizens, but unfortunately, as we all know, most citizens are consumed with their day to day life and may not understand or recognize the peril we face. And even if they do, they're not inclined to contact the council or speak out about climate issues.

Because of this, the demands of developers like Kemper Freeman and utilities like PSE will always be louder than the citizens. You need a plan to counter their attempts to sabotage progress on environmental protection, and counter their mis-information campaigns.

I appreciate that you are doing an excellent job of encouraging public participation, making it very easy to participate in the ESI process. But please understand that the vast majority of people simply aren't paying attention to the crisis. There are many other short-term crises they are consumed by (COVID, politics, job loss, etc). As such, you will need to act boldly based on science, rather than relying on public outcry.

Thank you for your excellent work, and please continue to do your best to protect the earth for future generations.

Curtis Allred

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October 20, 2020

Dear Council Members,

The lesson from the Covid-19 pandemic is that failure to respond quickly and comprehensively to a crisis can cause loss of thousands of lives. This is magnified many times with the climate crisis. What we do in the next few years will determine the lives of billions in the future. If you think I exaggerate, read the recent climate science reporting for yourselves.

As a mechanical engineer who has studied Thermodynamics (the root science of Climate Science) the earth's warming is basically pretty simple to understand: The earth sits in the vacuum of space where it is heated by radiant heat from the sun and cooled by radiation to deep space (that cooling radiation is why you feel chilled on a cloudless night). For 800,000 years the radiant heat-in has been equal to the radiant heat-out, so the average temperature on earth remained nearly constant and made our civilization possible.

But now they are out of balance, because of GHG increase (nearly 50%) in the air that partially blocks the cooling radiation, thus causing the earth to warm. This imbalance is permanent and the resulting temperature increases perpetual unless we can start reducing the GHG already in the air. This means we have to get first to zero-net-emissions, then reduce existing GHG levels already in the air, in order to reverse this already runaway condition. We have a very narrow time window to accomplish this.

Court Olson understands climate science. That is why he pushes so hard for you to take the leader's role in implementing the most aggressive climate action. I would encourage you to take his recommendations very seriously – they are measured, science-based, accurate, and wise and the future depends on them.

Bill Westre
Sierra Club

Appendix – Phase 3 Comments

Engaging Bellevue Website Comments

As part of our outreach, we invited Bellevue residents, students, and professionals to submit comments on our Engaging Bellevue platform. People had the option leave a comment (September 24th through November 10th) independently of taking our engagement survey (September 24th through October 21st). Some feedback was duplicated between emails to City Council, survey comments, and website comments. People had the option to remain anonymous or provide their names on both the survey and the comment feature.

Comments have not been corrected except to remove personal information.

- Add a new section to require the formation of a citizen advisory group who will meet, say, 6 times per year to receive citizen comments, CoB staff reports, and have discussions on the ESI initiative.
- the Plan says on page 3 that “This work will require commitment and collaboration with our residents, businesses, and other organizational partners....” To put this collaboration into motion, the Plan should aim to enlist the help of a small number of volunteers with varied expertise to serve on a climate action advisory commission. Bellevue has a number of residents who are eager to serve in such a role. To give one example, People for Climate Action (PCA) Bellevue includes members who have spent significant time researching the climate actions that cities across the U.S. are taking to achieve emissions reductions. Various organizations (including PCA) can suggest other local contacts with important expertise, such as in the area of energy and buildings. Given tight budgets, engaging such volunteer expertise can make all the difference for the climate action work we must achieve. As the graph on page 37 of the Plan shows, our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings, which together account for 47% of emissions. However, the “Energy” section of the plan is weak on clear action and fairly heavy on things like “pilot programs,” “evaluating effectiveness,” and “reviewing opportunities.” Cost effective technology and approaches are available today to address these challenges. Please strengthen the Plan in this area.
- I really appreciate all the hard work that went into this, as well as Bellevue's vision to be greener! In line with the idea of solarizing Bellevue, I would highly encourage reaching out to the Solar Neighborhood Challenge, which is a project of Peter Donaldson's Sustainability Ambassadors. Students are leading an initiative to encourage residents of Bellevue (and cities all over the Seattle area) to install rooftop solar. The leader of the project is Fiona McDaniel (fionamcdaniel@gmail.com (External link)), and I think she would love to hear from you to perhaps see how the City can support the project all while the project helps support the City's solarization goals. I noticed that one of the previous

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successes that you all mentioned is a voluntary increase in purchasing renewable energy from PSE (I assume through their Green Power and Solar Choice programs). Maybe the City could encourage Bellevue School District to also purchase all their power through the Green Power program so that even more of the city's community infrastructure can be renewable-powered. I know several BSD students who would also be interested in advocating for that change to happen. Most powerfully, though, perhaps the City could help expand awareness of the Green Power program to residents. I know that my family, for instance, was excited to learn about and sign up for the program, but they had no idea that it existed until I told them about it very recently. I imagine many residents are in the same boat - they love the idea of signing up for renewable energy for their home, but they simply aren't aware that it's an option OR aren't hearing any third parties encouraging them to take that step. The City of Bellevue could step in to fill that void. Finally, noting how buildings cause 52% of Bellevue's GHG emissions according to the pie chart in the Draft Summary (although interestingly the values in the pie chart add up to 106%), and noting in turn that heating and cooling are the biggest energy hogs in buildings, and finally noting that (to my knowledge) building heating is primarily natural gas-powered in Bellevue, I think it would make sense to shift the "building electrification" goal from a long-term consideration to a more concrete action plan. Simply put, new natural gas installations are not consistent with a carbon-neutral city infrastructure, while electrified buildings are, so it doesn't make much sense to me to continue installing new natural gas heating systems that we know will keep spewing out GHG emissions far into the future, especially when there is a simple alternative.

- Thank you so much for all your hard work to make Bellevue greener! I really appreciate you taking the trouble to read public comments. I read the summary of the draft plan, and I have a few ideas. First of all, many Bellevue School District students are passionate about the climate and eager to help. It would make sense to reach out to BSD schools, and especially to the Green Teams and other environmental clubs in BSD high schools, to partner with in ventures to make Bellevue more green. Students in environmental clubs could help educate other students, raise awareness for and increase the turnout to citywide volunteer opportunities, and help with jobs like tree plantings. Furthermore, I learned about PSE's Green Power program because I searched it up after reading about the 88% increase in voluntary renewable energy purchases through PSE in the draft plan. However, I feel that knowledge of this plan is not very widespread among the Bellevue residents I know. I think that more awareness about PSE's greener opportunities needs to be raised through tactics such as putting it front and center in the City's newsletter. Finally, I noted that the percentages in the pie chart of the City's greenhouse gas emissions add up to 106%, leading me to doubt the chart's accuracy. Thank you again!

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- Where does this note any impact from home gardening/commercial use of gas powered blowers and lawn equipment? Not only is the noise pollution from this egregious but also the green house gas emissions
- Thank you for your hard work on the Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship plan thus far, which has some good ideas. My name is McKenzie and I am a sophomore at the International School, and in the Sustainability Ambassadors and the Bellevue Youth Council's Climate Action Team. I have cared about our climate since elementary school, because this world is my future, and I want to live in a green future with sustainable cities and society. Thank you again for leaving the draft ESP open for community feedback, as it is essential to receive and take into consideration the public opinion. I'm concerned that there is more we can do to strengthen the plan. We need to step up our goals (and aim for leading-edge climate action) in order to reach our crucial 2030 targets. These 2030 targets *need* to be met, there is no mistaking that fact. In order to strengthen our plan, I would first suggest adding time frames and definitive action statements to the more generally opportunistic actions expressed in the ESP. If my teachers can give me deadlines for each homework assignment and project, more timelines will promote prompt action and help Bellevue stay on track with our targets in the same way. Similarly, the intended outcomes could be specified and/or outlined in a clearer manner. The plan needs to point to clear actions wherever possible, and we can do this by describing the intended outcomes and what we want to see from the changes. I also believe that we should evaluate and update our ESP within a shorter cycle. Environmental Sustainability is and will continue to be crucial in the future of our city, and 5 years is a long time to wait before re-examining our plan. Climate change is an imminent threat, and each year makes a difference. In five years, I'll be 20 years old. In five years, if we are off track for our 2030 goals, we will only have five more to compensate. And I don't want that to happen. Right now, we have an opportunity to make a major decision in the future of Bellevue's environmental action. I want to see Bellevue aiming for leading-edge climate action, and I want to see a future where we create and maintain a sustainable city for our future generations. Thank you.
- Thank you for your effort in both acknowledging comments and in creating a Greener Bellevue! After taking a look at the Draft Stewardship Plan Summary, I have a few suggestions. To begin with, I noticed that in order to mitigate emissions, there was a plan to use a 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment' to identify which residents/workers are impacted most by climate change. The plan claims that this assessment is to be sent to the city, who will then make further plans for action. I think that in addition to the city, the results of the assessment should be sent to the residents themselves, who can look into how they can do their part. Perhaps reaching out to the residents with the results of the

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assessment could be a part of the 'Climate Outreach and Education'. Furthermore, I think that in addition to energy for their homes, low-income and under-privileged residents should have equitable access to electric vehicles to decrease their dependence on vehicles contributing to climate change. Thank you for your time!!

- Council and Staff. The ESS Plan offered is good work but not enough. Please don't be remembered as the "do nothing" government team at the City of Bellevue whose lackadaisical approach to the very real and very deadly and very fast-coming global warming crisis does the future in for our, and your, children and grandchildren. Be able to look them in the eye and proudly say, "We did everything we could and it was hard" to save what we enjoyed and to turn it over to you. The proposed ESS Plan sounds great, but it will not do a thing unless strict time and performance deadlines are a major part of it. The "drop dead" date of 2030 is almost on us. Instead of just "planning," DO IT! Set goals that are hard, and set time deadlines that are difficult. There is no time to waste.
- Bellevue, please commit to protecting our current wild spaces / habitats. Enormous development is coming our way, and there will be a temptation to give in to the highest bidder. Ecosystems, vegetation, animal life.... all of these depend on us to make the right decisions. Ecosystems take time to build. Preserve existing species and spaces, rather than trying make up for development / destruction with new "green spaces".
- We are at a crucial decision about our city's health. You are about to decide on the budget and to approve this Environmental Stewardship Plan, joining other King County cities who have done the same to keep carbon emissions low. This Environmental Stewardship Plan has good ideas and covers important concerns about clean air and lowering carbon emissions by 2030. I thank you for the time and effort you have given it. However, it has written in a 5-year evaluation timeline. We need to be more proactive to meet our fast growth, and to prevent the increase of serious pollution. We recently had a sample of bad air. We recently had rains. We are lucky. Let's not depend on just the rain. I've been to cities where citizens have had to wear masks, NOT because of COVID-19, but because of polluted air. However, there are other cities that have proven they can have clean air while growing economically strong when sustainable methods of building and transportation are put into place. This is the time to be a leading-edge city by setting specific and effective sustainable goals. We have some important targets to hit by 2030. It's time to really step up and aim for leading-edge climate actions that can meet these goals. Please strengthen the Plan, in particular, the "Energy" section, and please make assessments and every year, along with instituting sustainable construction and other practices used by other cities to get us and keep us on track for our 2030 low emissions target. These practices have led other cities to clean and economically growing cities. We

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can do the same for the near future and the welfare of our youth. Again, thank you for being a concerned and forward-looking council and planners

- I appreciate the work that has been done and all that have done it. I look forward to being a part of the change process.
- Dear Bellevue Council Members and Environmental Stewardship Leaders, Thank you for all your work on the plan and for doing everything you can to ensure a livable future for ourselves and our families. It is vital to make significant progress on green gas emissions in the next decade and Bellevue cannot fall behind. Scientific* consensus tells us we must cut these emissions in half by 2030 to avoid runaway, catastrophic impacts. I appreciate the commitment Council and City Leaders have for taking aggressive actions to ensure a legacy of livability and economic vitality. In the recent Council review of the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan, Council's direction was to take bold and aggressive action. I appreciate the improvements in the plan to date however the Plan still falls short of our collective vision. As such, the Plan needs to be strengthened even more. Please include the following in the Plan:
 1. Strengthen the Energy section where Buildings account for almost half of our greenhouse gas emissions -a. Move beyond "pilot programs," "evaluating effectiveness," and "reviewing opportunities" to concrete actions:
 - i. Add timeframes to say when evaluation/review must be complete, and action started
 - ii. Specify goals and outcomes ex. how many green buildings or green retrofits are being aimed for
 - iii. Add actions from existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit, and other sources
 2. add actions from existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit, and other sources
 2. Create an annual cycle of feedback and action planning of the whole Plan -a. Pages 120-121 state the Plan will be "evaluated and updated on a five-year cycle." As the 2030 mark is so critical (cut emissions by half by 2030), we must reduce emissions much faster than the 6.4% reduction of our past 9 years. Waiting 5 years to evaluate is too long
 - b. Include in the plan an annual measurement and report. Formalize an annual review and action planning process
 - ii. A3. Create and board-based Climate Action Advisory Commission - a. The Plan says on page 3 that "This work will require commitment and collaboration with our residents, businesses, and other organizational partners...." Put this collaboration into motion immediately in 2021
 - b. Bring together a balanced group with various expertise who meet bi-monthly
 - i. Include developers and the business community
 1. Invite Developers who have experience with Green Building and Retrofit, including residential retrofit
 2. Invite Business Community members such as Microsoft, who already have strong environmental plans and expertise
 3. Invite PSE
 - ii. Include residents and citizen groups with expertise
 1. People for Climate Action (PCA) Bellevue includes members who have spent significant time researching the climate

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actions that cities across the U.S. are taking to achieve emissions reductions². Solicit citizens groups with important expertise, such as in energy and buildings. Incorporate this group in the annual evaluation and action planning process. Please ensure Bellevue is aiming for leading-edge climate action in our Environmental Stewardship plan. Do not accept anything less. We are all counting on you to do the right thing. Thank you so much!

* Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report of 2018

- I am a Bellevue resident and have attended the outreach sessions for the Environmental Stewardship Plan. I want to thank the City Council for putting money in the budget to hire a consultant and to support the development of a climate action plan as presented in the Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP). The ESP is outstanding for its clarity, visually and verbally. For example, goals and focus areas are succinctly but effectively well defined. The Wedge analysis is excellent for visualizing the various ways GHG can be reduced to meet a target. It was very useful to include the benchmarks for other cities and communities. The ESP clearly set out the framework for Phase II when strategies will be analyzed against a stated criteria. I was impressed by the thought that went into the criteria. Yet, I was disappointed that the ESP went for the Bold approach—not the Leading Edge, which most of the public supported, and I thought the City Council had suggested a more Leading-Edge approach in its October study session. The urgency of addressing global warming requires a Leading-Edge approach. The plan needs to set an aggressive target of 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. There should be yearly updates and not wait for 5 years as we will have lost precious time. We need to reduce emissions faster than the 6.5% of our last 9 years. We need to take aggressive steps to reduce energy use in our buildings. The ESP is weak on details in this area. Just relying on incentives for new construction is not enough. There needs to be programs for retrofitting our existing stock of residential and commercial buildings, making sure lower income residents can participate in these programs through subsidies. Reducing and replacing natural gas is critical as natural gas is a big contributor to emissions. Timeframes need to be established to analyze the progress being made so corrective steps can be taken. I am repeating my request that any Advisory group include citizens—not just the business community. There are many qualified residents, including members of People for Climate Action--Bellevue who have been instrumental in urging the City of Bellevue to take stronger, measurable action to address global warming. They have studied climate action plans in cities that place a focus on emissions reductions. They have passion and expertise that needs to be drawn upon. The urgency of global warming is calling us to work harder (Leading-Edge goals) and sooner (adopt goals for 2030). The citizens of Bellevue want to protect our environment.

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- I really appreciate this opportunity for getting involved in the City's police reform endeavors. As it was reiterated repeatedly at the Listening Session, it is crucial that the community work closely with the BPD for the wellbeing and protection of the community as a whole. I look forward to more of an opportunity like this to get engaged!
- My daughter and I have lived in Bellevue for 15 years. I am 65 and a life-long Washington state resident. I currently teach online and am endorsed to teach middle school math and science. My daughter is a recent graduate of the UW Evans Master's in Public Administration program and is working as a Campaign Manager in a local State Representative race. We appreciate Bellevue's draft Environmental Stewardship Plan, which covers important areas. However, we are concerned that the plan is not strong enough. Large numbers of scientists tell us that we must cut our greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations. It's time to really step up and aim for leading-edge climate action. "Please strengthen the Plan, especially the "Energy" section focused on Buildings. Buildings are responsible for half of our GHG emissions! Also, shorten the timeline for evaluation from 5 years to 1 year, so that we are at least reviewing our emissions figures yearly, and adjusting our actions to stay on track for our 2030 target. That 2030 target is critical for all of us, especially for the generations who follow me
- I have lived in Bellevue since 1993, and have always been proud to find my city government rise up to meet the growing and changing needs of our citizens. I found City Council partnership in my work as a Director on the Bellevue School Board for 14 years. I felt that the Bellevue City Council was always able to comprehend change in our residents' lives and respond to their needs with true, fearless leadership. This is one of those moments. Not everyone is paying close-enough attention to the climate science. Not everyone has the possibility to comprehend our stark future of diminishing returns and narrowing options. But you all have access to the fullest understanding of what's happening in our world and what we can do to impact it. Large numbers of scientists tell us that we must cut our greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations. All of our citizens didn't know that some Bellevue families needed Wrap-Around services, Family Connection Centers and affordable housing. But City Council Members knew the needs and protected those citizens. All of our citizens didn't automatically think Light Rail was needed in Bellevue. But City Council Members knew that our future growth would bring over reliance on crowded highways, and worked hard to pursue public transit progress and bring people along. I'm always going to drift into the space of advocacy for kids and families, and spend my time and influence expecting you to meet their needs, but the truth is that environmental stewardship is the most important thing you can do for any of

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our children, whether they're living in section 8 housing or in a lakefront mansion. Please strengthen the Plan, especially the "Energy" section, which addresses Buildings where half of our GHG emissions are. Also, shorten the timeline for evaluation from 5 years to 1 year, so that we are at least reviewing our emissions figures yearly, and adjusting our actions to stay on track for our 2030 target. That 2030 target is critical for all of us, especially for our young people. Our children cannot do this for themselves. By the time they are wielding power, they will be left with the consequences of our actions now. For our sake and theirs, we must push ourselves to the leading edge.

- Thank you for your action and support of protecting the environment through the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. Climate change and environmental degradation is the most critical problem facing mankind today. The US government is mostly ignoring the problem, so action must be initiated by local governments and pushed up to the national and global levels. I appreciate the update to the plan to have more concrete goals, rather than ""studies"", ""evaluations"", and ""reviews"". We need to focus on the biggest environmental problems, with plans that have aggressive deadlines. We can't get bogged down with endless proposal/review cycles. I believe the biggest risk in the plan is how to make progress in the face of pushback by developers, utilities, and businesses who view environmental progress as threatening to their business. The City Council says they need to hear more from the citizens, but unfortunately, as we all know, most citizens are consumed with their day to day life and may not understand or recognize the peril we face. And even if they do, they're not inclined to contact the council or speak out about climate issues. Because of this, the demands of developers like Kemper Freeman and utilities like PSE will always be louder than the citizens. You need a plan to counter their attempts to sabotage progress on environmental protection, and counter their misinformation campaigns. I appreciate that you are doing an excellent job of encouraging public participation, making it very easy to participate in the ESI process. But please understand that the vast majority of people simply aren't paying attention to the crisis. There are many other short-term crises they are consumed by (COVID, politics, job loss, etc). As such, you will need to act boldly based on science, rather than relying on public outcry. Thank you for your excellent work, and please continue to do your best to protect the earth for future generations.
- CoB staffers (and perhaps the City Council) have been proclaiming the City's dedication to and accomplishments in improving the City's environment. And the staff has recently released a draft of an Environmental Stewardship Plan. But here's an interesting short comment on the world's sustainable development goals that ought to be considered along with the staff's claims that "the City has a long history of partnership and collaboration and in stewarding our environment, and we seek to continue to build on

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those efforts.”: [https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/30/the-worlds-sustainable-development-goals-arent-sustainable/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=25833&utm_term=Flashpoints OC&tpcc=25833](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/09/30/the-worlds-sustainable-development-goals-arent-sustainable/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=25833&utm_term=Flashpoints%20OC&tpcc=25833) It seems strange to me that the staff can assert that the City has a strong history of ‘stewarding’ our environment when we’re constantly confronted with the physical realities (buildings, population growth, traffic congestion, sound, tree canopy, etc.) of our City. Maybe CoB should adopt the ‘Sustainability Development Goals’ metrics mentioned in the link above, but with the changes suggested by Jason Hickel in his article. Following are my comments on the draft Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan:

1. The document should be reformatted to add section and paragraph numbers using a normal decimal numbering system, e.g., 1. Introduction 1.1. Aims and objectives 1.2. Hypothesis 2. Methodology 2.1. The survey 2.1.1. The questionnaire 2.1.2. The sample All tables, figures, and illustrations should be labeled and numbered, either sequentially or with a number based on the document section/paragraph number, e.g., ‘Figure 1. Climate Actions’, or ‘Table 3.4-1. Climate Actions’, etc. All tables, figures, and illustrations should include source references. Include a list of the figures, tables, etc., in the table of contents. Expand the “Acronyms” table to include all special terms, such as ‘sustainability’, ‘climate equity’, ‘green buildings’. ‘clean fuel’, ‘K4C’, ‘climate vulnerability assessment’, etc. The document lacks a document number, and an indication of the identity of the person or persons who prepared the document (the principal authors), who it was approved by, and the date it was approved/released. Get rid of the flowery treescape cover and replace it with a more formal technical-document cover page; example of suggested cover page is attached. Use a noun for the title (‘environment’ vs ‘environmental’, an adjective - aren’t you setting forth a plan for improving CoB’s environment over the next several years?)
2. Delete pages 3, 4, 5, 6; place the list of companies/names at the end of the document with an explanation of what specific contribution all these individuals made; if they contributed no text or data, there’s no need to identify them in the plan. The cover letter (page 3) does not belong in the document; it can just be used as a release announcement for the plan.
3. There is no list of references; this should be added at the end of the document with all the references, citations, etc., that were used in the preparation of the document.
4. In several places (‘Letter’, pg 3, ‘Introduction’, pg 11, ‘Progress ...’”, page 16) it is asserted that Bellevue has a long history of individuals, organizations, and other parts of the City (??) working to protect and improve environmental quality. However, you fail to mention the obvious, namely, that the City staff and present and past City Councils have worked aggressively and continuously to degrade the City’s environment; an obvious example is the rezone of the Bel-Red area, a decision in which the City staff and Councils chose the alternative (more development) that had the most intense environmental impact. These

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kinds of inaccurate statements should be balanced with facts, not more hyperbole. The fact is that the City's development is controlled by internal and external oligarchies; and citizen participation in the City's governance is very low; this means that there is very little that citizens can, or are willing to do to reduce the negative impacts on the City's air, water, visual, sound, or thermal environments, and certainly they are more/less powerless to influence the City's dedication to the growth paradigm. The City's environment control plan needs to reflect these realities, not promulgate a plan that is full of glamorous generalities. 5. Remove all buzz words from the plan. Polysyllabic nouns like 'resilience', 'interconnectedness', 'sustainability', etc., only serve to decrease communication, not improve it. On page 19, it is asserted that 'Protecting and enhancing the environment is a core value for the City of Bellevue'. This statement is absurd, as is the balance of the first paragraph on this page. The chart on page 20 has text (below the chart) that refers to 'key stakeholders' as being interested in 'ambitious action,' committed to community, and having the city be a leader of bold action: how were the key stakeholders (apparently identified in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 outreach summaries) chosen, and what were the criteria used to select them? What is the specific source of the bulleted list on page 21? As part of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 surveys and workshops, were the participants provided, or did they provide, information on the cost of achieving the goals of the plan; if not, why not; and what would their responses be if 'cost' was a consideration in setting the plan's goals? On page 4 of the Phase one summary report, the paragraph ""Sustainability LeadersWorkshop"" ends with an uncompleted sentence. On page 4 of the Phase two summary report, there is mention of 'multiple focus groups' being held in March and May 2020: who were the participants in these focus groups, and what were the main topics discussed? There are many assertions in the Phase two report, with no references as to the sources; e.g., it is asserted that 'youth' are significantly aware that their generation will be affected by climate change: what is the source of this assertion? On page 6 of the Phase two summary it is stated that certain City staff met with the ESI team and 'outside experts' to review research and best practices: who were the 'outside experts', and what research and best practices were reviewed? On the same page, there is a tabulation of 'criteria' used to evaluate potential actions; one of the criteria was 'cost effectiveness': what was the source of the cost information, and what were the measures of effectiveness used in this evaluation? 6. Tables, such as the one on page 18 need references to the sources of the data used to construct the table; as presented, the table on page 18 is worthless. 7. Why did the City focus their information gathering for the plan on contact with Bellevue citizens and businesses; why wasn't more effort devoted to technical analysis, research, and cost estimating? 8. What is the basis for the numerical values and achievement time frames of the short-term and long-term targets in the tables shown on pages 28-31, and what analyses or reports are available for

public review to confirm their selection and time periods.? If such analyses and reports are available, their identity/source should be added to pages 28-31, or to the follow-on Strategies and Action pages in the plan for each of the strategy categories. 9. Delete pages 117, 118, and 123. 10. Expand the brief discussion on costs (page 120) to provide a 5-year budget estimate, and a reasonably detailed discussion of the source of funding (increased property and B&O taxes, increased utility rates, special levies, etc.). Either expand this section (pp 120-122) to include annual reporting on all 71 indicators, or reduce the number of indicators so that a full report on the indicators will be provided. Delete strategies C.1.5, M.1.2, M.3.1, M.3.2, E.1.1, E.1.3, E.2.2, E.3.1, E.2.2, E.2.3, N.3.1, N.4.2. Many of the balance of the 71 strategies cannot be evaluated, as the descriptions are too brief. And there is no indication of how department budgets will be affected by the tasks described. For example, the Community Development Department is “assigned” tasks in 26 of the 71 strategies: does this department have the budget and resources to carry out the work described/implied by the strategy descriptions; if not, will budget proposals be submitted for the 2021-2027 budget? When will these task descriptions be fleshed out so that readers can understand what is being proposed to be done, and when will the costs and schedules for doing the work be identified? Add a new section to require the formation of a citizen advisory group who will meet, say, 6 times per year to receive citizen comments, CoB staff reports, and have discussions on the ESI initiative. I hope that the ESI planning/monitoring efforts will include some discussion of the cost to implement the various strategies that will be followed to achieve the Plan’s goals/metrics. I urge you to consider adding some comments about cost in the final version of the Plan.

