

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Date: June 2, 2025

To: Human Services Commission

From: Patrick Babbitt, Climate & Energy Program Manager, Community Development

Subject: 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

DIRECTION REQUESTED

Action

☒ Discussion

☒ Information

Sustainable Bellevue Plan Context and Timeline

On December 14, 2020, City Council adopted the [2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue 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 five focus areas: climate change, energy, materials and waste management, mobility and land use, and natural systems. For the Human Services Commission, Sustainability staff will be focusing on Climate Change, Energy, and Mobility and Land Use sections and plan update topics related to community members meeting basic needs. The Plan Update is a one-year process expected to be completed in late 2025. Throughout the process, the Sustainability team has had multiple touchpoints with boards and commissions, in addition to robust outreach to residents and internal and external stakeholders.

On October 29, 2024, City Council launched the update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan and directed staff to engage boards and commissions to gather input on proposed updates to the plan's goals, targets, and actions. This plan will guide the city's climate and sustainability action for the next five years, aiming towards our 2030 targets. On January 6, 2025, staff gave an initial presentation to the Human Services Commission covering updated goals and targets, as well as Bellevue's Energy Smart Eastside program, which delivers energy efficient heat pumps to residents. This follow-up meeting will cover progress and engagement to date, discuss the overarching theme of the Plan Update, and briefly present updated strategies and actions related to Human Services Commission's purview – specifically, actions related to climate resilience and that have an equity focus.

- ☒ **Plan Update Launch**
October 2024
- ☒ **Phase I: Draft Goals and Targets**
November 2024-May 2025
- ☐ **Phase II: Draft Strategies**
March 2025-June 2025
- ☐ **Phase III: Draft Plan**
July 2025-October 2025
- ☐ **Expected Plan Adoption**
November 2025
(subject to change)

Sustainable Bellevue Plan Engagement

To update the Sustainable Bellevue Plan, staff are conducting extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders. 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.

In total during Phase I engagement, the Environmental Stewardship team 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, and received over 450 survey responses. Key themes from these events include significant support for bold climate action and a keen awareness in the community of climate impacts, with 81% of survey respondents stating that they have already experienced climate impacts in Bellevue, with extreme heat and wildfire smoke events being the most experienced impacts.

In addition to working with the community, 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 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

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The list of draft Climate Change, Energy, and Mobility and Land Use actions presented to HSC for feedback can be found in **Appendix B**.

Discussion & Next Steps

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

- Does the Commission have feedback on the draft actions related to Climate Change, Energy, and Mobility and 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 HSC-related priorities, investments, and actions? How could climate or sustainability considerations be incorporated into the Human Services Needs Report & Strategic Plan?

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 15th. Final adoption of the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan is expected in the fall.

Staff Contact

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Focus Areas: Buildings & Energy, Climate & Resilience

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Appendices

Appendix A: Reference Materials

- [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](#)

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Appendix B: Draft Climate Resilience and Related Actions

Climate Change	Draft Actions
<p>Enhance the Bellevue community's resilience to climate hazards.</p> <p>Ensure Bellevue's infrastructure is resilient to climate hazards.</p>	Communication tools for preparedness and response
	Resilience hub serving vulnerable populations
	Preparedness and response training for City and partner programs
	Community-level wildfire protection plan
	Low- or no-emissions backup power and energy storage in critical facilities
	Wildfire smoke-safe facility upgrades

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Energy & Buildings	Draft Actions
Expand Energy Smart Eastside to drive homeowner reduction in natural gas use and overall energy consumption.	Accelerate transition of residential space heating to heat pumps.
	Support LMI households in adoption of heat pumps through loans and financial assistance.
	Amplify and support residents accessing existing weatherization programs and explore opportunities to integrate weatherization into Bellevue housing initiatives.
	Kickstart adoption of heat pump water heaters.

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Mobility & Land Use	Draft Actions
<p>Increase sustainable commutes and active transportation modes.</p> <p>Transition to electric vehicles.</p> <p><i>Expand transit access.</i></p>	Bike/scooter share
	E-bike incentive program & safety training
	Implementation of City's Electric Vehicle Roadmap
	EV charging incentives for multifamily housing and commercial property
	EV marketing campaign
	Implementation of the Bellevue Transit Master Plan
	First/last mile solutions to connect to transit