

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**

Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Quarterly Update

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

Tonight's Study Session will provide Council an update on implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, highlights of several key projects, and an introduction to new Environmental Stewardship staff members. Of the 78 actions in the Environmental Stewardship Plan, staff have initiated 25, incorporated 36 into ongoing operations, and completed six to date.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

This presentation is the third of the 2023 quarterly updates to Council on implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan and includes highlights over the last quarter. The last update to Council was on June 5.

**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 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 adopted 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 six to date. Staff plans to start work on the remaining 11 actions during the remaining two and half 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	%
<b>Started</b>	25	Work has started/implementation is partially complete.	32%
<b>Ongoing</b>	36	Work has been incorporated into ongoing operations.	46%
<b>Complete</b>	6	Work has been completed.	8%
<b>Not started</b>	11	Work has not begun.	14%
<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 Transportation Department completed the Curbside Management Plan, which was adopted by Council on July 24. No new actions have been initiated in the past quarter, with work focused on advancing the existing efforts underway. The status of three actions has changed from “started” to “ongoing”, for E.2.3 Equitable access to energy efficiency programs, M.M.2.1 Green fleet strategy, and M.E.1.2 Improve lighting efficiency. The work associated with these actions has been incorporated into existing operations and approaches. Staff have also made progress on the actions highlighted below.

## Accomplishments and Milestones, Second Quarter 2023

### Program Management

- Completed hiring for all six of the new staff positions in Community Development and Finance & Asset Management. These new staff positions will help to both accelerate existing projects and programs and launch new efforts.

New Community Development staff include:

- Justus Stewart, Sustainability Program Manager, leads the Wilburton Sustainable District Opportunity Assessment and other long-term sustainability and green building planning initiatives.
- Sofia Fall, Sustainability Coordinator, provides support for all communications and outreach from the Environmental Stewardship Team and leads the Bellevue Climate Challenge.
- Colin Munson, Climate & Electric Mobility Coordinator, leads and coordinates an electric vehicle (EV) strategy and all public EV infrastructure efforts.
- Sarah Phillips, Energy Smart Eastside Program Manager, manages the Energy Smart Eastside Program in collaboration (and jointly funded) with the other Eastside Climate Partnership cities.
- Pat Babbitt, Climate & Energy Program Manager, leads the Clean Buildings Incentive Program, and other strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

New Finance & Asset Management staff include:

- Allison Lammerts, Sustainability Capital Projects Coordinator, supports various City facility capital projects to reduce energy use and supports fleet electrification.

### Community Actions:

#### *Energy*

- *Clean Buildings Act Technical Support program:* Enrolled 204 buildings in the program and completed 128 energy benchmarks with another 76 in progress. The team has completed 20 building scoping assessments and is assisting 13 buildings in applying for Washington State Department of Commerce Clean Buildings Act Early Adopter Incentives. Planning for a Clean Buildings Symposium on September 28 with the Cities of Issaquah, Redmond, Kirkland, and Mercer Island, along with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and MacDonald Miller.
- *Home Energy Retrofit program:* Finalizing scope of work and grant agreement materials for the recently awarded \$1 million grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce to expand the program offerings. Opened application for the first round of the Boost program for low-income residents to receive heat pumps and received 26 applications. Partnered with King County Housing Authority (KCHA) to perform an energy audit on Andrews Heights, an Imagine Housing affordable housing property in Factoria. KCHA will install 26 ductless heat pumps at the property.

### *Climate and Air Quality*

- *Climate Vulnerability Assessment:* Completed the first phase of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment project as part of the Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Statement. Finalizing the report, which will be released this fall.
- *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.

### *Engagement*

- *Enhanced Engagement:* Convened the Sustainability Leaders Group in July to provide an update on key projects, an overview of the Racially Disparate Impacts Analysis, and an overview of the Air Quality and Land Use Planning Guidelines report. Launched the Sustainable Bellevue Lunch and Learn series and held a webinar in July on air quality and land use planning and a webinar in August on the Racially Disparate Impacts Analysis and applying this analysis to ESI programs.
- *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*

- *Curbside Management Plan:* Council adopted the Curbside Management Plan in July.
- *Sustainable District:* Staff helped organize a workshop with subject matter experts and stakeholders with Danish organization BloxHub, as a follow up to the iSustain study tour of Copenhagen. Staff are developing a scope of work and timeline for a Sustainable District Opportunity Assessment, to develop recommendations for a sustainable district for Wilburton. The Bellevue 2030 District also launched in June with a well-attended launch event hosted by CBRE. The district currently has buildings with over 8 million square feet of office space in Bellevue committed to participating in the program.

### *Natural Systems*

- *Tree Code:* Completed the first phase of public outreach and engagement on the tree code update, including a survey, stakeholder meetings, and a public information session on June 8. Presented an update to Council on June 26. Initiated work with a consultant to develop best practice recommendations for the code update.
- *Tree Ambassadors:* Launched the 2023 cohort of the Tree Ambassadors and recruited and trained 15 volunteers.
- *Tree Giveaway:* Launched the application for the 2023 Trees for Bellevue Tree Giveaway and promoted the giveaway through a variety of channels in Bellevue, and working with the Cultural Outreach Assistants, to help expand the diversity of the program participants.

## Waste

- *Waste Reduction and Recycling:* Bellevue Utilities installed five new reusable water bottle refilling stations in community locations and provided touchless tap water drinking stations at the Bellevue Downtown Family 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Provided assistance to 38 commercial businesses and 19 multifamily properties to date this year. Piloted BYOC (Bring Your Own Cup) regional campaign, partnering with 20 coffee shops 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 will engage with PSE to evaluate the potential for community solar on City Hall, in which the facility would act as a host site for solar to be used by the community.
- *Green Fleet:* Staff continued planning and design for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the Bellevue Service Center and City Hall.

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.

## **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**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress, September 2023.

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, 2021-2025.