- Looking forward, I would like to comment on what the next step in this process should include. As we learned from the K4C period between 2014 and the present, aspirational goals are very hard to achieve. Serious research on developmental progress have shown this to be universally true. Aspirations and goals have to be integrated into regulations and requirements to be effective. An example at the state level is the Clean Energy Transition Act. Look at the massive impact this has on your Plan’s goals. Look at the effect the new building codes have on those goals. Similar regulation needs to take place at the city level as well that fill out the missing parts – like existing commercial and residential building HVAC equipment, for example. The science is clear, sources of all GHG emissions must be replaced with clean sources. The use of regulation allows these changes to be made economically if time is allowed for replacement of equipment on an end-of life basis. Owners need to know well ahead of time so they are not met with uncertainty or make poor choices when their equipment fails. Regulations that define the end-of-license date for fossil fuel equipment should be enacted soon so they have that time. Thank you

for the ESP and I would encourage you in 2021 to start development of the Transportation and Energy regulations that will allow us to accomplish it.

- Make the “Energy” section (covering energy and buildings) stronger: The graph on page 37 of the Plan shows that our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings. Together, these account for 47% of emissions. But when I look at the “Energy” section, I see a lot of “pilot programs,” “evaluating effectiveness,” and “reviewing opportunities.” I don’t see much in the way of strong action, which is what we need in order to meet our targets. See my other suggestions, below, for specific ways to strengthen this part of the Plan, or any element in the Plan that is worded as exploration, study, or assessing, rather than truly being about action. Include timeframes in steps oriented toward exploration: From what I see, there are a lot of steps that use verbs such as “assess,” “explore,” “study,” “pilot,” “consider,” or “review.” These steps point in a good direction, but are unlikely to move us as quickly as we need to move. To these, we need to add a phrase such as “Begin to act on our findings no later than...” followed by a timeframe, such as “the summer of 2021” or “the beginning of 2022.” Move exploration-oriented steps toward action: Again, in the Plan, I notice a lot of verbs such as “assess,” “explore,” “study,” “pilot,” “consider,” or “review.” These make it sound as if we did not face an urgent timeline. We need actions, requirements, and/or regulations, of course with some time built in for residents and businesses to adjust and find their way into patterns of greater efficiency (which in many cases bring cost savings in the long run too). We can allow ourselves to be inspired by some of the well-known businesses in our area that are placing requirements on themselves. If they are recognizing the value of taking definite action as businesses, we can recognize that as a city. We don’t have to devise actions from scratch, of course, because we can draw on existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit, and other sources of lists and case studies. Exploration and study have already been done, all over the world, and they point at excellent ways to reduce emissions, increase jobs, increase resilience (that is, avoid the costs of catastrophe), and improve health. Let’s use what has already been learned and begin to move. Shorten the cycle for evaluation and update: The Plan says, on pages 120-121, that it will be “evaluated and updated on a five-year cycle.” I can understand that this might be a fairly ordinary way to approach a city plan. But we are not in an ordinary situation. For this plan, the ten-year mark (2030) is absolutely crucial. We know that the 10-year mark for reducing emissions by 50% is crucial, and we know that this is much faster than the 6.4% reduction of our past ~9 years. If we just try some evaluations and pilots, plus a limited number of actions, then circle back in 2025, what would we do if we were behind our targets? We almost certainly wouldn’t be able to catch up. That time would be lost, and our young people might well face life-threatening

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outcomes. So, as a basic process for this plan, we need to take a good look every year as our emissions data comes in, then ask ourselves whether we're on track for our targets. If not, take more action! A deeper evaluation at about 5 years is probably a good idea, but truly, waiting 5 years to make adjustments is just too long.

- I am a retired Bellevue resident, proud parent and grandparent. I appreciate this opportunity to comment and the hard work the Bellevue Council and Program Staff put into the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP). It covers important areas but I'm concerned the plan is not strong enough. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report of 2018 makes perfectly clear— we need to cut emissions by half by 2030 to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations. As the graph on page 37 of the ESP shows, our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings, which together account for 47% of emissions. Please strengthen the ESP, especially the "Energy" section, which addresses buildings, where nearly half of our GHG emissions emanate. In addition, please shorten the timeline for evaluation of the ESP from five years to one year. The ESP says, on pages 120-121, that it will be "evaluated and updated on a five-year cycle." This might make sense for other City plans, but for the ESP, the ten-year mark (2030) is critical. We have to reduce emissions much faster than the 6.4% reduction of our past ~9 years and waiting five years to evaluate is too long. If we discover in 2025 that we're behind our targets, we will not be able to recover and we will face life-threatening outcomes. We need to do an evaluation every year as our emissions data comes in, asking ourselves whether we are on track for our targets? If not, we must take immediate additional actions. A livable climate is essential for our future, especially for our young people, and the 2030 target is imperative. Please ensure that Bellevue proposes the required climate action in our Environmental Stewardship Plan.
- To Jennifer Ewing and the Bellevue City Council, I am a Bellevue City resident and a retired public school educator. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan which I found to be well organized and which covers a lot of important areas. However I am concerned that the plan is not strong enough. Bellevue must be willing to take on some crucial and very challenging targets. These targets such as a 50% emissions reduction by 2030 are not just 'nice to have'. The scientists who wrote the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report of 2018 made this very clear. We must aim for strong, leading-edge action in the Plan if we are to avoid a runaway climate change catastrophe that will continue for generations. This is particularly true in the 'Energy' section of the Stewardship Plan. As shown by your graph on page 37, our largest single sector of carbon emissions is from energy use in residential and commercial buildings, which together account for 47% of

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emissions. However, the 'Energy' section is light on clear action and relies heavily on "pilot programs" "evaluating effectiveness", and "reviewing opportunities". I am asking that this section of the plan be strengthened by adding timeframes to say when the evaluation/review must be complete and when action is to be started, as well as specifying the outcomes (ie how many green buildings or retrofits are being aimed for). Additionally, actions from existing lists, such as the lists from People for Climate Action, the King County Toolkit and other sources should be utilized. Finally, I encourage you to engage with volunteers who are committed to mitigating climate change, who have the time and the knowledge and the desire to work with you and help you to craft a plan that will meet these challenging goals. There are many in our community with expertise in the area of energy and buildings. Given tight budgets, engaging such volunteer expertise can make all the difference for the climate action work we must achieve.

- I do also appreciate the considerable work that City staff has done to prepare their draft Environmental Stewardship Plan update. To some extent, I see it as their effort to satisfy the Council. I also see that, to some extent, it attempts to satisfy the "will of the people". Unfortunately, the draft plan does neither satisfactorily. I say that because it has no action in it that can be categorized as "leading edge", despite a majority of the Council, and a majority of the public surveyed, having gone on record requesting staff to pursue that highest level of achievement. To refresh my memory, I've recently played the recording of the November 12th 2019 Council meeting at which City staff (Jennifer Ewing and Emile King) presented their outline of the ESP update, and asked for Council guidance on the plan's goals. (Of course, Council member Barksdale wasn't present because he hadn't yet officially been seated, but the rest of you were there.) Five of the six of you in that meeting asked City staff to move the ESP package more toward the upper or "Leading Edge" category of goals, where feasible. (Jennifer Robertson was the only one who did not encourage a push toward "Leading Edge".) I've also reviewed the public survey results that are summarized in the current draft ESP update. On average, about 70% of the public that responded in the various separate City surveys said that they wanted the City to pursue the highest or "Leading Edge" goals. However, in a recent meeting that Bellevue People for Climate Action members had with City staff, staff members admitted that there wasn't one action in the current draft ESP that they could categorize as "Leading Edge." In short, the draft plan hasn't yet risen to the level of achievement desired by the public or by a majority of the City Council. That said, the draft plan does address certain actions that are popular with the public in some regards. For example, there are several actions in the ESP draft directed toward green spaces and the tree canopy, which many folks have been calling for. Truth be known, however, science tells us that boosting the tree canopy in a city by a few percentage points, while

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aesthetically pleasing, doesn't have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One can therefore conclude that City staff responded to the popular aesthetic interest in trees, but didn't respond to the dominate call to target actions on the "leading edge" of climate action. So, the staff strategy seems to be this: satisfy a lot of people on the one hand, but ignore them on the other. This leads me to the question of a city's responsibility to study, plan and act to benefit the public good. Especially in cases of public health, the public often depends on the City to study and take actions that are in the public's best interest –without requiring a public survey and guidance on which specific detailed actions the City needs to take to reach the desired outcomes. There are many examples: Speed limits, traffic lights, street lights; Water system design and maintenance; Sewer system design and maintenance; Hygiene and health standards in public places; Building construction permitting and safety standards; Fire and emergency preparedness and emergency response; Garbage collection service; and Public safety policing. I bring up all of these City responsibilities because they are all public health and safety functions that require expertise, planning and execution of services that the public wants, but that the public typically lacks much detailed knowledge of how to plan and implement. Consequently, the City rarely asks for detailed public guidance on such functions. The end goal of achieving a high level of public health and safety is generally understood, and the public assumes that the City can gather the expertise to do what is needed to meet that end goal. There is only public outcry when the expected outcome isn't met. So, I ask you, why is planning and implementing actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions any different? The City has committed to a necessary GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030, without asking the public what the appropriate percentage should be. Presumably the City did this because reputable scientists are telling everyone in the world that this is the minimum percentage needed to prevent runaway climate catastrophe. In this instance, the City did the right thing and didn't ask the public what the emissions percentage target should be for 2030. King County and the City have explained to the public that this is what reputable scientists tell us is the needed outcome, so the public has accepted it. The City of Bellevue has, inappropriately, however, in this past year, asked the public if they want low, medium or high (i.e. "Leading Edge") climate and environment actions --as if there is a choice to meet the 2030 emissions reduction commitment. Thankfully, a majority of the public has responded correctly that they want the City to reach the highest level –i.e. "Leading Edge". Then, the City has gone even further and asked the public to tell them what actions the City should take, as if the general public knows enough to guide the City to achieve the emissions commitment they have made. I call that avoidance of the City's public responsibility. This makes about as much sense as the City asking the public what level of emergency response service they want in their neighborhood –low, medium or high? And then asking the public how many

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and what type of fire engines and ambulances are needed and where to locate them. That's not responsible government! I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY EDUCATED ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM AND ITS MANY NEEDED SOLUTIONS. THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO, IN EFFECT, RECOMMEND THE SOLUTIONS THEY WANT TO SEE. THE CITY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO STUDY, PLAN AND EXECUTE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD. THE CITY DOES NEED TO DETERMINE THAT, AND THEN EXPLAIN HOW THE NECESSARY PLAN IS NEEDED FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD, SO THAT IT IS UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED. In short, coming out of the gate, the City has the wrong approach to the climate action planning process. The City seems to be avoiding its regular and common responsibility to determine what is needed for the public good, and then responsibly explain the plan to the public, rather than ask the public for guidance. While the general public hasn't yet climbed very far up the climate actions learning curve, there are a few folks here in town who have already climbed pretty high. I know several of these personally, and I'm confident that there are enough to make up a good advisory committee. It would be very smart for the City to tap this inexpensive resource made up of people who would likely donate most or all of their time for the public good in order to cut our community greenhouse gases. I'd be very happy to help round up a Climate Advisory Council (or whatever name you might prefer), to help the City shape the ES Plan into a strong and reliable roadmap to achieve the 50% Greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030. Just let me know, and I'll offer up names and contact information. In closing, I'm sure that I'm not alone in appreciating that a majority of the Council has voiced interest in a strong plan with "Leading Edge" aspects. However, based upon discussions PCA members have had with City staff, it appears that a clearer direction from Council to City staff is needed if we are to get a strong plan. The current draft ESP will not achieve the 50% GHG emissions reduction by 2030 that the Council recently recommitted to achieving. Also, the ESP draft has nothing in it that is "Leading edge." In particular, right now, the draft ES plan is nearly silent on actions needed to reduce GHG emissions in our existing building stock. Charts on the City's website show that existing buildings are responsible for half of our GHG emissions today. So, we can't possibly hit the 50% emissions reduction target in just ten years, if we don't rapidly tackle the huge GHG emissions associated with existing buildings. (By the way, Washington cities have the power and capacity to tackle existing buildings. In some parts of the country, cities have already implemented actions that mandate improvements in their existing buildings stock.) While the draft ES Plan shows a lot of work has been done by City staff, it's potential impact on GHG emissions is, nevertheless, weak. A clear direction from the Council is needed to strengthen it. If a unanimous consensus cannot be reached to deliver that message, then a Council majority voice must speak up and deliver it. We

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can't let a restrained minority view, if one is ever voiced, hold up what the majority knows is necessary to protect our future collective health and economic well-being. We need a much stronger plan. PLEASE STAND UP FOR WHAT IS NOT ONLY RIGHT, BUT URGENTLY NECESSARY!

