



# Bellevue Planning Commission

June 25, 2025

## PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

### **SUBJECT**

Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan Update (2026-2030).

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

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### **POLICY ISSUES**

On Dec. 14, 2020, City Council adopted the [2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan](#). The plan is a strategic roadmap to achieving Bellevue's 2030 and 2050 climate and sustainability goals and was set to be updated every five years. The plan contains climate action and sustainability strategies for the community as a whole and municipal operations in six focus areas: Climate Change, Buildings & Energy, Materials Management & Solid Waste, Mobility & Land Use, Natural Systems, and Municipal Operations. For the Planning Commission, sustainability staff are presenting on the Climate Change and Mobility & Land Use sections, as well as one strategy from the Energy & Buildings Focus Area.

Strategies in each focus area are designed to take the city closer to the 2030 and 2050 sustainability goals in each area. These goals were developed originally with input from residents, city staff, community leaders, and stakeholders, and fall under the overarching greenhouse gas emissions target of 95% reduction by 2050, which was adopted by Council this October in the 2044 Comprehensive Plan.

### **DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

#### **ACTION**



#### **DIRECTION**



#### **INFORMATION ONLY**



Staff will provide an initial briefing and overview to the Planning Commission on the Sustainable Bellevue Plan update.

The presentation is for information only.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **2026-2030 Environmental Stewardship Plan Update**

On October 29, 2024, City Council launched the update of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, expected to be completed in late 2025. Throughout the process, the sustainability team will have two touchpoints with each Bellevue board and commission – one on the plan’s goals and targets and the second on the plan’s strategies and actions. In addition, staff are completing robust outreach to residents and internal and external stakeholders to gather input on proposed updates to the plan’s goals, strategies, targets, and actions. This plan will guide the city’s climate action and sustainability for the next five years, aiming towards our 2030 targets.

On January 8, 2025, staff gave an initial presentation to the Planning Commission covering updated goals and targets. Specifically, the Commission discussed the Sustainable Bellevue Plan’s updated Mobility & Land Use goals and the Commission priorities for sustainable land use and climate resilience in the next iteration of the plan. The Commission provided feedback that the goals, strategies, and actions in the plan should be presented in a more clear and concise manner in the plan.

This follow-up touchpoint with the Planning Commission will cover progress and engagement to date, discuss the overarching goals of the Plan Update, and briefly present on updated strategies and actions related to the Board’s purview, including climate resilience, mobility, and land use.



### **Sustainable Bellevue Plan Engagement**

Staff are conducting extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders to inform the Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update. Engagement also includes multiple phases of public engagement with the general community and stakeholders, with a focus on reaching underrepresented community members. In Phase I of the Plan Update, from January through April, staff completed a community townhall on the updated goals and targets, surveys, pop-up tabling, and other in-person and online events promoted via City channels and community partners. To reach underrepresented community members, staff partnered with two community-based organizations (CBOs), Eastside for All and The Little Master’s Club, to co-design engagement activities. Through Eastside for All, staff also engaged six additional CBOs: Africans on the Eastside, Chinese Information Services Center, Global Social Business Partners, Indian American Community Services, Muslim Community Network Association, and United Hub.

In total during Phase I engagement, the Environmental Stewardship team received over 450 survey responses, including 2 in Spanish and 46 in Simplified Chinese and connected with over 250 students, had over 100 participants in in-person workshops and the townhalls, connected with over 50 community members at pop-up tabling events. Key themes from these events include significant support for bold climate action and communitywide tree canopy protection. Additionally, community members identified a strong need for climate resilience measures in Bellevue. 81% of survey respondents stated that they

have experienced climate impacts in Bellevue, with extreme heat and smoke events being the most experienced impacts.

In addition to community engagement, the Bellevue sustainability team hosted a series of staff workshops during the week of April 28th. Over 60 staff members attended, representing all of Bellevue's departments, to provide input on how the Plan can meet the city's goals for both the community and municipal operations. The draft actions and strategies below represent input from the community, Bellevue sustainability staff, staff subject matter experts from across the city, and the best available science and practices. The update of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan is focused on developing actionable strategies that are focused on outcomes needed to reduce emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

### **Plan Update Focus: High Impact Actions**

To meet the city's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and 95% by 2050, the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan is focused on high impact actions. An action is deemed "high impact" if it accomplishes at least one of the following:

- It substantially reduces GHG emissions to meet Bellevue's 2030 target
- It lays a foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet Bellevue's carbon neutrality targets
- It meaningfully enhances resilience to climate hazards

The 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan will have an increased emphasis on climate resilience. As mentioned above, in the sustainability team's Phase I outreach, the public stated a clear desire for increased preparedness for climate impacts, particularly in the wake of November's bomb cyclone and 2021 heat dome. To address this need, many draft Climate Change strategies are focused on climate resilience. Resilience strategies in the Climate Change Focus Area include:

1. **Community Resilience:** *Enhance the Bellevue community's resilience to climate hazards, particularly extreme heat and smoke, to protect community safety, health, and quality of life.*
2. **Resilient Infrastructure:** *Ensure Bellevue's infrastructure is resilient to climate hazards, particularly extreme heat and flooding, to protect assets, services, and people.*
3. **Air Quality.** *Mitigate impacts of air pollution on development and sensitive uses adjacent to freeways to promote healthy, sustainable growth.*

Staff are also presenting strategies around sustainable land use from the Energy & Buildings and Mobility & Land Use Focus Areas:

1. **Green Building:** *Facilitate green building construction with incentives and technical assistance to drive efficient, electric buildings that promote health, resilience against hazards, and alignment with Bellevue's emissions targets. (Energy & Buildings)*
2. **Sustainable Land Use:** *Facilitate sustainable development to meet climate targets through increased density and livability. (Mobility & Land Use)*

A full list of the draft strategies and actions in the Climate Change and Mobility & Land Use Focus Areas can be found in **Attachment A**. Any draft actions that would require land use code changes from this

Plan Update would move forward to the Planning Commission as part of a separate work program and Council direction.

### **Role of the Planning Commission**

Throughout the plan update process, the sustainability team is seeking input from each of the City's boards and commissions on topics related to their purview in the Sustainable Bellevue Plan. For this meeting, the Sustainability team is seeking input from the Planning Commission on the following topics:

- Does the Planning Commission have feedback on draft actions related to Climate Change and Mobility & Land Use?
- What other community interests or concerns are you aware of related to addressing climate change and preparing for climate impacts?
- How could this work advance Planning Commission-related priorities, investments, and actions?
- How could climate or sustainability considerations be incorporated into other plans and projects the Planning Commission reviews?

### **Next Steps**

The Sustainability team will continue to engage internal and external stakeholders, as well as the Bellevue community, in updating our actions and strategies as part of Phase II, including presenting to City Council on July 22nd. Final adoption of the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan is expected in the fall.

### **Relevant Environmental Stewardship Initiative resources:**

- [Phase I Engagement Summary](#)
- [Environmental Performance Dashboard](#)
- [Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Engaging Bellevue Page](#)
- [Environmental Stewardship Plan Home Page](#)
- [2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan Summary](#)
- [Comprehensive Plan Climate and Environment Element](#)

### **Attachments**

- A. [Draft Sustainable Bellevue Plan Strategies & Actions](#)