

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Environmental Stewardship Initiative Quarterly Update

Michael Kattermann AICP, Department Director, 452-6191

Emil King AICP, Planning Director, 452-7223

Jennifer Ewing, Sustainability Manager, 452-6129

*Community Development Department*

Ana Hagerup, Resource Conservation Program Manager, 452-2729

*Finance & Asset Management Department*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

Tonight's Study Session will provide Council with an update on progress toward implementing the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan and an overview of 2023 Environmental Stewardship Initiative workplan.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

This presentation is the first of the 2023 quarterly updates to Council on the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan and includes highlights of implementation progress from 2022 and an overview of the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) workplan. The last ESI quarterly update to Council was on November 28, 2022 followed by a presentation to Council on the Eastside Climate Partnership Interlocal Agreement on January 9.

**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
- 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 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, energy use, and vehicle miles travelled per person and to 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 provides 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 2023-2024 City budget, Council increased the funding for the Environmental Stewardship Initiative to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan.

**Progress Report**

The Environmental Stewardship Plan covers a five-year implementation period from 2021-2025. The primary departments working on the plan implementation are Community Development, Finance & Asset Management, Development Services, Parks & Community Services, Transportation, and Utilities. Of the 78 actions in the Environmental Stewardship Plan, the primary departments have initiated 27, incorporated 33 into ongoing operations, and completed five, all in the first two years of the five-year implementation program. Staff plans to start work on the remaining thirteen actions during the remaining three years of the plan. Progress is also summarized in in Table 1 and Attachment A. The Environmental Stewardship Plan includes a timeframe for each action, which outlines when the remaining actions are anticipated to begin.

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

Status	# of Actions	Description	%
<b>Started</b>	27	Work has started / implementation is partially complete	35%
<b>Ongoing</b>	33	Work has been incorporated into ongoing operations	42%
<b>Complete</b>	5	Work has been completed	6%
<b>Not started</b>	13	Work has not begun	17%
<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, the departments charged with implementing the plan have initiated the following actions: C1.8. Functional plan in Comprehensive Plan, which is included in the scope of amendments for the periodic Comprehensive Plan update, and E.1.4. Green Affordable Housing. Staff have completed W.2.3 Assess Strategies, to evaluate additional strategies for reducing waste and

increasing recycling and organics collection. Staff have also made progress on the actions highlighted below.

## **Recap of 2022 Accomplishments and Milestones**

### Community Actions:

#### *Energy*

- *Clean Buildings Act Technical Support program:* Enrolled 174 buildings in the program and completed 105 energy benchmarks with another 69 in progress. The team has completed six building scoping assessments with another 13 in progress and is assisting 12 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 over 400 participants. Awarded 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. Applied for a \$1,000,000 Department of Commerce Building Electrification grant to provide additional funding for the Energy Smart Eastside program. Developed a partnership with the King County Housing Authority Weatherization Program to weatherize affordable housing properties on the Eastside, including Andrews Heights in Bellevue and other Imagine Housing properties in Phase 1.
- *Eastside Climate Partnership:* Council adopted the Eastside Climate Partnership Interlocal Agreement to facilitate deeper collaboration with the Eastside cities and enable the sharing of a new staff resource to manage the Energy Smart Eastside program.

#### *Climate and Air Quality*

- *Air Quality and Planning Guidelines project:* Completed the Air Quality and Land Use Planning report 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.
- *Climate Vulnerability Assessment:* Staff launched the Climate Vulnerability Assessment project as part of the Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Statement and received a grant for \$79k from the Department of Commerce Growth Management Act Early Climate Planning program to support this work.

#### *Engagement*

- *Enhanced Engagement:* Convened the Sustainability Leaders Group quarterly in 2022 and held several working group meetings on commercial energy efficiency, residential energy efficiency, and urban forestry. Held two resident Sustainability Townhalls in February and July 2022.
- *Community Climate Challenge:* Staff launched the Sustainable Bellevue Climate Challenge for Earth Day 2022, in collaboration with the cities of Redmond, Issaquah, and Mercer Island, to engage residents in taking action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Sixty-seven

households are currently participating in the Bellevue challenge, and the Eastside team will be launching another round of engagement in the first quarter of 2023.