- The summary on page 8, 3d paragraph, describes Bellevue's aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by mid-century as "drastic". This could strike readers as unrealistic or too expensive. A better way to describe the goal would be "ambitious but realistic". Greenhouse Gas Reduction Page 9 refers to performing a climate vulnerability assessment and prioritizing investments in historically underserved and underrepresented communities. Some readers may wonder how much of a problem this is in Bellevue specifically. It sounds like a goal that comes from a wider metropolitan or countywide context. In that case maybe it should focus on participating in programs at that scale to improve GHG conditions in older communities near industrial or transportation-related sources of excessive emissions. Page 9 and page 41 address enhancing livability of Bellevue's neighborhoods by providing residents with easy access to a variety of mobility options, including especially amenities such as parks. Another land use that would encourage non-vehicular access would be small-scale, neighborhood-oriented retail uses. More residents including single-family should be able to walk to such districts, or at least have good bike access. Think cargo bikes, perhaps even electrified. There are very few if any such districts in Bellevue as presently zoned. Reference to the hoped-for 40% tree canopy sound like ideals that have been talked about in Bellevue for years, but typical tear-downs and re-builds make this laughable. Where the 'historic' 1950's-1970's lot development kept a lot of trees, the past couple of decades skin even tall 70-80- year old firs off and plant a few saplings. Unless the City is serious about changing this mind-set, the 40% tree canopy will have to be achieved mainly in parks and perhaps by subsidizing forest preservation and growth beyond city limits.
- Topic: Materials Management & Waste Regarding: Strategy M.W.1 – Improve Green Purchasing Practices and Sustainable Materials Management in City Operations& M.W.1.3 – Support vendor stewardship programs or partnerships for ongoing or bulk purchasesStrategyComment: Specifically, with regard to Strategy M.W.1.1., Green, Local Procurement, and in light of the new Washington State compost law regarding compost and use (RCW 43.19A.120), the city should prioritize utilizing compost, created from its own city, business and residential recycling programs, wherever possible in parks, landscaping projects, stormwater management and more. Prioritizing green purchasing around soils would also position the city to utilize the new (2020) King County Universal Compost contract which allows cities to secure favorable bulk pricing for soil needs and offers free technical training for city staff. Additionally, the new law regarding compost

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buy back (RCW 43.19A.130) is also important to consider, especially as the city seeks to divert more material to composting, through this plan. RCW 43.19A.120 stipulates that municipalities must consider whether compost products can be used in government-funded projects when planning or soliciting and reviewing bids. If compost products can be utilized in the project, city must do so, subject to a few exceptions. Both actions, the compost laws and the county's universal contract, make it easier for the City of Bellevue to support its own and the broader region's organics recycling and waste diversion goals by increasing its use of locally manufactured compost, created from its own municipal organics collection programs for residents and businesses. The City of Bellevue has a robust organics recycling program and this is a great opportunity to bring those materials back to the city to ensure a sustainable program.

Topic: Materials Management & Waste

Comment: Regarding waste diversion, it is important that the City of Bellevue consider and address contamination at the curbside. When the recycling or compost cart are contaminated with things that cannot be recycled or composted respectively, those materials are not truly diverted and still wind up in the landfill. But when that garbage is placed in the wrong container (either the recycling container or organics cart), a great deal of labor and direct cost is spent by processors to remove those materials, sort them, and pay for their disposal.

Topic: Materials Management & Waste Regarding: True Cost of Garbage Collection, Recycling & Composting

Comment: By embedding the costs of recycling and composting into garbage rates, the City of Bellevue, Bellevue businesses and Bellevue residents do not know the true cost of those three distinctly unique services. There are consequences of embedding the recycling and composting rates into the garbage rates that may not be immediately obvious to the city or its businesses and residents. They include:

- 1) Bundling rates, instead of showing the true cost of service, provides a huge barrier to entry for local, privately-held companies to bid against the large, national, publicly-traded hauling companies. It forces the proposer to estimate what the participation rates will be in order to propose costs, presenting the bidder with tremendous financial risk. The incumbent hauler holds a tremendous advantage with regard to knowing the current diversion rates, information not privy to a new bidder. This allows large, national, publicly traded firms to monopolize local contracts.
- 2) With embedded rates, contamination increases. As seen in a recent study published by Cascadia Consulting for the City of Issaquah, one of the most frequent contaminants in the organics stream is "bags of garbage" – people simply throwing additional garbage bags that don't fit into their garbage bin into the organics/compost cart. The "free" recycling and organics carts provided to residents and businesses in Bellevue disincentivize parties from rightsizing their garbage container to match their garbage volume and effectively incentivizes them to use their "free" recycle and organics carts for leftover garbage. By showing the city, businesses and residents the true cost of each

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service, they can subscribe at the proper level for each service and ensure they keep each waste stream properly separated, avoiding contamination.3) This issue can be addressed by the city by, in any future RFP for waste services, requiring that the true cost of service be provided to the city, businesses and residents for each waste stream.Topic: Materials Management & Waste Regarding: Mandatory curbside organics collection proposalComment: If the curbside collection of organics becomes mandatory for residents, some mechanism for addressing contamination at the curbside needs to be in place by the city via the haulers such as a cart tagging program. When participation is mandatory, people sometimes are not invested in the program or its outcome and could be more likely to contaminate their bins with items that are not compostable, especially when the service is being offered for “free”.I would refer the City of Bellevue to the City of Kirkland’s cart tagging program which Waste Management, Kirkland’s current hauler, and the city collaborate on.Resources: Washington Organics Council Contamination Workgroup Report:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/585c2db75016e175c9d685b7/t/59932c0be4fcb58c9335fec5/1502817295485/Washington+State+Organics+Contamination+Reduction+Workgroup_FINAL.pdfTopic:(External link) 2050 Target – 80% GHG Emissions

ReductionComment: The City of Bellevue has an opportunity to bring its organics recycling program full circle and make the city more climate resilient by incorporating compost in its parks, roads and stormwater projects. The benefits are innumerable including opportunities to store carbon, filter toxins, reduceirrigation needs and add valuable nutrients to the soil. The city can do this at its new and existing parks, roads, culverts, bridges, and more.Additionally, the City can accomplish this by strictly enforcing the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Post Construction Soil Standard: BMP T5.13 – Post Construction Soil Quality and Depth:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/madcap/wq/2014SWMMWWinteractive/Content/Topics/Volum eV2014/VoIV%20Ch5%202014/VoIV%20Ch5-3%202014/VoIV%20Ch5-3-1%202014/VoIV%20BMPt513%202014.htm>By(External link) enforcing that standard,

especially on commercial and residential developments, the city will ensure it is using the best, most climate resilient, environmental practices and design standards as it relates to soil. Additionally, with State of Washington’s new compost law (RCW 43.19A.120), regarding compost procurement and use, and the King County Universal Compost Contract and its respective, free technical training for municipal staff, the city has great opportunities to leverage existing BMPs and programs to accomplish goals outlined in this sustainability plan. The City of Bellevue is doing great work in this space and there is always room to do more and have an even greater impact.Additionally, through stricter inspection and enforcement of projects, the city would see more compost use as projects strive to meet the existing post-construction soil standards and, in doing so, establish

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more robust end markets, protect waterways and natural habitats and manage stormwater; all key priorities articulated in this plan. Topic: Strategy N.3 – Improve natural stormwater retention systems and reduce water pollutions& N.3.1 – Stormwater Retrofit Comment: The city can utilize compost, generated from the City of Bellevue's organics collection program in green stormwater solutions, fish passage improvement projects and other low-impact design projects. Resource: Article from Stormwater magazine: Compost: The Sustainable Solution - <https://www.stormh2o.com/erosion-control/article/13024565/compost-the-sustainable-solution#:~:text=Compost%20is%20an%20incredibly%20versatile%20product%2C%20which%20provides,architects%2C%20public%20agencies%29%2C%20policy%20makers%2C%20and%20project%20The> (External link) Nature Conservancy & Washington State University: Solving Stormwater - <https://www.washingtonnature.org/cities/solvingstormwater> Soils (External link) for Salmon: <https://www.soilsforsalmon.org/Topic:> (External link) M.N.1.4 – Sustainable Landscaping Certifications& M.N.1.3 – Reduce pesticide and fertilizer impacts. Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use and impacts on city owned property. Comment: Ensure that WDOE post construction soil standards are incorporated. Perhaps consider other soil-related requirements such as stipulating that soils come from the city's own recycling programs to ensure a closed loop cycle. BMP T5.13 – Post Construction Soil Quality and Depth: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/madcap/wq/2014SWMMWWinteractive/Content/Topics/Volume2014/VolV%20Ch5%202014/VolV%20Ch5-3%202014/VolV%20Ch5-3-1%202014/VolV%20BMPT513%202014.htm> Another (External link) idea would be to build out rain gardens or food forests surrounding city properties to demonstrate to the city businesses and residents what can be done on their own properties or even at their apartments via a container garden to incorporate green design elements, contribute to the city's stormwater management, climate resilience and maybe even reduce their shopping trips by growing food in their yard or on their balcony. Topic: "The City will lead by example." Comment: All City of Bellevue councilmembers, staff, businesses and residents can have a positive impact on climate resilience in Bellevue by the choices they make every day. And some employees are uniquely positioned to have a positive impact, through the application of knowledge and best practices. For instance, with regard to mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration in soil, preserving water, preventing toxic runoff from entering local waterways, staff training on compost use, available through King County, could be very beneficial. Not only would individual staff members learn about climate friendly practices for tasks they are already doing in Bellevue parks and along Bellevue roads, but their awareness and knowledge will likely be shared with other City of Bellevue employees, businesses and residents, expanding the

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impact of that education and training, raising the city's collective awareness around climate. Resource: Composting in America Report: A Path to Eliminate Waste, Revitalize Soil and Tackle Global Warming: <https://uspirg.org/reports/usp/composting-america#:~:text=%20%20%201%20Require%20government%20projects%20to,community%20gardens%2C%20through%20grants%2C%20free%20advertising...%20More%20https://uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/USP%20Composting%20in%20America%20FINAL.pdf>[Refer(External link) to page 17, Create Markets for Compost: "...cities and towns should also buy back locally-produced compost for use in public projects or to distribute to residents, community gardens or other local projects.¹⁵³ To achieve this, some municipalities require agencies to use local compost in their public works projects.¹⁵⁴ This helps create steady demand for the compost produced at local composting facilities and also helps ensure governments and their contractors use environmentally friendly practices. Cities can also require residents and businesses to use compost in landscaping renovations or large projects. This is done by more than 10 Colorado communities as a way to promote water conservation, but also has the additional benefit of stimulating compost demand.

- I'd like to echo some of the other comments on here that while studying, reflecting, and assessing are of course crucial steps, they must quickly be followed by concrete actions, and this principle could be better reflected in the Plan. In the goals, strategies, and actions for municipal operations, I love how you are first focusing on reducing your operational impact, such as by purchasing renewable energy, developing a green fleet, and improving the City's buildings. However, until you are able to reach zero operational emissions (which I assume won't be for a while), best practice seems to suggest that you purchase high-quality carbon offsets for your remaining emissions (<https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/reports/Oxford-Offsetting-Principles-2020.pdf>(External link)). Obviously carbon offsets aren't perfect and don't exonerate the emitter, but it's certainly much more responsible for the City to offset your remaining carbon footprint than to not offset it, and in all likelihood, it will not be very expensive at all (high-quality offsets are around \$15 per ton of CO₂). Offsetting remaining emissions is increasingly seen as a non-optional responsibility for jurisdictions and organizations who are able to take it on. So I would really encourage that you at least consider purchasing carbon offsets from rigorous certified offset projects, like those offered by Gold Standard, so that the City's operation's can lead by example in terms of best-practice sustainability (and, by some definitions, that would even make the City's operations carbon-neutral). In item M.C.1.2, I would encourage you to consider including in your trainings ways that employees can take sustainable action in the workplace, and one of those actions that would be great to mention in the trainings is using Ecosia as a default search engine (45 searches on Ecosia plants one tree, on average). Or, even better, the City of Bellevue

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could make Ecosia the default search engine across the City's operational network (while of course still allowing individual employees to set Google as their personal default if they so choose). If you look into it, I think you'll find that this would actually be quite quantitatively impactful, even though it seems like a small switch. You can find out more here: <https://explore.ecosia.org/use-ecosia-at-work>

- Hello, I'm a Bellevue resident and a junior at Sammamish high school. While I think Bellevue's ESP is a step in the right direction, I don't believe it is strong enough. I believe that it is crucial for us to take bold action and strive to hit challenging targets. We need to take the entire plan one step higher, especially the Energy section, and make sure to take basic evaluations every year to really see where we are and where we need to make improvements. Thank you for all the work you've done so far on this and I can't wait to see where this goes!
- Dear Environmental Stewardship Plan Leaders, thank you so much for putting out this plan for the city of Bellevue and having citizens publicly review it. As a freshman at Newport High School, and one of Peter Donaldson's Sustainability Ambassadors, I believe that is crucial that we continue to push forward as a city and truly lead the world in sustainability. That said, I do immensely appreciate the work that the city has done so far, and especially like how the city is committed to achieving 100% renewable energy and 100% EV ownership by 2050. However, if we are to reach those goals, we must start now. Not in 2040, or 2030, or next year, but NOW. As shown by recent wildfires, climate change is beginning to reach a critical stage, and delaying action and effective climate change reduction to later years may mean the difference between a sustainable future or a runaway greenhouse effect that is beyond our control. We should be setting measurable and brave goals for the next few years, because in these next few years, if we are not on track for achieving goals for 2030 and beyond, we are setting up ourselves for a grim future. Thank you for committing to a clean and sustainable environment for all of us Bellevue residents and contributing to a more sustainable world for all people.
- I am very pleased with the amount of time and energy that has been devoted to the new Environmental Stewardship Plan. It is an impressive achievement. However, I'm concerned about some of the fuzzy and unaccountable goals that I found in this document. For example, the summary uses the word "explore" seven times, like "EXPLORE a single use plastic bag ban," or "EXPLORE the need for a city arborist." When we look back at this plan, it's pretty easy to clear that low bar. "Yes, we explored it, and now we're done!" Some of these goals are important and urgent. Let's do more than just explore; let's DO! Please remember, we are doing this to protect the health and quality of life for our children and many future generations. Bellevue is a smart city that leads in

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innovation, education, and respect for our natural resources. If Bellevue can't be bold, specific, and accountable, to what other city should the country look for leadership and inspiration? I urge our Environmental Stewardship staff and our council members to really stretch toward ambitious goals. We can do this! And if we fail to achieve every goal because they were set very high, that is preferable to setting the bar low and easily striding over it. That won't inspire our kids or anyone who expects Bellevue to excel in every way.

