

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Environmental Stewardship Plan Update: Recommendations for goals and targets

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

DIRECTION

Staff seek direction from Council on the goals and targets for the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan and to engage with the relevant boards and commissions for the next phase of the plan development.

RECOMMENDATION

Proceed with developing the Environmental Stewardship Plan with strategies and actions to achieve the recommended goals and targets which align with the bold level of commitment.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

This section provides background, context, and a summary of the recommended goals and targets for the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan. A more detailed analysis of the potential targets for the plan is included in Attachment A: Recommended Goals and Targets Report.

Background

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

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)".

The 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan is being updated in direct response to Priority #11, and the new plan is referred to as the Environmental Stewardship Plan. The following steps define the City's approach to the update:

Phase 1:

- 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 (November 12, 2019 Council presentation)

Phase 2:

- Analyze best practices and additional actions for consideration in an updated Environmental Stewardship Plan
- Engage with residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on possible actions for the plan

Phase 3:

- Develop a draft Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment
- Finalize Environmental Stewardship Plan for adoption by the Council

Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

On November 13, 2018, staff presented to the Council the scope and approach for updating the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan, along with the main focus areas for the plan. These include: climate change; energy; materials management and waste; mobility and land use; and natural systems. As presented on November 13, the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan will build on the previous plan and existing efforts and will be an action-oriented plan aimed at implementing existing environmental policies. Council agreed with the proposed scope and schedule for the plan update. Through the plan update process, opportunities for new or updated goals and targets have been identified for discussion and direction by the Council.

On February 19 staff presented to the Council on the City's progress towards achieving environmental goals and implementation of the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan. A key takeaway was that the City of Bellevue's environmental goals are a mix of short-term and long-term goals, aspirational and achievable goals, measurable and qualitative goals, and goals from other Council adopted plans or strategic plans. In this presentation, Council was supportive of staff performing a review of the City's environmental goals and returning with options for updated goals and targets. On May 20, staff presented to the Council on the updated goals and examples targets for each focus area of the plan.

Council Input

On February 19 and May 20, the Council provided input to staff that they would like the City to take a step forward in its environmental efforts and to lead by example through municipal operations. Council reiterated the importance of setting goals and was interested in comparing our commitments to best practices and peer communities. Council also requested that the recommended goals and targets take into account the context of Bellevue and to understand how staff will use the feedback from the outreach and engagement process.

Analysis of Goals and Targets

To develop the recommended goals and targets for the plan, the staff team reviewed best practices, peer cities, and undertook an initial phase of public outreach with an online survey, community workshop, a workshop with sustainability leaders and stakeholders, and six pop-up events around the

City. The team also analyzed progress to date, forecasted trends, and the impact of any regional or statewide policies and efforts.

Based on this research, analysis, and community engagement, the potential targets were then organized into three levels of ambition:

- ▶ **Stretch** targets aim to place Bellevue on a slightly more aggressive path than historic and current trends.
- ▶ **Bold** targets are more ambitious than Bellevue's current pathway. They are consistent with many peer cities as well as with best practices.
- ▶ **Leading edge** targets are the most ambitious option and would align Bellevue with the most advanced cities around the world acting on climate change and sustainability.

Community Input

As part of the process of developing the goals and targets for the updated plan, staff performed an initial round of public outreach to gauge the public's priorities and desires for ambitious environmental commitments and action. Future outreach and engagement will focus on identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing possible strategies for achieving the goals and targets in the plan. The results of this initial round of outreach are summarized in Attachment B: Environmental Stewardship Plan Update: Phase 1 Outreach Summary.

This first phase of community engagement included an online survey which resulted in 385 responses, a community workshop with about 40 attendees, a sustainability leaders' and stakeholders workshop with about 25 representatives from Bellevue companies and institutions, and six pop-up events around Bellevue to talk to people about the plan update and have people take the survey.

Some key takeaways from the online survey include:

- 92 percent agree that Bellevue should be a leader in sustainability and environmental action.
- 87 percent agree or strongly agree that environmental stewardship is good for the health and livability of their community.

Seventy-nine percent of respondents support a "Bold" or "Leading Edge" level of commitment and approach to environmental stewardship:

- 48 percent of respondents support a "Leading Edge" approach.
- 31 percent of respondents support a "Bold" approach.

The response from the community workshop was similar to the survey response, in which the majority of participants wanted Bellevue to pursue bold or leading-edge targets for the plan. The sustainability leaders and stakeholders' workshop, which included representatives from the business community such as T-Mobile, Vulcan, and the Bellevue Downtown Association, also supported Bellevue being a leader in environmental stewardship and a number of the represented organizations have bold or leading-edge targets for climate, energy and waste.

Recommended Goals and Targets

The recommended goals and targets for Bellevue’s municipal operations and the community are summarized below. These targets represent the “Bold” level of ambition, aligning Bellevue with peer cities in the region and with best practices. These long-term aspirational targets will provide the framework for the Environmental Stewardship Plan. These recommended targets are considered aspirational, and not mandatory in nature, and they will be used to track progress over time. Also, as staff work to develop the strategies and actions for the plan, there may be an opportunity to adjust targets to achieve more or less ambitious goals based on the types of strategies developed and the level of effort required for implementation.

