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TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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SUBJECT: Environmental Stewardship Initiative Quarterly Update

This management brief is the fourth of the 2023 quarterly updates to Council on the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan and includes highlights of implementation progress over the last quarter. The last Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) quarterly update to Council was on September 11.

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 traveled 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 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 these 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 2023-2024 City budget, Council increased the funding to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan.

Progress Report

The plan covers a five-year implementation period from 2021-2025. The primary departments working on implementation include Community Development, Finance & Asset Management, Development Services, Parks & Community Services, Transportation, and Utilities. However, all departments have a role in supporting the implementation of the municipal operations actions. Of the 78 actions in the plan, the primary departments have initiated 25, incorporated 36 into ongoing operations, and completed seven to date. Staff plans to start work on the remaining ten actions during the remaining two years of the plan. Progress is summarized below in Table 1, and in Attachment A, which includes the percent complete for each action. The plan includes a timeframe for each action that outlines when the remaining actions are anticipated to begin.

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation Progress

Status	# of Actions	Description	%
Started	25	Work has started/implementation is partially complete.	32%
Ongoing	36	Work has been incorporated into ongoing operations.	46%
Complete	7	Work has been completed.	9%
Not started	10	Work has not begun.	13%
Barrier	0	Need to re-strategize approach. There is a barrier to implementing the action.	0%
Total	78		

Since the last Council update, staff completed action C.1.1 Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Attachment B) and presented the findings to the community and the Planning Commission. Staff initiated an analysis of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure code requirements (M.3.1 EV readiness), as part of the EV Roadmap project. Staff have also made progress on the actions highlighted below.

Accomplishments and Milestones, Third Quarter 2023

Community Actions:

Energy

- *Clean Buildings Act Technical Support program:* Enrolled 209 buildings in the program and completed 130 energy benchmarks with another 79 in progress. The team has completed 21 building scoping assessments and is assisting 13 buildings in applying for Washington State Department of Commerce Clean Buildings Act Early Adopter Incentives. Collaborated on a Clean Buildings Symposium on September 28 with the Cities of Issaquah, Redmond, and Kirkland along with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and MacDonald Miller, to educate commercial building owners and managers about the WA State Clean Buildings Act and opportunities to reduce energy use and leverage incentives.
- *Energy Smart Eastside:* Launched the fuel switch heat pump rebate program, to incentivize moderate-income households to install energy efficient heat pumps. Held a training for participating contractors to learn about the program and to promote home electrification. Coordinated with partner cities and organizations to review results of the initial pilot, improve processes, and establish the program foundation to enable future scaling.

Climate and Air Quality

- *Climate Vulnerability Assessment:* Completed the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Attachment B) and presented results at a Sustainable Bellevue Lunch & Learn and to the Planning Commission.
- *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant:* Supporting the development of a strategy and approach for the region to pursue the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Planning grants and to leverage this opportunity to help prepare for future implementation grants through this program in 2024.
- *GHG Emissions Inventory and Wedge Analysis:* Collaborated with the Eastside cities of Redmond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Issaquah to update greenhouse gas emissions inventories and Bellevue's "wedge analysis", which analyzes the impact of federal, state, and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Staff and consultants are finalizing the updated results, which will be shared in early 2024.
- *Climate Planning and Implementation:* Submitted a proposal to the Washington State Department of Commerce for \$295,000 through the Growth Management Act Climate Planning grant program to support planning for compliance with House Bill 1181: Incorporating Climate into Comprehensive Plans, the update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan, and other planning efforts to support building decarbonization and energy efficiency policies and programs, vehicle electrification, and climate resiliency. Results will be known by the end of 2023.

Engagement

- *Enhanced Engagement:* Held a Sustainable Bellevue Lunch & Learn on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment in October and a Sustainability Leaders Group

(SLG) meeting in November to present on plan implementation progress and to introduce the 2024 SLG working groups.

- *Community Climate Challenge*: Enrolled 144 households in the Bellevue Climate Challenge and re-launched the Team Leader program and provided an introductory webinar. Promoted the program at several events in Bellevue throughout the summer.

Mobility and Land Use

- *Sustainable District*: Solicited proposals from several firms and hired a consultant to perform a Sustainable District Opportunity Assessment and develop Urban Design Guidelines for the Wilburton Vision Implementation.
- *Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (CPPU)*: Reviewed existing climate and sustainability policies, best practices, and guidance from the Washington State Department of Commerce to further incorporate climate and sustainability into the CPPU.
- *Electric Vehicle Roadmap*: Finalized the scope of work and contract with a consultant to develop an EV Roadmap for Bellevue, with recommendations on strategies to support and prepare for the electric vehicle transition in Bellevue. The planning process will help identify locations for EV charging infrastructure for state and federal grants.
- *Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure*: Submitted a joint Washington state Department of Commerce grant proposal with King County and other cities within the county for \$360,000 worth of EV charging infrastructure for Bellevue fleet and employee charging.

Natural Systems

- *Tree Code Update*: Presented to the Planning Commission on July 26. Reviewing results from the first phase of outreach and performing a review of peer city tree codes and best practices for tree retention, preservation, and protection. Planning for a Public Information Session on January 11.
- *Tree Canopy Assessment*: Completed the 2021 Tree Canopy Assessment (Attachment C) and will hold a virtual information session on the report on December 5. The overall tree canopy has increased to 40%, despite reductions in canopy between 2019 to 2021 in Cougar Mountain/Lakemont, Eastgate, Lake Hills, Northeast Bellevue, Somerset, and West Lake Sammamish.
- *Tree Giveaway*: Completed the third annual Trees for Bellevue Tree Giveaway and distributed 800 trees to approximately 400 residents, six multi-family housing properties including three King County Housing Authority properties, a school and a local nonprofit. Received a \$35,000 grant from Amazon to support the program and leveraged over 100 volunteer hours to plan and execute the Tree Giveaway.

Waste

- *Waste Reduction and Recycling*: Provided assistance to a total of 48 businesses this quarter, including nine starting new compost services, and to five multi-family properties. Obtained a vendor to pilot dumpster sensors and monitoring at

participating pilot properties in Bellevue.

Municipal Operations:

- *Building Energy Efficiency Retrofits:* Staff are continuing planning and design for an energy efficiency retrofit of the Bellevue Service Center to bring the building into compliance with the Washington State Clean Buildings Standard and increase resiliency of the facility with a new backup generator.
- *City Hall Solar:* Staff are evaluating options for advancing the City Hall Solar project, as actual costs are higher than expected for the initial concept and would require re-roofing City Hall sooner than planned. Staff are engaging with PSE to evaluate alternatives.
- *Green Fleet:* Staff continued planning and design for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the Bellevue Service Center and City Hall. Staff applied for grant funding through a Department of Commerce grant for EV charging infrastructure at City facilities.

Staff will continue to update Council quarterly and provide updates to the community through the monthly Environmental Stewardship newsletter, biannual Environmental Stewardship townhall, and other project updates. The next Council progress report will include an update on Bellevue's greenhouse gas emissions inventory and other environmental performance metrics in early 2024.

Attachments

- A. Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress, September 2023
- B. Bellevue Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- C. 2021 Tree Canopy Assessment