- I am a tree hugger. I like trees. I fully support the aims of the City to reduce its environmental impact. I understand that we need all the trees we have and I love that we have so many of them. And yet...I live next to a greenbelt with a seasonal stream. I cannot remove any bushes or trees on about 2/3 of my property. When I moved here twenty years ago, the trees were medium size. Now they are very tall. From my inquiry with the City, it is next to impossible for me to remove any trees (full environmental impact statement and the requirement to mitigate for any removed tree: there is no room on my property to mitigate for a single large tree let alone several.) Even when a tree is dangerous, it is very difficult and expensive to prove it. I just spent this morning cleaning up a single branch from one of the trees that broke in the last week's wind and that took out my neighbor's fence. No one was hurt but sooner or later someone may. The bottom line is that I would like to see a simpler process for determining whether a tree can be removed. I witnessed this already. In the greenbelt next to my property there are a number of trees. A few years back, there was one that looked unhealthy and was leaning towards the house. An arborist from the City came, examined it and decided on the spot what to do. But that was in a greenbelt administered by the City so it was easy. If I want to do anything in my property, I understand that I am to get my property surveyed and marked, get a private arborist to certify that a tree is dangerous, submit forms, pay fees... This is weeks of my time and, in my estimate, \$6 to \$10k before I find out if I can have the tree removed. I think you understand how this may not sit well with people and lead them to oppose otherwise excellent and praiseworthy environmental goals that the City has. Thank you for considering on how to meet the lofty goals and not leave people behind.
- Thank you so much for the work that has been put into this new Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan. As a high school student in Bellevue, global warming is one of the biggest crises that will have large, direct impacts on me. I am concerned that this plan is not strong enough-- there needs to be significantly ambitious goals, especially our actions in the "energy" section. Energy use in residential and commercial buildings is responsible for almost half of our emissions, but the actions proposed in this plan are relatively weak and the goals are quite vague. There is lots of language in this plan that is vague, and we must have quantifiable, measurable actions that are ambitious and cutting edge. Bellevue

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must be a leader in sustainability, and take large steps immediately. Additionally, out timeline for evaluations must be shortened-- there must be annual evaluations, to keep us on track. 2030 is the date by which we MUST have at least a 50% reduction in emissions. But now they are out of balance, because of GHG increase (nearly 50%) in the air that partially blocks the cooling radiation, thus causing the earth to warm. This imbalance is permanent and the resulting temperature increases perpetual unless we can start reducing the GHG already in the air. This means we have to get first to zero-net-emissions, then reduce existing GHG levels already in the air, in order to reverse this already runaway condition. We have a very narrow time window to accomplish this. Court Olson understands climate science. That is why he pushes so hard for you to take the leader's role in implementing the most aggressive climate action. I would encourage you to take his recommendations very seriously – they are measured, science-based, accurate, and wise and the future depends on them.

- People would drive less if there were corner stores. Residential zoning laws should be changed to allow more corner stores and other shops in residential areas, even (especially) with minimum parking. The entire idea of a residential neighborhood is outdated and destructive.
- I would like to see more concrete actions identified with a shorter time window for implementation on many of the initiatives contained in the Plan. There are too many "soft" action verbs used (i.e. study, propose, research). I realize that budgets and resources may be constrained, especially due to COVID impacts. To address that, I suggest Staff consider recruiting citizen volunteers to provide support and allow for more rapid implementation where appropriate. There is a lot of brain power and energy among the citizens of Bellevue. Tapping into this resource would go a long way towards achieving the goals set out in the Stewardship Plan as well as engaging the community to build grassroots support. I support all the goals, but would like to see more done.* We have a significant homeless population. There are many other reasons to address this problem, but the homeless have an outsized effect on the environment, and they (and all low-income residents) are benefited less by many of these proposals. There should be more goals that specifically address this population's needs.* More attention should be given to upgrading the existing infrastructure (buildings and homes). Reducing use of natural gas and supporting energy efficiency retrofits should not be a "longer term action"; these actions would have a more rapid impact, perhaps at a lower cost than relying on the increased efficiency of new construction.* More EV charging stations are needed, but most charging stations I see are placed very close to the buildings served (which probably keeps their cost down). Unfortunately, they are usually in what would be prime locations for handicapped parking. Standards should be set that will prevent this.* Protection of

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open spaces and the tree canopy should be a more urgent priority. Also, I would like the terms used to be defined. Does a 40% tree canopy mean that 40% of Bellevue's land area is under a tree's canopy? And when a developer cuts down trees, are they required to plant trees that immediately balance the canopy lost, or are the new trees counted based on their coverage at maturity in 10-15 years? Thanks to all who have participated in this effort!

- This is my second input to the plan. It dawned on me after submitting my first input that I had not seen anything in the plan about costs, so I reread the plan and found that costs were indeed addressed. However, the costs are addressed with minimal if any detail such that it is not possible to make a value judgement as to what I would prefer, any of these proposed actions or parks, or public safety, or libraries, etc. Attaching an assessment of costs of each specific plan component does nothing to identify the potential total costs of the effort. Total cost of the effort yields tax increase estimates and that level of detail is critically important to any discussion of the plan. The sources of additional funding are indeed listed, but without any detail. I would recommend that you consider including in the plan some detail about how you will address the costs increases to the taxpayers. Many residents are living on fixed incomes and so additional tax burdens are significant to us. Of note, I just voted against funding for Harborview Medical Center's ballot proposition, not because I don't believe the things they want to do with the funds they are soliciting would improve our community, but because they didn't address in any detail how the \$1.7B would impact my annual tax bill. I cannot simply agree to pay for things without some detailed estimate of what it will mean to me in terms of taxes. There is no endless string of money readily available, we have to be able to make logical choices and to do so, Bellevue's plan needs to address the process of choosing between alternatives and what the Council believes is a reasonable bill to ask taxpayers to foot. I strongly recommend you spend a lot of time thinking about cost and cost-benefits and including a more detailed part of the plan addressing cost and taxing. As a taxpayer, it's easy to say I want our city to be leading edge in environment issues. It is another thing to pay for these initiatives. If you want support for your plan, then address the costs and increase taxes likely to follow implementation

Survey Comments

The Phase 3 survey had only one open-ended question where previous phases had open-ended questions on each section of the plan. The Phase 3 survey received 64 distinct comments on the following question: *Would you like to explain your answers further? Please provide any additional feedback*

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Survey comment analysis is provided in an additional appendix. Comments have not been corrected

- I am proud that my city is being so proactive in environmental stewardship. I want Bellevue to pursue its environmental stewardship goals as quickly as possible BUT not at a pace that is unreasonable in terms of prioritizing these goals always above other high-priority City goals. For example, I might prioritize monies for Covid-strapped local businesses, in the current term, even if those monies were earmarked for the Stewardship Plan.
- % reductions (for example, by 80%) while easy to communicate must also have specific targets published - what was the actual 2011 baseline? IS the reduction per capita or community wide - two graphs shown. If the headline target is this confused then what chance the other details?
- Almost every morning in downtown Bellevue there are a several leaf blowers running on the streets. They are extremely loud and pollute the air, as they are running on gasoline. Some of the people using them seem to be working for private ""landscaping"" companies, some seem to work for the city of Bellevue. The leaf blowers run on a schedule it seems, regardless of there being an actual need for them - there are no leaves to blow in the summer for instance, yet they're still on. Additionally, I often see various machinery in Bellevue Downtown Park that is used to cut the grass, blow stuff from one place to another, all powered by gas and there are mornings when the park smells more like a busy airport runway than a green nature place. My point is that equipment used to maintain green spaces and streets should not pollute the air and make noise because it defeats the purpose of having green spaces and is definitely not a sign of a city that cares about the environment. This should be regardless of whether the people who handle the equipment are employed by the city or by a private company. All this equipment should be electric.
- Although the overall plan is good, I see weak commitments and hedging words. For example, "explore" a single use plastic ban. Lots of wiggle room there. We want measurable, accountable goals, because our children's lives depend on us getting this right. We don't want to leave a terrible mess for them, and Bellevue is an innovative city, an educated city, a diverse city, and one that highly values our natural resources. We can do better than this plan, and we absolutely should.
- Bellevue has opportunities to be more aggressive in the areas, such as Eastgate and Wilburton, which are being re-zoned or designated for higher density. New building

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requirements should include those which eliminate the need for natural gas and emphasize use of renewable power sources.

- Bellevue must move towards being a model city of sustainability rapidly. The climate crisis is one of the largest crises we face, and we need to take drastic, ambitious actions immediately.
- Bellevue should take the current opportunity to establish as a model city of the future. One that balances a strong economy with quality of life. People want to put down roots in places that have a vision to the future and we all know after a season of fires and viruses that have changed our perspectives going forward things have to change. There really is no future vision with out focus on sustainability. Sustainability cannot fully succeed without thoughtful planning. Bellevue has approached their plan inclusively and the draft is looking good. Leaders will emerge - let us be on the forefront!
- Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship plan sets ambitious targets that, if achieved, will make Bellevue a national leader in sustainability. Bellevue has the capabilities and resources to achieve these goals and should move to implement them as quickly as possible. As more and more individuals, organizations, and businesses seek to make themselves carbon neutral/negative, they will seek to make a home in cities that share those goals. The faster that Bellevue can achieve those outcomes, the better it will be able to compete for future residents and jobs.
- City's environment plan is so focused on Global warming with some lofty goals. How about reduction of other carcinogens from daily use ? It also seems to miss at the least a few lower hanging fruits. While 100% electrification is a wonderful goal to have, making ICE vehicles spend less time idling in congested roads will also save on a lot of emissions including toxic pollutants. My neighborhood is opposed to increasing density because of traffic congestion at the exit points during peak commute hours. Increased density. As the crow flies I live 4 miles away from Bellevue downtown it takes 40 minutes by bus Faster Transit options will also help reduce congestion. Reducing stop signs and traffic lights where feasible replace other flow control devices will also reduce low intensity long term carcinogenic emissions. For example some of our freeway crossings could benefit from the use of Divergent diamond with stops vehicles fewer times.
- Cost is a big factor. By implementing this plan the city should keep in mind the impact of the cost and tax on the residents!
- Council must commit to specific, measurable goals. It will be hard, but the climate crisis will be harder. Does Bellevue want to say it's a leader or actually lead?

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- I applaud this effort. Climate change is real and every city on the planet needs to take bold action.
- I did not see two vital ingredients. Residential solar energy has stalled. The payback is longer than the average homeowner stays in their property. Money is cheap right now. Long term low payment city backed loans would solve this problem. Secondly affordable housing. Many older properties have yards large enough for mini houses but do not have 14000 sq ft lots. While new homes are being built with the house virtually ffilling the lots. This is a stupid waste of space. Mini homes will create cheap rentals that are desperately needed in the area and will help the environment by removing some of the homeless from the streets.
- I don't know how to answer the first question because I TOTALLY support the work you are doing, and appreciate that you are trying to get our community to catch up to this crisis and make Bellevue a leader in future planning, but i want to be CLEAR that I believe the plan needs to be more aggressive!!
- I don't know the current rate of implementation. Maybe you mean the 2030 and 2050 dates. If so, then the current rate is okay. It is good to have a plan. Its mostly voluntary by residents and business. It will require attitude adjustment. Not much in the plan about residential natural gas curtailment. PSE offers incentives for some things. Heat pumps are good but cost more.
- I have already communicated with the Council my views on the ESS but I reaffirm that my and your children and grandchildren will look back on this exact point in time and ask ""why didn't we do everything we could"" to prevent or lessen the results of global warming. Already glacier melt tells us water supplies are going to disappear for many, snow pack loss will directly impact us in the NW, fires will become endemic, disease from heat and insects will be rampant, sea levels will rise and destroy coastlines and infrastructure, crops will become scarce due to drought and/or heat, ocean acidity kills that ecosystem, and the list goes on of course. If the City of Bellevue, with all its resources in people and money available does not lead now on this existential issue, who will? I want to be proud of the legacy I leave my descendants and others but can only do it through and active and competent governments at all levels.
- I listened to the last public meeting and was very impressed with how well it was run. I am glad that the city is remaining focused on issues that will everyone's future.
- I strongly support this plan and would like to see it implemented with fidelity!