The target year is 2050 for communitywide goals, unless otherwise noted. Interim targets will also be developed as part of the plan update process, once the long-term targets are established. To lead by example, staff recommend a target year of 2040 for municipal operations, unless otherwise noted. This will allow for City staff to share strategies and achievements with the community to enable them to replicate successful projects.

Climate Change Recommendations

Goal: Reduce Bellevue’s greenhouse gas emissions and prepare and adapt to ongoing climate change impacts.

Scope	Target
Communitywide	▶ Reduce Bellevue’s communitywide greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050, compared to a 2011 baseline.
Municipal Operations	▶ Reduce Bellevue’s municipal operations greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2040, compared to a 2011 baseline.

Goal: Reduce the negative impacts from consumption and waste practices and strive towards zero waste of resources.

Scope	Target
Communitywide	▶ Achieve zero waste of resources by 2050.
Municipal Operations	▶ Achieve zero waste of resources in municipal operations by 2040.

Mobility & Land Use Recommendations

Goal: Minimize the environmental impacts of transportation and development in Bellevue by focusing development in growth centers and providing all residents with access to a variety of mobility options.

Scope	Target
Communitywide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Achieve a 45 percent commute-trip drive-alone rate for residents and people working in Bellevue by 2050.▶ Strive to have 50 percent electric vehicles registered in Bellevue by 2050.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reduce per capita vehicle miles travelled (VMT) by 50 percent by 2050, compared to a 2011 baseline. ▶ Support transit-oriented development and strive to achieve 85 percent of jobs and 65 percent of housing located within a ¼ mile of frequent transit (every 15 minutes or less) by 2050.
Municipal Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strive to achieve a 40 percent drive alone rate for City employees by 2040. ▶ Strive to electrify 75 percent of all light duty vehicles in Bellevue's fleet by 2040. ▶ Achieve a 30 percent fuel reduction from Bellevue's fleet.

Natural Systems Recommendations

Goal: Improve and preserve the integrity and health of Bellevue's natural systems and ensure all of Bellevue's residents have access to Bellevue's abundant natural resources.

Scope	Target
Communitywide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Achieve a 40 percent tree canopy by 2050. ▶ Ensure that 90 percent of Bellevue's residents live within 1/3 of a mile to a park, open space, or trail. ▶ Maintain and improve the health of Bellevue's streams¹.
Municipal Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Achieve a 10 percent reduction in water use in municipal operations. ▶ Achieve 80 percent of forest in healthy condition (class 1 or 2)².

Energy Recommendations

Goal: Ensure long-term access to clean energy while reducing the fiscal and environmental impacts of consumption.

Scope	Target
Communitywide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. ▶ Reduce energy use by 30 percent by 2050, compared to a 2011 baseline.
Municipal Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 for municipal operations. ▶ Reduce energy use from municipal operations by 40 percent by 2040.

¹ A target for stream health will be recommended in 2020, as part of the Watershed Management Plan currently under development.

² This target will likely need to be revised after the Parks and Community Services Department completes a forest health assessment in 2020, which will use an updated methodology for assessing forest health.

Next Steps

With direction from Council, staff will work on developing actions for the plan through an analysis of the impacts, costs, and benefits of various strategies and an iterative process involving outreach and engagement with residents and stakeholders. The team will analyze different pathways for achieving the targets, through potential strategies involving education, incentives, requirements, or code updates. Part of this process will also include engagement with boards and commissions, to seek their input on relevant strategies and actions with policy implications related to their purview. The ESI Core Team has identified an opportunity to engage with the following boards and commissions on policy issues related to the topics outlined below:

- Environmental Services Commission: Strategies for increasing recycling and waste diversion, increasing low impact development and stormwater management best management practices.
- Transportation Commission: Strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation through cleaner vehicles, cleaner fuels, and reducing vehicle miles traveled.
- Parks and Community Services Board: Tree canopy assessment and forest health assessment and restoration in Bellevue's parks, and long-term strategies for achieving the parks access goal.
- Planning Commission: Relationship between the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.
- Bellevue Diversity Advantage Network: Engaging with diverse communities and understanding any environmental concerns from Bellevue's historically underserved communities

The engagement with boards and commissions will support the advancement of existing policies and may involve discussion of potential new policies to support the achievement of the Environmental Stewardship Plan goals and targets. The engagement with the Bellevue Diversity Advantage Network presentation will focus on input on public outreach and engagement approaches with historically underrepresented communities for the plan update.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The recommended goals and targets serve to implement 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 Environmental Stewardship Plan will seek to further the implementation of the following policies:

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Environmental and Parks Elements:

The following policies 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 them. (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 17 partners 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 2019-2025 Capital Investment Program (CIP) includes \$310,000 to support the update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan in 2019 and the subsequent implementation of the plan starting in 2020.

In Phase 2 of the planning process, as part of the strategy development and implementation planning, cost implications of possible strategies will be analyzed.

OPTIONS

1. Proceed with developing the Environmental Stewardship Plan with strategies and actions to achieve the recommended goals and targets which align with the bold level of commitment.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Recommended Goals and Targets Report
- B. Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Phase 1 Outreach Summary

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan
ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report