

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Environmental Stewardship Initiative Quarterly Update

Mac Cummins AICP, Community Development Director, 452-6191

Emil King AICP, Assistant Director, Planning, 452-7223

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, 452-6129

Community Development Department

Ana Hagerup, Resource Conservation Program Manager, 452-2729

Finance and 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 the 2022 Environmental Stewardship Initiative workplan.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

This presentation is the first of the 2022 quarterly Council updates on the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan. Staff last presented to Council on October 18, 2021 with an update on plan implementation progress. This presentation will provide an update on plan implementation progress and an overview of the 2022 Environmental Stewardship Initiative workplan.

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 five focus areas: climate change, energy, mobility and land use, natural systems, and materials management and waste. The 77 actions in the plan are designed to help achieve the City's environmental goals to reduce greenhouse gas 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. 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. As part of the quarterly updates, staff will provide annual reporting on the environmental performance metrics during the summer update, and the other quarterly updates will focus on progress towards implementing actions.

Progress Report

The Environmental Stewardship Plan covers a five-year implementation period from 2021-2025. Of the 77 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 on 29 of the actions and incorporated 24 of the actions into ongoing operations. Twenty-one actions have not started yet, and three actions are complete, as shown in Table 1 and Attachment A: Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress January 2022.

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation Progress

Status	# of Actions	Description	%
Started	29	Work has started / implementation is partially complete	38%
Ongoing	24	Work has been incorporated into ongoing operations	31%
Complete	3	Work has been completed	4%
Not started	21	Work has not begun	27%
Barrier	0	Need to re-strategize approach. There is a barrier to implementing the action.	0%
Total	77		

Since the last Council update on October 18, 2021, the departments charged with implementing the plan have started 10 new actions, incorporated nine actions into ongoing operations, and completed two additional actions.

Accomplishments

The key accomplishments from the last quarter, from November 2021 – January 2022, include:

Community Actions:

- *Clean Buildings Act Technical Support program:* Staff completed the design and launched the Bellevue Clean Buildings Incentive program in December. This program aims to support

buildings over 50,000 square feet in achieving early compliance with the WA State Clean Buildings Act and applying for the Early Adopter Incentives.

- *Mobility Implementation Plan*: Council approved the multi-modal concurrency policies in December and preparation of the final Mobility Implementation Plan for adoption in the second quarter of 2022.
- *Enhanced Engagement*: Convened the Sustainability Leaders Group in November and held working group meetings on urban forestry, commercial energy efficiency, and residential energy efficiency, to support the development and implementation of urban forestry actions, Clean Buildings Incentive Program, and Home Energy Retrofit program outlined in the Sustainable Bellevue Plan. Held a Community Townhall in January to update residents on progress in 2021 and plans for 2022.
- *Watershed Management Plan*: Completed Watershed Assessment Reports for three watersheds and awarded a King County Waterworks grant to support the second phase of community engagement.

Municipal Operations:

- *Green Fleet Strategy*: Performed analysis of alternatives and developed a draft Green Fleet Strategy.
- *Solar grant*: Awarded a grant from the WA State Department of Commerce for a solar array on City Hall.
- *Energy Efficiency grant*: Finalized the grant agreement and project scopes of work for a WA State Department of Commerce energy efficiency grant for projects at several fire stations and the Bellevue Service Center.
- *Urban forest health assessment*: Completed the urban forest health assessment and developed a draft report.

Partner Accomplishments:

- The Spring District has received LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) certification for mixed-use development, exemplifying the neighborhood's design centered around the new East Link light rail station, including walkable blocks, green buildings, open spaces, and bike infrastructure.

2022 Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation Workplan

The 2022 Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation workplan will build on work initiated in 2021 and add several new projects, including the following:

Community Actions:

- Implementing the Clean Buildings Incentive Program and to support large buildings in Bellevue in complying with the WA State Clean Buildings Act.
- Designing, developing, and launching a home energy retrofit program.
- Performing an updated tree canopy assessment and providing a publicly accessible online tool with tree canopy maps and data.
- Continuing the Tree Giveaway program and urban forestry education efforts.
- Tree regulation review and scoping for possible code updates, to help meet the City's 40 percent tree canopy goal.
- Launching a Community Climate Challenge to engage residents in taking action.

- Performing an assessment of air quality and associated public health concerns for development near freeways, and reviewing best practices and mitigation strategies.
- Initiating the Comprehensive Plan update and further incorporating climate into the Comprehensive plan, along with the 15-Minute City concept.
- Finalizing the Mobility Implementation Plan and beginning implementation.
- Developing the Curbside Management Plan, to create guidance on how to utilize curb areas to support mobility alternatives.
- Identifying opportunities for additional electric vehicle charging infrastructure and seek external grants, as possible.
- Developing watershed improvement plans for the Watershed Management Plan.
- Finalizing the update to the Parks & Open Space System Plan
- Continuing the enhanced engagement process to support the relevant actions outlined here.
- Developing a climate vulnerability assessment for Bellevue, to inform the Comprehensive Plan update and other planning efforts.

Municipal Operations:

- Completing the Green Fleet Strategy and planning for implementation.
- Building energy efficiency improvements funded through the Department of Commerce energy efficiency grant.
- Building tune-ups and energy efficiency upgrades to the Bellevue Service Center, to comply with the WA State Clean Buildings Act early.
- Implementing air quality monitoring and filtration tools at City Hall.
- Developing funding package to install solar on City Hall, leveraging the Department of Commerce solar grant.
- Continuing construction of Fire Station 5 and 10 and pursuing LEED Silver certification at both stations and Salmon Safe certification at Fire Station 10.
- Sustainability design and operations training for City of Bellevue Staff, with the Envision program.

Program Management:

- Annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory and performance report.
- Developing funding plans for continued plan implementation, through the biannual 2023-2024 City budget process, and by pursuing grant opportunities through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other federal and state funding sources.

Other Updates

Staff continue to participate in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Green Direct Collaborative process with PSE, the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), and other PSE customer groups to develop a durable accounting methodology for the energy charge credit for Green Direct. Bellevue is a subscriber to PSE's Green Direct program, which supplies renewable energy for about 70 percent of Bellevue's annual energy use. As part of a settlement agreement associated with PSE's 2021 Power Cost Only Rate Case, the energy charge credit component of the Green Direct rate changed, resulting in an increase in rates for all Green Direct subscribers, including an estimated increase of \$75,000 in annual costs for Bellevue.

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 77 actions for implementation over the next five years.

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 2021-2022 City Budget includes \$250,000 for 2021 and 2022 to implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan, \$125,000 per year from 2023-2027 (CD-46), and \$50,000 over the two years for enhanced engagement.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

A. Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress January 2022

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Environmental Stewardship Plan, 2021-2025