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- I support expanding electric charging stations to support increasing electric car ownership. The expansion in particular needs to address the challenges with accessing charging stations faced by residents in multi family dwellings. Older buildings do not have charging stations creating an inconvenience and disincentive to convert to electric cars. The other concern relates to the limited number of Tesla supercharging stations. I am a Tesla owner in an older building in downtown Bellevue with no charging stations. I now drive to Fred Meyer in Issaquah or to Bothell to charge on a supercharger. The drive is worth it as I can charge my car in 1/2 hour while I grocery shop whereas if I used a standard EV charger it would take 5-6 hours. With standard EV chargers I would be fined for leaving my car connected to the charging station once my car is fully charged which is another reason to drive to Issaquah or Bothell. I recognize that these charging trips add more cars on the road and traffic congestion. Please give some thought to these practical considerations facing multi family residents as the city plans for the expansion of EV stations.
- I support sustainable energy development as it is our best option for future equity and prosperity. However, much in this plan is foolish and unnecessarily restrictive. For example, if I have a carbon free vehicle why would the City try to prescribe carpool or transit use? Much of Bellevue is suburban which makes transit infeasible at a large scale. Having more options for the dense downtown core is good, having forced plans for the entire City is not. This plan is too broad as well. It makes it less likely to be successful and therefore wastes the community's resources. If you really want to have an impact, focus on the three most high value efforts and give it your all on those. Your focused success in those areas will catalyze future action. Finally, please, please do not become Seattle. The City of Seattle is a disaster and not to be copied. It seems like a good deal of their rhetoric is creeping in to this plan.
- I think "no matter the cost" is a bit stronger than I would put it, but I do think Bellevue should be "very invested" as opposed to "moderately invested" I put "somewhat support" instead of "strongly support" because I feel that the plan could be stronger on the climate change mitigation side of things - the renewable energy goals are a great start, but perhaps more thought into how the gradual phase-out of natural gas will be supported in Bellevue would be nice, as well as perhaps other ways the City of Bellevue could support the transition to carbon neutrality from the consumption side of things in other sectors like agriculture and manufacturing (though I realize that it's harder for the City to impact those sectors than it is for the City to impact land use, energy, buildings, etc. that are more within the City's jurisdiction).

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- I think several of the goals are not compatible with the growing direction our city is taking with Amazon, Facebook, etc. To think we will have 100% electric vehicles by 2050 is absurd. People like their cars and we need to provide ample parking, as well. About M.2.4. I don't support increased funding. Our weather does not encourage bicycle use except in the spring and summer. Don't over-pave parks and take lanes of traffic away for bicycles that likely make up 2-5% of the way people commute in Bellevue year-round. If you want to encourage recycling and lower water and electric use, then implement timed incentives. For example, make it so that if you do your laundry late at night or early in the morning, your costs are less. Get people to think about the time of day they use resources and how to incentive that to get them to use it when it's less demanding for businesses. N.1.6. and M.N. 1.5 There is a beautiful tree canopy from 112th to 104th down NE 12th Street. To tear up those trees for 20 feet of concrete path proposed goes against this principle. It's one thing to say, "plant more trees" it's another to "PRESERVE the existing tree canopy" Do MORE of that in the core and surround neighborhoods of Bellevue. Don't let residents cut down old-growth trees on their property unless damaged. Right now 4 can be cut and those are a huge loss to our neighborhoods - the birds, squirrels and animals that nest in them. Also, with mobility goals, let there be more density closer to downtown. Stop the mega-homes and let people build cottage homes, add an ADU or build townhomes where it's now only single-family. Density reduces fuel consumption, encourages walking and puts people in more affordable places that are smaller and easier to afford.
- I think that because Bellevue has the resources and a strong economy, they can and should meet all of the goals by 2030. We shouldn't be "preparing for a changing climate" because it has been changing and this summer proved that we're too late already. We need to do more NOW, not in 30 years or in 10 years, NOW because how many more summers of having the world's 2nd worst aqi will it take to get more done NOW?
- I think the plan incorporates too many ""buzz words"" or phrases in popular use today. If you're going to use buzz words, then explain them. For example, environmental justice or social justice. You started with a definition of environmental justice, but it quickly fell apart when you referred to ensuring equity for communities involving people of color - where exactly are those communities in Bellevue? We live in a very diverse city with people of color integrated all of our areas (to my knowledge). When you speak of ensuring environmental justice for people of color in Bellevue, what exactly do you mean. I have people of Asian, Indian and Caucasian descent living in my neighborhood, in proportions to their percentage of our city population. To my knowledge, that is how it is throughout the city. So . . . what does environmental equity truly mean, how do you measure it or invest in it? I support everyone in the city being treated equitably and

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reaping the benefits of living in a wonderful city. We don't have a White Center or a Capital Hill in Bellevue, so when I look at the discussion I don't see a natural practical path to accomplishing whatever it is you want to accomplish. Environmentalism is not a one trick pony issue. You want to go 100% sustainable energy, but are you willing to accept energy blackouts (I'm not)? You say you want green energy and reference that we'll buy clean energy. Uhh, there isn't enough clean energy available to satisfy today's energy demand, especially throughout the winter. You'll end up importing energy from a natural gas or other carbon negative source and then feel good about your city. If you want to truly be 100% sustainable, you should identify where in the city are you going to site wind farms, massive solar cell farms and battery farms. And start to sell our population on accepting electrical blackouts as a common routine. Bottom line, environmentalism is a very complex topic that has many aspects. My assessment is that you are wanting to do good things, which I support, but without doing the truly difficult work or balancing the good with the bad, defining precisely what you mean by many of your phrases and demonstrating a willingness to push your vision beyond our city limits to find where the real resources (i.e., energy, money, etc) will come from to accomplish your vision. Nice try, your plan needs more practicality, an expanded viewpoint and to move to specific definitions that are identifiable, measurable and actionable.

- I want to make sure this plan "has teeth" - in the recent budget executive summary, the Environmental Stewardship program was described as "programming to support the community." I hope that city planning and transportation staff are made aware that this plan, if Bellevue is committed to meeting the goals set within, will fundamentally alter our planning and transportation paradigms to ensure that going forward, all development projects inherently account for impacts to the environment and climate change. I don't want this plan to just be another plan that allows the city to check off a box saying they cared but then not make the difficult decisions when it comes to actually implement the steps within it.
- I would caution against being pushed by activists into committing to expensive and impractical projects. California's recent experience with a rush to 100% renewable energy and the resulting rolling blackouts that resulted this summer should be a lesson for all of us. Just because some proposal makes us all feel good is not adequate. I also caution against a tendency to mandate changes that the public is too slow to adopt in the opinion of the activists. For example, a ban on single-use plastic bags is not well thought out. Personally, we repurpose every single plastic bag that we get and would waste energy and resources if we were forced to buy bags that we now use multiple times. More expensive paper bags really just means more resources were expended in making them. The least expensive item is a good measure of the most energy and resource efficient item to

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invest in. I am fully invested in recycling and efficiency, which do not require mandates, but could improve with the proper motivation.

- I would like to know of the programs or implementation specific to my neighborhood (Lake Hills/East Bellevue).
- I would like to see more actions taken and less studies and/or presentations.
- I would like to see the City solicit volunteers from the public to assist in implementing various aspects of the Environmental Stewardship Plan in a more accelerated timeframe.
- I'd love to see Weona Park have an entrance on the north side.
- I'm concerned that there is no assessment or explanation of the costs, and will bear the costs, for implementing this plan.
- I'm not sure this goes far enough or very far at all; it seems like more talk than action but I'd like to see us get started. The single use plastic ban is difficult but one of the things that will actually have an impact. Business waste is also an issue. I am very in favor of EV charging and solar infrastructure. Divesting PSE of fossil fuels (or pressuring them to do so) would also help.
- It doesn't feel like these solutions are proceeding fast enough to match the dangers of climate change. I especially think Bellevue should not encourage driving by making new roads or expanding current ones. Also I like the idea of neighborhood hubs that are within walking distance. We could/should encourage small businesses in those areas...not chain small businesses, but independent stores and shops that reflect the needs of that neighborhood. The nature of work and home life is changing rapidly - it was changing anyway, but Covid-19 is accelerating the change - and I think we need to create a city that accommodates - and enriches - a variety of lifestyles. Certainly the parks are a great positive so I'm glad that's part of the planning.
- It is essential that we act on all of these things quickly. Words are not enough. We've been talking about sustainability for too long. In my neighborhood trees are still being cut down to build giant mansion sized houses. We don't need that. We need that 40% cover. How can we achieve that if we're not protecting the neighborhood trees.
- It is past time that Bellevue become a sustainable city. We've already faced the struggles from unhealthy air due to climate change and we must do better to avoid future catastrophe.
- It's important to proceed cautiously and not throw the baby out with the bath water. Moving and implementing emerging technologies and alternative fuels or electricity

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needs to be done at the pace of its citizens and not forced into regulations that exceed the pocketbook or desire of constituents who are not prepared to financially absorb these costs and expenses. Focus on keeping your sights on a lawful society and maintaining our current infrastructure and law enforcement. All these green measures are very expensive and only utilized by a few but mandated to be paid for by all. We have had enough of taxation without representation and siphoning off tax dollars for these liberal unsustainable mandates.

- My level of support for the plan would be higher if it included more detailed metrics, as recommended by the recently-released King County SCAP. Bellevue's plan is very aspirational and includes a lot of "looking at" and "reviewing." We are out of time for this kind of "action." We need real changes on the ground and in people's lives if we're going to actually reduce carbon emissions. Let's get real numbers in here about the financial scope of an energy efficiency retrofit program, a target number for new EV infrastructure, and new solar generation capacity. I want to know what the timeline would be for mandating recycling/composting, what kind of pressure the City will be putting on PSE to fulfill its renewable energy obligations through CETA, and what other cities Bellevue will be modelling its transformation on."
- Please consider that the research and data available show that corporations produce the vast majority of waste, emissions, and other toxic pollution. Banning single-use plastic disproportionately affects disabled people who need single-use plastics for accessibility of food and water, while making *very little* impact whatsoever on the actual total plastic waste. An effective plan should target primarily the waste of corporations and other businesses in order to actually make a difference.
- Please differentiate the tree canopy of new tree canopy vs mature tree canopy. You are making out that tree canopy means removing mature trees and planting new plantlings which do not offer the same benefits. Are you counting how many trees have been removed, like for Sound Transit's Project, PSE, and WSDOT? Perhaps, you could let people know how many trees each of them removed. You see, you are just making it sound like you are wonderful and planting thousands of trees, but you are not telling us how many mature trees were removed for developments and these other agencies. Plus, the CDC has come out with guidelines for offices. Are the new buildings going to offer windows which open because that is what the CDC's guidance for offices is? "Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors if possible, and using fans." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/office-buildings.html> And what percentage of green space are the new buildings going to have in relation to the

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skyscrapers? And there is no mention of toxic herbicides. Is the City going to stop using them like Seattle and Tacoma? "

- Please do not allow GMO trees in the parks or anywhere. You mention planting trees, but please make sure they are not genetically engineered. ""Researchers at SUNY-ESF (State University of New York School of Environment and Forestry), in consultation with a retired Monsanto scientist, are working with the USDA to gain approval for the release of the first ever genetically engineered tree, an American Chestnut, into wild forests. In response, environmental, Indigenous, small farmer, human rights and forest protection groups, as well scientists, foresters and others are coming together with the Campaign to STOP GE Trees to oppose this unprecedented plan. In reality, the genetically engineered American chestnut tree will not restore the wild trees, it will replace them in a massive experiment with our forests.
- The city allowed PSE to remove 400 trees to upgrade their high-tension power lines when it would have only cost a few million dollars to bury those same lines. As "a city in a park" it's an absolute hippocracy and this Stewardship plan does nothing to limit this type of wanton deforestation.
- The city has other programs it has failed to follow through on. We've been yammering about improving neighborhoods for years, with NO action. What I see here is lots of taxes for limited results.
- The city should try to go beyond the 2050 80% reduction target to achieve carbon neutrality by this date.
- The draft plan seems to be more reactionary rather than proactive. It is extremely important that we take leading edge action in all possible spaces, with a priority on transportation and energy.
- The ESP actions are weak. 70+% of residents the city met with and surveyed want leading edge/bold actions and are not present in this plan. The Energy section does NOT address the buildings sector nor natural gas which is the single largest contributor to GHG. Leadership from City Council is weak and it is apparent the department heads are not stepping up. The residents want real actions that reduce GHG's from our City.
- The most important environmental stewardship that Bellevue can commit to, is to preserve the natural habitats we already have. Once lost, we cannot simply ""replace"" these wild spaces. I'm worried that with all the new development, Bellevue may not be dedicated to preserving these wild spaces, and the many animals / plants that live here. For example, there is a wetlands very close to downtown (across from the new Target

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complex), which houses many species, including a beaver family. Is Bellevue committed to preserving these habitats, or will we cave to the highest bidder? I hope we can make this a priority in the Environmental Stewardship Plan."

