

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Strategic Plan Update

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

INFORMATION ONLY Staff will present an overview of the suggested environmental goals and potential targets for the ESI Strategic Plan and seek Council input.

RECOMMENDATION

Continue with the development of enhanced environmental goals and related targets for the ESI Strategic Plan Update and return to Council with recommendations for both enhanced and new goals with related targets.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The ESI formally began in 2007 with a mission *to implement continuous change, learning and innovation in practices that drive the organization and the City of Bellevue toward achieving the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Vision*. Over the last five years, the ESI's work has been guided by the ESI Strategic Plan 2013-2018. This plan contains 57 actions related to greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water, mobility and land use, ecosystems and open space, as well as materials management and waste which were written to both inform and impact our municipal operations and community.

Council's 2018-2020 Vision Priorities include priority #11 related to the ESI. It states: "*Review the progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the city may wish to take to achieve its environmental goals (e.g. tree canopy)*", (Priority #11).

The ESI Strategic Plan update is being developed in direct response to Priority 11. The following steps define staff's approach including tasks completed.

- Review progress with the ESI Strategic Plan Progress report (completed)
- Review the City's environmental goals and update as appropriate (May 20, 2019 Council presentation)
- Develop targets for each goal
- Analyze best practices and additional actions for consideration in an updated ESI plan
- Engage with residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on possible actions for the plan
- Develop a draft ESI Strategic Plan for public comment
- Finalize ESI Strategic Plan for adoption by Council

ESI Strategic Plan Update Process

On November 13, 2018, staff presented to Council on the scope and approach for updating the ESI Strategic Plan, along with the main focus areas for the plan, which include: climate change; energy; materials management and waste; mobility and land use; and natural systems. As presented on November 13, the updated ESI Strategic Plan will build on the current plan and existing efforts, and will be an action-oriented plan aimed at implementing existing environmental policies. In addition, through the plan update process, opportunities for new or updated goals and targets may be identified, for discussion and direction by Council. The planning process will seek to engage with a diverse group of residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders to foster broad community engagement and support for the plan. The planning process will also seek to build partnerships in the community to achieve the City's environmental goals.

Key Findings from ESI Progress Report – Progress Toward Goals

On February 19 staff presented to Council on progress toward achieving the City's environmental goals and on progress toward implementing the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan. Additional detail on the progress toward the goals can be found in the ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report (Attachment A), which summarizes progress toward Bellevue's environmental goals, key project highlights from the past five years, and provides an update on each of the actions in the ESI Strategic Plan and in some cases considerations for possible next steps. A key takeaway from the ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report is that the City's environmental goals are a mix of short-term and long-term goals, aspirational and more achievable goals, measurable and qualitative goals, and goals which are included in Council adopted plans or in other strategic plans.

On February 19, Council provided input to staff that they would like the City to take a step forward in its environmental work and have more information on strategies for advancing the City's efforts.

This interaction with Council is intended to:

- *Share current staff thinking on suggested goals and enhancements*
- *Provide insight on what comparable peer cities have instituted*

Tonight's presentation will seek Council input on the suggested environmental goals and example targets for the updated ESI Strategic Plan. The attached report, Initial Review of Environmental Goals and Targets (Attachment B), provides an analysis and rationale for each suggested goal, along with best practice example targets and recommended next steps. These goals and targets will set the framework for the strategies and actions in the updated ESI Strategic Plan, and help to further define actions for achieving the overarching environmental policy for each goal. Following this session, staff will approach Council once a draft suite of desired environmental goals and associated targets is developed with the support of a consultant, in October 2019. The selection and contracting process for this consultant will be completed in June. Our next session with Council will contain specific recommendations on desired targets, based on an analysis of related strategies and vetting via public outreach and engagement.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

This presentation addresses the implementation of several policies related to the ESI, as outlined below. This presentation also responds to Council's 2018-2020 priority #11 to review progress of the ESI and analyze additional steps that the City may take to achieve environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy). The updated ESI Strategic Plan will seek to further the implementation of the following policies:

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Environmental and Parks Elements:

The following key policy directives in the Comprehensive Plan's Environmental Element drive ESI's work.

- Promote and invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy resources as an alternative to non-renewable resources. (EN-4)
- Establish an achievable Citywide target and take corrective actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as reducing energy consumption and vehicle emissions and enhancing land use patterns to reduce vehicle dependency. (EN-6)
- Provide regional leadership on environmental issues that extend beyond Bellevue's boundaries and require regional cooperation. (EN-8)
- Work toward a Citywide tree canopy target of at least 40 percent canopy coverage that reflects our "City in a Park" character and maintain an action plan for meeting the target across multiple land use types including right-of way, public lands, and residential and commercial uses. (EN-12)
- Work with residents, businesses, and waste haulers to continue to improve percentage of waste diverted from landfill. (EN-17)
- Equitably distribute a variety of parks, community centers and other indoor and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the City. (PA-3)
- Make low impact development the preferred and commonly-used approach to site development to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff. (EN-46)
- Manage aquatic habitats, including shoreline and riparian (streamside) habitats, to preserve and enhance their natural functions of providing fish and wildlife habitat and protecting water quality. (EN-64)
- Manage Bellevue's forest resources, including street trees, formal plantings, and self-sustaining natural stands, to ensure their long term vitality. (PA-31)

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Transportation and Land Use Elements:

- Establish targets to increase the proportion of commute trips by modes other than driving alone. Periodically evaluate progress toward these targets and adjust programs and activities as needed to achieve the. (TR-8)
- Continue to ensure that the City as an employer sets a positive example by maintaining a comprehensive and effective transportation demand management program for its employees. (TR-12)

- Ensure that the transportation system infrastructure in Bellevue provides mobility options for all modes, and accommodates the mobility needs of everyone, including underserved populations. (TR-12)
- Promote a clear strategy for focusing the City's growth and development to the Downtown regional growth center and to other areas designated for compact, mixed use development served by a full range of transportation options. (LU-1)
- Promote the use of alternative fuels such as electricity and compressed natural gas and evaluate the use of such fuels for the City's vehicles. (EN-54)
- Support means to reduce transportation-source greenhouse gas emissions. (TR-140).

Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (Res. 7517)

Council agreed in February 2006 to strive to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets (7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012) for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in City operations and similar actions within our community.

King County Cities Climate Collaboration (Res. 8789)

Council joined the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) on August 4, 2014. The K4C is a partnership among thirteen cities and King County working collaboratively to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP), Environmental Element

Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25 percent by 2020, 50 percent by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050. Assuming 1 percent annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) by 2020, 5 MTCO_{2e}, and 1.5 MTCO_{2e} by 2050 (CPP EN-18).

Fiscal Impact

The 2019-2020 City budget includes \$310,000 to support the update and implementation of the ESI Strategic Plan.

OPTIONS

1. Continue with the development of enhanced environmental goals and related targets for the ESI Strategic Plan Update and return to Council with recommendations for both enhanced and new goals with related targets.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report
- B. Initial Review of Environmental Goals and Targets

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

ESI Strategic Plan 2013-2018