### *Mobility and Land Use*

- *Mobility Implementation Plan:* The Mobility Implementation Plan was completed and adopted by Council on April 18. The Multimodal Concurrence Code and Implementation Guide was completed in 2022.
- *Curbside Management Plan:* Staff developed recommendations in support of curb management throughout 2022 and Council approved the curbside management policies in December 2022. The plan is anticipated to be adopted in mid-2023.

### *Natural Systems*

- *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.
- *Tree Code:* Council adopted the landmark tree permit requirement ordinance in June 2022 and launched the tree canopy code update last November.
- *Tree Canopy Assessment:* Completed a 2011 and 2019 Tree Canopy Assessment using the most current methods and imagery, resulting in a 2019 tree canopy of 39 percent.
- *Watershed Management Plan:* Completed Watershed Assessment Reports for four watersheds, assigned management strategies to all 19 sub-basins, and prioritized basins for improvements and restoration.
- *Parks and Open Space Plan and Parks Levy:* Council adopted the update to the Parks and Open Space System Plan in July and in November 2022 voters approved a nine year parks levy which will fund land acquisition, trail enhancement, and other open space goals.

### *Waste*

- *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 in transitioning to all metal utensils at all schools.

### Municipal Operations:

- *Department of Commerce Solar Grant:* Awarded \$100,000 in grant funding to install rooftop solar array at City Hall.
- *Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency Grant:* Awarded \$125,000 in grant funding and completed the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning retrofit at Fire Station 2, which will eliminate natural gas use and reduce electricity use by 33 percent annually
- *Building Energy Efficiency Retrofits:* Upgraded LED lighting at the Bellevue Service Center reducing energy use by 61 percent annually. Replaced HVAC system at Fire Station 2 reducing energy use by 63 percent annually. Initiated upgrades to building envelopes to improve energy efficiency at Fire Stations 1, 3, and 8.
- *Washington State Clean Buildings Act:* Completed assessment to determine if city-owned buildings are compliant with the State Clean Buildings Standard. Submitted an Early Adopter

Incentive application for the Bellevue Service Center to the Department of Commerce, for funding to support energy efficiency retrofits at the facility. Performing facility audits and developing energy efficiency plans for city facilities to comply with the State Clean Buildings Act.

- *Green Fleet:* Completed the Green Fleet Strategy and began planning and design for installation of EV charging infrastructure. Awarded a \$650,000 grant from the Department of Ecology for an electric fire apparatus.
- *Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:* Installed six charging ports in the lower lot of Bellevue Service Center to support EV charging for employee commuters.
- *Renewable Energy Turbine on Water Pump:* Installed a hydro microturbine on water system to generate electricity to power largest Newport Pumping Station.
- *Electric Landscaping Equipment:* The Parks & Community Services Department is piloting new electric equipment for park maintenance.

## **2023 Work Plan**

### **Community**

The 2023 efforts for implementing the community actions in the 2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan will be focused on scaling up existing programming launched in 2021 and 2022 and initiating new projects and programs. One of the first steps will be to hire additional new staff in Community Development to support the commercial energy, residential energy, climate change, outreach, urban forestry, and electric mobility efforts. Some key efforts planned for 2023 include:

1. Hire and onboard five new Environmental Stewardship positions in the Community Development Department.
2. With new staff resource, scale up existing programs, such as Energy Smart Eastside, the Clean Buildings Incentive Program, and the Bellevue Climate Challenge.
3. Perform an assessment for opportunities for a sustainable district in Wilburton, to complement the Wilburton Vision implementation.
4. Support the update of the Comprehensive Plan with further incorporation of climate change into the plan.
5. Develop an electric vehicle roadmap for community vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure and seek grant funding and partnerships to expand EV charging infrastructure and programming in Bellevue.
6. Promote the Inflation Reduction Act energy efficiency and solar incentives and identify opportunities to further leverage this federal investment to support Bellevue residents and businesses in reducing their emissions.