- the science shows temps for the last 2000 yrs in the archeologic record to be largely unchanged. we have popular opns in frt of science and are spending taxpayer money based upon that, while poor people on the eastside are not being helped. our priorities are out of whack
- The sustainability of our environment needed to have begun 10 years ago, we need to ply catch up starting now! Don't delay any longer!! The tree canopy needs to be much higher than 40%. I'd like to see 50% or more. And the rollout schedule needs to be faster. I think the city should have goals to plant ONLY PNW natives, and establish incentives for residents to do the same. A commitment to planting more large natives: Quercus Garryana (oak), Cedar, and Big Leaf Maple Allow for street-side trees-- the current 2'-3' strips are pathetic. Healthy trees need more allowances. It's time to cut into private property public easements, broaden sidewalks and planting strips, and get some trees planted! Provisions for forested pedestrian and bicycle bi-ways Too much emphasis on park-and-rides without guaranteed mass transit support. WASTE of money and energy to allow for park and rides when there is no feasible way to get around town. Making Bellevue a pedestrian-only town is NOT family friendly. Try satisfying a standard daily list of errands: grocery, post office, doctor, dentist, pharmacy, dry cleaner, preschool; during a cold rainy deluge (Oct-March!!) when you're a mom with 3 kids under the age of 6. Expecting Bellevue to mimic southern CA is TONE DEAF. We need parking spots close to amenities. Try taking a ""quick"" bus ride 2-3 miles across Bellevue with 3 kids in-tow. No such thing. You're alienating a HUGE population segment and it makes us moms angry. "
- There are some aspects that need further addressing. In her book, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Jane Jacobs strongly encourages the mixed use of districts. A park alone does not solve any problems if there is no activity or density in the vicinity. In the long run, a well designed street makes for a more sustainable street. There is more to sustainability than improving the ecosystem and lowering CO2 transmissions. There also needs to be a wider address to transportation and acknowledging lower income families and their needs. I highly support the transition to electric vehicles, however not all of us can afford to buy a new vehicle. Are you planning insentives, such as, tax reductions or kick backs, for electric car ownership? What other transportation options will be available? Like-wise, are you planning on giving insentives to home owners to improve the sustainable assets of their home, such as solar roofing materials, insulation, and other energy reducing improvements? New construction regulations? I would like to thank you

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for putting this together. I grew up in Bellevue and have spent the last 25 years living in Seattle. I am currently a grad student at the University of Washington, School of Built Environments, who is living back home with their parents during this pandemic. I would love to get more involved. "

- There is an important reason why I selected ""somewhat support"" in the first question. I don't think it goes far or fast enough. This is not my field of expertise, admittedly. But, I do have a deep care and interest for this topic and there are some things that jump out at me that didn't appear to be addressed. Building and maintaining the tree canopy. I have seen so many trees cut down in our own neighborhood (NE Bellevue) and all major routes. I saw, perhaps 4 cut down that were well over 100 feet tall, and took crews two days to remove. I saw an entire grove cut down on NE 8th. Shouldn't there be a community value on established growth? We need trees to survive and thrive if we want to. Also, the goal of increasing and protecting the canopy was noted, but no water source for increasing and maintaining trees. With drier conditions, we will need more solutions for maintaining and watering these trees. That is a factor I didn't see mentioned. I have worked with Chuck at Tree Sanctuary on Whidbey, and he is already changing the species of trees he plants, to prepare for drought. Seems to me that whether trees are on residential or community property, they should be cared for. Electric charging stations are awesome. Won't find an argument from me there! But, aren't we still on a 36% coal burning energy mix from PSE? I mean, I want to get solar panels before getting a car that plugs into electricity majority derived from coal burning. That is a head scratcher for me, why Bellevue's energy mix seems to be so far behind Seattle's. Love the Teslas, love the Leafs I see driving around. Hope to move to electric from my Hybrid someday too. But let's charge them responsibly. Let's push our contracts to go green. If Republic wants to keep collecting, awesome. Why not challenge them to a biodiesel fleet? Or open it up to a collector that will drive around 12 hours a day, 5 days a week that is willing to do it healthier. Household waste. Everything counts. It is incredibly hard to figure out where to recycle batteries, styrofoam, cling wrap etc. Why not partner with one of the subscription recycling services to support a station in each neighborhood to give us a place to recycle these items? I drove to the dump, to Republic, to goodwill. Looking for places to take stained clothes, styrofoam, left over wood etc. I probably polluted more, getting items to the right place! I am with you 100%. If you sent a survey with one step towards a better climate, I would give a standing ovation and support that one step. But, I would be remiss if I didn't share my continuing concerns and hopes to do more. Most people don't get involved in these types of things, but they do as they are told, or as rules dictate. Don't be hesitant to go far with this. My kids are 3 and 5 and I just don't know what world they

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will have when they are at the table, making decisions. Go for what you outlined. All the way. Then go further.

- There needs to be ambitious goals and drastic action implemented immediately.
- This is an important step for our city. Now that we are seeing the path, we must be proactive, and not let any fears or second thoughts stop our lead to become a clean and growing city. Please move assertively forward.
- This is not a serious report. It over emphasizes trendy topics and does not do anything for serious, core, profound change. I am extremely disappointed in the assessment. It does not deal with the immediate and horrific loss of the tree canopy. The timeline for tree replacement is too long. Plus most of the tree replacement in Bellevue has not replaced large shade canopy trees. It just puts up twigs that never grow tall and wide. Every school replacement, every apartment building has cut down old growth maples, oaks and young 30 foot maples and replaced them with service berry or other inadequate trees. It does not meaningfully address the needs of our older population and low income population. It does not address the over use of parks given the population increase. We need purchases of open space. While I support density, I would like to see low income housing made mandatory above shopping mall buildings, corporate buildings and schools. Imagine senior housing above elementary schools! You can do better. Electric cars are fine for those who can afford them. Will you subsidize them for low income workers? Retirees on fixed incomes? Nice to put in charging stations. Please don't put all of them in front of stores so that the mobility impaired (without handicap stickers) have to walk really far because all the stops in front of the store are reserved for charging stations! Check out Fred Meyer as an example. Put them at the end of the parking lot and save a few as dual purpose handicap electric charging stations. Why aren't building codes very strict for these high rise glass buildings? Everyone knows glass is a poor insulator. Why aren't there big budgets for energy savings for homeowners? Why isn't PG&E held to a higher standard to subsidize homeowner improvements through a local tax on their business? I pay local taxes on my phone bill! This is not a serious report. It over emphasizes trendy topics and does not do anything for serious, core, profound change.
- This plan feels too timid and is not addressing the issues that will effectively (and meaningfully) address the science based targets set by leading NGOs and the Paris Accord.
- To be an active senior and to be a part of the solution to implement a community plan.
- too much info not necessarily helpful, rather confusing keep it short and a minimum

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- Very important work! To be leaders in finding answers and implementing them in regards to the health of this planet is wonderful. I am proud that my city is working to do so. Not easy or cheap but must do work. Thanks.
- We are dangerously behind in environmental stewardship and need a rapid response to curtail this crisis.
- We don't have the time we think we do to address climate change. www.climateclock.world is a great reminder of the fierce urgency of now.
- We don't need to ruin our local economy like California. Stop this insanity and wasting my tax dollars on this green new deal! We don't want our City to be turned into a hell hole like San Fran, Oakland or LA. Enough of this environmental crap!
- We need to be bold, start now, set and example.
- What I'd like to know more about is how the city plans to work with some of the older apartment complexes to bring them more 'up to snuff', as it were. I do not own a home, but as an apartment resident, I'd like to know that we're not faffing things up for everyone else.
- Would like to see quick action on Mobility, city-owned Energy, and Materials Management & Waste, and at the same time continue to consider the financial burden to older residents and those with limited incomes with the additional strategies.

October 16, 2020

Re: Climate Solutions comments on Bellevue's Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

Climate Solutions thanks you for the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed update to Bellevue's Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan. Climate Solutions is a clean energy nonprofit organization working to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis. The Northwest has emerged as a hub of climate action, and Climate Solutions is at the center of the movement as a catalyst and advocate.

By passing the Environmental Stewardship Plan, the City of Bellevue has an opportunity to create a cleaner, safer, more livable, and more just community for its residents. Bellevue, like other Western Washington communities, is already seeing the impacts of higher temperatures, increased wildfires and smoke, greater exposure to droughts and decreases in snowpack, and more. Bellevue also has a responsibility help achieve Washington state's goals of reducing statewide emissions to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050, which will require significant reductions of the use of fossil fuels. These reductions need to be implemented in a way that will minimize the negative impacts to communities of color and other vulnerable communities, as well as ensuring that benefits from the City's actions are shared equitably. We have shared recommendations below on how to improve the plan's provisions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the buildings and transportation sectors.

We strongly urge the City to strengthen the provisions in the plan to reduce the use of fossil fuels in buildings and to move towards all-electric buildings in Bellevue. According to Bellevue's GHG emissions inventory¹, the use of fossil gas (also known as natural gas) to heat, cool, and power commercial and residential buildings currently accounts for more than 15% of Bellevue's GHG emissions. Fossil fuel use in buildings also increases indoor and outdoor air pollution. Fossil gas cooking appliances such as those used in many large multifamily buildings emit nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), ultrafine particles, and formaldehyde, which compromise indoor air quality². Living in a home with gas cooking increases a child's chance of developing asthma by 42%³. The COVID-19 pandemic heightens these risks, as small increases in exposure to PM 2.5 lead to a large

¹ Bellevue Environmental Performance Dashboard. https://city-of-bellevue.scope5.com/public_dashboard

² Dr. Yifang Zhu, Rachel Connolly, Dr. Yan Lin, Timothy Mathews, and Zemin Yang, "Effects of Residential Gas Appliances on Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality and Public Health in California," UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Sierra Club, April 2020, <https://ucla.app.box.com/s/xyzt8jc1ixnetiv0269qe704wu0ihif7>

³ Weiwei Lin, Bert Brunekreef, and Ulrike Gehring, "Meta-analysis of the effects of indoor nitrogen dioxide and gas cooking on asthma and wheeze in children," *International Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 42, Issue 6, December 2013, pages 1724-1737, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyt150>

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increase in the COVID-19 death rate⁴. These impacts are disproportionately felt by vulnerable communities: Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian people, as well as people with lower socioeconomic status, have higher risks of death from particle pollution⁵.

We suggest the following edits to the energy actions currently outlined in the plan:

- We urge the City to pass policies requiring that new building construction be all-electric, and pass these in the near term rather than in the long term. Jurisdictions around the country are already taking this action, including 35 cities in California who have passed all-electric building policies⁶, and there are Washington cities that are poised to do the same. Given the longevity of infrastructure, actions need to be taken in the near-term to ensure deep and longer-term emissions reduction. By introducing policies that mandate new buildings be constructed all-electric, the City will prevent the need for expensive retrofits down the line. Additionally, we urge the City to support legislative efforts at the state level to move towards electrification.
- We support the provision on green affordable housing and recommend that electrification be included as a green housing benchmark. If new affordable housing continues to be constructed with gas infrastructure, low-income residents will bear the highest burden of costs for rising gas prices down the line when most people have moved to electricity. Low-income customers are also eligible to receive energy assistance for electric utility bills through Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), a protection that does not exist for gas customers.
- We recommend that the City consider incentives to not only increase energy efficiency in existing buildings, but also for retrofits from fossil fuels space and water heating to electric heat pumps. Highly efficient heat pumps not only reduce energy use for heating but also include cooling benefits; as we sustain hotter temperatures and more wildfire smoke in our region, increasing air conditioning will be important to protect the health of Bellevue residents.

The transportation sector is Washington's largest source of GHG emissions, and it is also responsible for other toxic air pollution that damages our health. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency estimates that 1,100 Washingtonians die each year from outdoor air pollution.⁷ Reducing pollution from our transportation sector is both a climate and health imperative, and increasing access to clean travel options will greatly benefit community members. We support the plan's provisions on transportation to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and to support vehicle electrification, as both strategies are needed to decarbonize and are complementary of each other. Recent Climate Solutions research concluded that a combination of these two strategies is likely to reduce personal transportation costs by over \$4000 per year by 2050, including yielding as much as over \$600 million in annual health

⁴ Xiao Wu, Rachel C. Nethery, Benjamin M. Sabath, Danielle Braun, Francesca Dominici, "Exposure to air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States", medRxiv 2020.04.05.20054502, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.05.20054502>

⁵ American Lung Association, "State of the Air", 2020, <https://www.stateoftheair.org/assets/SOTA-2020.pdf>

⁶ Matt Gough, "California's City's Lead the Way to a Gas-Free Future", Sierra Club, <https://www.sierraclub.org/articles/2020/10/californias-cities-lead-way-gas-free-future>

⁷ Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, "Air Pollution & Your Health." <https://www.pscleanair.gov/161/Air-Pollution-Your-Health>

savings across Washington and Oregon. Residents should have the option to safely and conveniently get around without a personal vehicle, and all remaining vehicle travel (personal, transit, and freight) will need to be electrified to meet the city's emissions reduction goals.

