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DATE: November 28, 2022

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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SUBJECT: Environmental Stewardship Initiative Quarterly Update

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This memo provides the fourth 2022 quarterly update to Council on the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan and includes highlights of implementation progress over the last quarter and a discussion of the partnership with the cities of Redmond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Issaquah to advance shared climate goals. Staff last presented to Council on July 18 with an update on plan implementation and the annual update on Bellevue's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and environmental performance metrics.

## **Background**

The 2021-2023 Council Vision & Priorities includes Priority #8: Implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan, which identifies actions in five focus areas:

- Climate change;
- Energy;
- Materials management and waste;
- Mobility and land use; and
- Natural systems.

The 2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan includes environmental goals and targets for 2030 and 2050, for both the community and City operations. The plan consists of a suite of actions aimed to improve the environment in the five focus areas noted above. The 78 actions in the plan are designed to help achieve the City's environmental goals to reduce GHG emissions, energy use, and vehicle miles travelled per person and increase recycling, tree canopy, walkable access to parks, renewable energy, and electric vehicle use. The municipal operations section of the plan maps out how the City will continue to lead by example in areas such as buying renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency at City facilities, and greening the City's fleet. The plan will help to preserve and enhance the natural environment, encourage transit-oriented development, and increase overall livability in Bellevue.

## **Council Direction**

As part of the adoption of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan on December 14, 2020, Council directed staff to provide quarterly updates on plan implementation progress. As part of the

quarterly updates, staff provide annual reporting on the environmental performance metrics during the summer update, and the other quarterly updates focus on progress towards implementing actions. Council directed staff to pursue and build partnerships to support the plan implementation, leverage the expertise of stakeholders and residents, seek innovative solutions and quick wins, lead by example, and move forward with urgency into plan implementation. In the adopted 2021-2022 City budget, Council included funding for enhanced engagement with stakeholders and residents, to support the plan implementation, along with supplemental funding for “quick wins” for the plan implementation.

### Progress Report

The Environmental Stewardship Plan covers a five-year implementation period from 2021-2025. Of the 78 actions in the Environmental Stewardship Plan, the primary departments working on the plan implementation (Community Development, Finance and Asset Management, Development Services, Parks & Community Services, Transportation, and Utilities) have initiated 33 of the actions and incorporated 26 into ongoing operations less than two years into the five-year implementation program. Fifteen actions have not started yet, and four actions are complete, as shown in Table 1 and Attachment A: Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress October 2022. The Environmental Stewardship Plan includes a timeframe for each action, which outlines when the remaining actions are anticipated to be initiated.

**Table 1: Summary of Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation Progress**

Status	# of Actions	Description	%
<b>Started</b>	33	Work has started / implementation is partially complete	42%
<b>Ongoing</b>	26	Work has been incorporated into ongoing operations	33%
<b>Complete</b>	4	Work has been completed	5%
<b>Not started</b>	15	Work has not begun	19%
<b>Barrier</b>	0	Need to re-strategize approach. There is a barrier to implementing the action.	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>		

Since the last Council update on July 18, the departments charged with implementing the plan have initiated the following action: C1.1 Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Perform a climate vulnerability assessment to understand long-term risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change and identify next steps in terms of enhancing resiliency. Staff have also made progress on the actions highlighted below.

### Accomplishments

The key accomplishments from July 2022 – October 2022, include:

Community Actions:

- *Clean Buildings Act Technical Support program*: Enrolled 174 buildings in the program and completed 97 energy benchmarks and have another 77 in progress. The team has

completed five building scoping assessments and has another 25 in progress and is assisting 10 buildings in applying for Washington State Department of Commerce Clean Buildings Act Early Adopter Incentives.

- *Home Energy Retrofit program:* Launched the Energy Smart Eastside heat pump campaign in partnership with Redmond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Issaquah and held five program webinars with other 400 participants. Received a \$650,000 grant from the Washington State University Community Energy Efficiency Program for the Eastside cities, to provide incentives to low-income residents for heat pump installations.
- *Building Codes:* Bellevue signed on to a King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) letter to the Washington State Building Code Council, supporting the energy efficiency proposals for the updates to the Residential Building Code.
- *Air Quality and Planning Guidelines project:* Conducted research on the impacts of vehicle emissions on air quality in proximity to freeways and best practices for land use planning and near freeways, to help inform the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and the Wilburton Vision Implementation.
- *Enhanced Engagement:* Convened the Sustainability Leaders Group in September and held working group meetings on commercial and residential energy efficiency, to support the development and implementation of the Clean Buildings Incentive Program and Home Energy Retrofit program. Held a Community Townhall on July 14 to update residents on plan implementation progress and environmental performance metrics.
- *Tree Giveaway:* Completed the second annual Trees for Bellevue Tree Giveaway in October and distributed 1,000 trees to Bellevue residents and community organizations, with support from a \$35,000 grant from Amazon.
- *Climate Vulnerability Assessment:* Staff launched the Climate Vulnerability Assessment project as part of the Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Statement and received a grant for \$79,000 from the Department of Commerce Growth Management Act Early Climate Planning program to support this work.
- *Decreasing waste at businesses and schools:* Bellevue Utilities has provided mini-grants for durable reusable serviceware for Bellevue businesses and has supported the Bellevue School District (BSD) in transitioning to all metal utensils at all BSD schools in Bellevue.

#### Municipal Operations:

- *EV charging infrastructure:* Submitted a Phase 1 grant application for the Department of Commerce Electrification of Transportation Systems program and will submit a Phase 2 application by the end of the year, for additional funding for electrical systems upgrades to support EV charging infrastructure.
- *Energy retrofits and Clean Buildings Act:* Performing facility audits and developing energy efficiency retrofit plans for City facilities to comply with the Clean Buildings Act. Submitted the Early Adopter Incentive application for the Bellevue Service Center to the Department of Commerce, for funding to support energy efficiency retrofits at the facility.
- *Fire Station Retrofits:* Completed the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning retrofit at Fire Station 2, which will eliminate natural gas use and reduce electricity use by 37 percent.

- *Electric Landscaping Equipment.* The Parks & Community Services Department is piloting new electric parks maintenance equipment.

### **Eastside Climate Partnership Interlocal Agreement**

Bellevue is developing an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Redmond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Issaquah to build upon the K4C ILA and allow for deeper collaboration between the five Eastside cities and the funding of a shared staff resource to manage the Energy Smart Eastside program.

### **Budget**

Increased funding for the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan is included in the City Manager's Preliminary Budget. Staff are working on finalizing plans for project implementation and staffing, pending the finalization and adoption of the 2023-2024 budget by Council.

### **Attachment**

A. Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress October 2022