7. Complete the Climate Vulnerability Assessment and develop an implementation plan for increasing climate resiliency in Bellevue.
8. Develop a program to incentivize green building in affordable housing in Bellevue.
9. Undertake the tree regulations code update.
10. Develop a program to incentivize and support rooftop solar in Bellevue.
11. Develop program and strategy for improved air quality monitoring in Bellevue.

### **Municipal Operations**

City-owned buildings and the municipal fleet are the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions for city operations. The 2023 workplan for municipal operations involves preparing for large-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that support building and fleet electrification. In Q1 2023, the ESI team will focus on hiring a Sustainability Capital Projects Coordinator to manage project implementation across city-owned buildings. There is a significant amount of planning work to coordinate project scopes, engage stakeholders impacted, ensure compliance with Washington State mandates, and leverage State and Federal funding opportunities.

Bellevue Service Center is a top priority in 2023 because as an older facility it is operating below the Washington State Clean Building Standard and a significant portion of the light duty fleet is parked at that facility. The workplan will focus on City Hall in 2024 to develop engineering plans to provide electric vehicle service equipment for light duty vehicles parked at that location. Energy efficiency projects will continue to be rolled out at Fire Stations, including LED lighting and building envelope upgrades. The construction of Fire Station 5 and 10 are on schedule to be LEED Gold and Salmon Safe certified.

Below is a list of active sustainability projects to be implemented in 2023:

1. Hiring Sustainability Capital Projects Coordinator;
2. Conducting energy efficiency audit at Bellevue Service Center;
3. Planning, design, and improvements to expand solar array at Bellevue Service Center;
4. Developing engineering plans to deploy electric vehicle service equipment at Bellevue Service Center;
5. Upgrading lighting to more energy efficient LED lighting at City Hall;
6. Planning and design for the installation of a solar array on the City Hall rooftop;
7. Upgrading lighting to LEDs at five fire stations;
8. Redesigning City Hall plaza to conserve water and reduce energy use;
9. Constructing Fire Station 10 to achieve Salmon Safe and LEED Gold Certification (starting Q1 2023); and
10. Completing upgrades to building envelopes to improve energy efficiency at Fire Stations 1, 3, and 8.

Staff will continue to update Council quarterly and provide updates to the community through the Environmental Stewardship newsletter, biannual Environmental Stewardship townhall, and other project updates.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

#### 2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan, (Res. 9859, 2020)

- The Environmental Stewardship Plan was adopted on December 14, 2020 and includes updated environmental goals and targets and 78 actions for implementation over a five-year period, 2021-2025.

#### Bellevue City Council Vision and Priorities (2021-2023)

- 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
  - Natural systems

#### Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Climate Change Policies (2015)

- EN-6. 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-7. Develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies that create a more resilient community by addressing the impacts of climate change to public health and safety, the economy, public and private infrastructure, water resources, and habitat.
- EN-8. Provide regional leadership on environmental issues that extend beyond Bellevue's boundaries and require regional cooperation.
- TR-140. Support means to reduce transportation-source greenhouse gas emissions.

#### King County Cities Climate Collaboration (Res. 8789, 2014)

- Council joined the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) on August 4, 2014, by signing an Interlocal Agreement (Resolution 8798). K4C is a partnership among cities across King County working to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

#### K4C Joint Commitments (February 17, 2015 and September 14, 2020)

- Council voted to sign the original K4C Joint Commitments on February 17, 2015; and to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments on September 14, 2020, to reaffirm Bellevue's participation in the K4C and support for the regional countywide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The adopted 2023-2024 City Budget includes an additional \$500,000 in the ESI Operating budget to support the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan along with \$560,000 per year for 2023-2024 for implementing the plan in the ESI Implementation CIP budget.

## **OPTIONS**

1. N/A

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress, February 2023

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, 2021-2025.