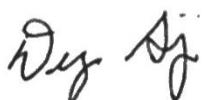
To meet these objectives, we recommend the following edits to the transportation actions in the plan:

- We strongly support an EV-readiness policy and would recommend that it is implemented as soon as possible. Buildings of all types that provide parking should be covered by this requirement—while existing state law covers some multi-family and commercial buildings, Bellevue can and should go beyond this minimum requirement. This low-cost policy is strategic to ensure that new construction includes parking accommodates future EV charging without the need for expensive retrofits. Access to convenient charging is a major concern when people consider buying an EV, and the majority of EV charging is done at home^{8,9}. Seattle has already passed such an ordinance and King County is considering one currently that would cover unincorporated parts of the county. Given that neighboring jurisdictions are already acting, it makes sense for Bellevue to do the same to ensure that new development is future-proofed.
- In addition to the Clean Fuel Standard, we recommend that Bellevue support implementation of the Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate that passed at the state level in 2020.

Finally, we strongly encourage the City to take these actions in close consultation with vulnerable populations such as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities and low-income communities to ensure that the plan is implemented equitably. We are glad to see planning measures to prioritize climate equity and conduct an environmental equity assessment, and we hope that outreach to BIPOC communities and low-income communities will be incorporated for every measure.

Climate Solutions urges Council to approve the Environmental Stewardship Plan with these edits, and to work on implementation measures that will engage the community and create significant cuts to Bellevue's GHG emissions. We would be happy to work with the City of Bellevue on any these actions.

Sincerely,



Deepa Sivarajan
Washington Policy Manager
Climate Solutions

⁸ Morning Consult, "For Widespread Adoption of Electric Vehicles, Many Roadblocks Ahead."

<https://morningconsult.com/2019/05/22/for-widespread-adoption-of-electric-vehicles-many-roadblocks-ahead/>

⁹ U.S. Department of Energy, "Charging at Home." <https://www.energy.gov/eere/electricvehicles/charging-home>



Puget Sound Energy
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October 16, 2020

Jennifer Ewing
Environmental Stewardship Program
City of Bellevue
450 110th Ave NE
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Dear Jennifer,

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is Washington State's oldest and largest privately-owned electric and natural gas utility. Today, PSE delivers safe, reliable and affordable energy to approximately 1.1 million electric customers and 840,000 natural gas customers across ten counties in Western and Central Washington. PSE's customers include residential, commercial, and industrial customers of all sizes. We strive to be our customers' clean energy partner of choice and we continually work with them to develop innovative ways to serve their energy needs and their environmental goals.

In 2019, PSE worked closely with the Washington State Legislature to develop the Clean Energy Transformation Act – one of the nation's most aggressive electric sector emissions reduction standards. When we publicly supported that Act, we made many commitments to our leaders and to our customers. We committed to providing Washington residents with coal-free power by the end of 2025; to meeting the aggressive new emissions reduction standards in a cost-conscious and equitable way; to working collaboratively with our State's leaders to reduce emissions in the transportation sector; and to studying new ways to generate and store the energy our customers need. We know that in order to meet those commitments, our company and our industry cannot do this alone.

Yet we also know that our customers and communities are living through unprecedented times with the COVID-19 pandemic and affordability challenges throughout the region. We have kept the well-being of our customers front of mind during the crisis, providing nearly 14,000 affected customers with \$7.7M in bill assistance through our Crisis-Affected Customer Assistance Program (CACAP). The funds are aimed to help customers who recently became unemployed, partially unemployed or cannot work due to COVID-19. PSE also

voluntarily ended customer disconnections in early March before there was a mandate and has extended payment plans and changed bill due dates to help customers in need.

Beyond supporting our customers through this difficult time, our mission today is deep decarbonization and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Our customers want clean energy and we are committed to working together to make this a reality. As part of this commitment we are actively working in a number of areas, including:

- Being an early leader in addressing climate change, investing billions in renewable resources and energy efficiency for homes and businesses;
- Working with our customers to save 67 billion electric kWh and 600 million natural gas therms through energy efficiency programs;
- Studying battery storage technology in a variety of scenarios, including the ability to provide wind and solar energy storage;
- Serving as the largest utility producer of renewable energy in the Pacific Northwest;
- Innovating to modernize the grid, helping customers save money and energy while improving reliability and reducing PSE's carbon footprint;
- Helping Washington address transportation, its single largest source of emissions, by investing in electric vehicles and the development of LNG for maritime and commercial transportation;
- A long history of operating hydroelectric power projects that provide clean energy to thousands of local homes and businesses as well as obtaining multiple power purchase agreements for clean hydroelectric and wind power; and
- Creating ground-breaking renewable energy programs like Green Direct, which provides commercial and municipal customers the ability to purchase 100 percent of their energy from dedicated, local, renewable energy resources.

As PSE drives towards the clean energy future, we are mindful that our success will necessitate successful collaboration with partners—residential customers, commercial and industrial customers, state government, local governments and others. Through your climate planning process it is clear that you share many of the values that PSE and our customers hold. The draft plan contains many promising ideas that could help preserve our beautiful region for future generations to come.

Because we know that many of the draft measures if enacted will have far reaching implications and could have unintended consequences (such as leakage or equity challenges) for residents and PSE's customers, we strongly implore the council to insist on thorough evaluation of these proposals before consideration for further action by the council. At a high level, the costs, feasibility, and impacts should be closely studied to ensure that the outcomes match the intent and there are no unforeseen impacts. PSE looks forward to providing input as draft action items are discussed in more detail. Together, the City of Bellevue and PSE can

reduce emissions and keep energy reliable and affordable with a meaningful dialogue and thoughtful plan.

Please see PSE's comments on the draft plan below. As the electric provider in Bellevue, PSE looks forward to discussing these thoughts with you in more detail.

Energy Supply

Washington State not only has a long history of clean hydroelectric power generation, but it also has a history of being at the forefront of State-led climate actions, including being one of the first states to require carbon emissions reporting, establish a renewable portfolio standard and set carbon reduction goals; passing the Energy Independence Act which required renewable energy and energy efficiency, well ahead of many other states; and established one of the country's most strict carbon emission performance standards for natural gas electric generation; and most recently the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) which is the most aggressive state carbon laws in the country aimed at making the electric grid carbon free by 2030. The Energy Independence Act has driven the development of clean energy resources for more than a decade and the Clean Energy Transformation Act will continue to do so.

Given the regional nature of our energy grid, efforts to comply with statewide legislation involve a complex calculus of supply and demand alongside an unremitting focus on safety, reliability and costs. PSE is committed to carbon reduction – we supported the passage of the CETA legislation and continue to find ways for customers to reduce carbon. We also deeply value efficiency and achieving carbon reduction at lowest cost and feel that this is best accomplished through working together to maximize the value of low carbon resources across the state, region and country rather than a patchwork of different standards with jurisdictionally limited local carbon reduction regulation. A patchwork approach can add inefficiency, require continuous reconsideration of unintended consequences, and slow progress on something that is a far reaching global issue. Working together with common goals and common approaches will enable efficiency and greater carbon reduction at lower cost.

PSE welcomes participation and partnerships that align with the strategies we are continuing to develop in coordination with our external stakeholders. These partnerships include:

- Green Power Program
- Solar Choice
- Carbon Balance
- Green Direct
- Battery Storage Pilots
- Community Solar
- Net Metering

PSE will continue to expand these offerings and introduce new ones as we move down the path towards carbon-free electricity. We look forward to working with our community partners to ensure successful implementation of existing programs and to pilot new programs and technologies as they become available.

Direct Fuel Use in the Built Environment

Puget Sound Energy serves 840,000 customers with safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service. We also recognize that customers have choice in their energy services. Our region has become increasingly concerned about greenhouse gas emissions, and on our gas side of the business we have:

- Developed programs such as Carbon Balance, which allows customers to reduce their carbon footprint by purchasing third-party verified carbon offsets from local projects that work to reduce or capture greenhouse gases,
- Increased incentives for energy efficiency improvements that reduce building energy consumption,
- Planned for and acquired natural gas alternatives like Renewable Natural Gas and we are investigating other low carbon fuels such as hydrogen, and
- Committed to net zero methane leaks on our gas distribution system by 2022.

We support State efforts to increase the efficiency of buildings through House Bill 1257 and increased efficiency in buildings. We look forward to partnering on projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while meeting customer needs in a safe, reliable, and cost effective manner.

Fuel Switching

Puget Sound Energy recognizes that the path to maximizing the reduction of greenhouse gases requires creative and innovative thinking, and appreciate the opportunities we have had to work with our local government partners on these solutions.

When considering policies that affect customer choice in fuels, or incent customers to switch from one fuel, such as natural gas, propane, oil, and wood to another fuel, such as electricity, PSE asks that our partners continue to ensure that the following pieces of the equation are considered:

1. Does the change actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions? PSE is committed to meaningful and real greenhouse gas emissions reductions and works to deliver these reductions while avoiding leakage across administrative boundaries. Simply shifting emissions to another location does not actually reduce emissions.
2. Is there sufficient infrastructure available to support the fuel change? If not, how can it be developed? In promoting electricity as a fuel, the requirements and timing of

infrastructure needed to support the higher demand must be considered to ensure that change can be supported and reliability maintained. Also important to consider is the technology maturity and supply chain for the appliances and devices purchased and installed by customers.

3. What will the change cost be and who will bear those costs? Fuel switching decisions are made by individual homes and businesses. Full consideration of costs, including equipment, fuels, and infrastructure, as well as any policy design should be considered. If costs are not considered and policies carefully designed, benefits could fall to those who can most afford them while costs fall to those who cannot.
4. How will jobs be affected? Ensuring that there is adequate supply of skilled workers to support change, as well as providing for those workers who may be adversely affected by the change, must be considered to ensure sustainable policies.

Energy Use in the Built Environment

Puget Sound Energy has a long history of providing financial incentives, education, and technical assistance to help our residential, commercial, and industrial customers manage their energy consumption. Our investment in energy efficiency is good for our customers and our environment and we are committed to continuing to support all energy efficiency that is cost effective for our region. We recognize that each customer has unique needs which we hope to address through a suite of options ranging from appliance rebates to industrial strategic energy management. Existing programs that provide excellent opportunities for community/utility partnerships include:

- **Efficiency Boost** – Providing increased incentives for income-constrained customers
- **Single Family and Multi Family weatherization programs** – Providing incentives to retrofit homes to reduce energy consumption
- **Strategic Energy Management** – Providing technical assistance and financial incentives to help large customers manage their energy consumption across a portfolio of sites
- **Existing Building Commissioning** – Providing financial incentives to fine-tune building systems to maximize efficiency
- **Lighting rebates and grants** – Providing financial incentives for the design and installation of efficient lighting systems
- **Small Business Direct Install** – Providing free energy assessments and low-cost/no-cost upgrades to small businesses
- **New Construction programs** – Providing technical assistance and financial incentives for single family, multi family, and commercial new construction
- **Custom Grant programs** – Providing financial incentives for custom-designed energy efficiency projects in commercial and industrial buildings

Our programs encourage customers to go “beyond code” when choosing efficient equipment options or designing their buildings, and thus will change as codes become more stringent. Puget Sound Energy also invests in pilot programs to test new energy saving programs and technologies – a great opportunity for private/public partnerships. We look forward to continuing to partner and build on these programs in the future.

Distributed Resources

PSE welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Bellevue on development of distributed energy resources. Puget Sound Energy has worked with customers to install more than 10,000 net metered solar arrays, provided grants this year to 10 local organizations to install solar arrays on their facilities, and is piloting battery storage at several locations. When considering the addition of distributed resources for residential, commercial, or industrial customers PSE recommends that consideration be given to how any policies or programs are deployed to ensure reliability for all customers, as well as equitable participation. PSE will continue to be active in supporting and seeking distributed resources where they can cost-effectively support customer needs.

Electric Vehicles

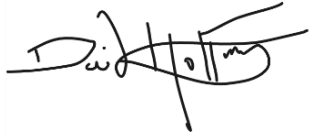
Puget Sound Energy supports the development of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for customer-owned electric vehicles. PSE had the first customer-facing electric vehicle program in Washington State and has continued to expand its electric vehicle program offerings over the past 6 years. Most recently, PSE has a public charging station in Lacey, with plans to add similar stations at several other locations in our service territory. PSE also supports personal charging stations and runs pilot programs to better understand the impact of EV charging on the electric grid. As more local government fleets and individuals invest in electric vehicles, PSE is proud to partner on the infrastructure to make these changes possible. PSE has also installed workplace charging stations in locations like Kenmore City Hall and Inglewood Shores Condominiums. PSE has also partnered with King County Metro to electrify its transit fleet.

Equity

During the historic COVID-19 pandemic, PSE suspended disconnections for nonpayment and waived deposits for new customers and all late fees. PSE also worked with customers to establish long-term payment arrangements for up to 18 months for residential customers, and 12 months for small commercial customers. In addition to payment arrangements, PSE is in the process of creating a new COVID-19 bill payment assistance program that goes beyond any existing local and federal assistance programs. PSE looks forward to working together with frontline communities on building a cleaner energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Bellevue’s Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan draft. We look forward to working with you and our customers to secure a clean energy future for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hoffman', enclosed within a dashed rectangular border.

David Hoffman

Local Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager

Puget Sound Energy