

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Environmental Stewardship Initiative Quarterly Update

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**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

Tonight's Study Session will provide Council with an overview of the 2021 Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) workplan, including an outline of the ESI Plan Implementation enhanced engagement approach and an update on quick win projects.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

Following direction from Council during the adoption of the Environmental Stewardship Plan on December 14, 2020, this presentation is the first of the quarterly Council updates on the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. This update will focus on an overview of the 2021 ESI workplan, including an overview of the enhanced engagement approach, an update on quick wins, and next steps for plan implementation.

**Background**

Council's 2018-2020 Vision Priorities include Priority #11 specific to the ESI. It states: "Review progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the City may wish to take to achieve its environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy)." In response to this direction, in 2018-2020, staff performed a comprehensive review of progress of the ESI and completed an update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

The 2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan was adopted in December 2020 and 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.

To gather input from the public, staff held three rounds of public outreach and engagement throughout the plan update process and heard from nearly 1,000 Bellevue residents and stakeholders. Throughout the outreach process, residents and key stakeholders voiced strong support for advancing the City's environmental stewardship efforts, and a desire to continue to engage with the City to support plan implementation.

### **Council Direction**

During the review of the final draft of the plan on November 16, 2020, Council directed staff to return for quarterly updates on progress and to monitor performance. Council encouraged staff to pursue and build partnerships to support 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, and provided direction for staff to return with a recommendation on implementing the enhanced engagement approach.

### **2021 Workplan**

The 2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan includes an implementation table on page 111, with all of the actions, and the estimated implementation timeframe. The 2021 ESI workplan was guided by this and includes a series of cross-departmental projects led by ESI program staff in Community Development and Finance and Asset Management:

Communitywide actions:

- Tree planting and tree giveaway
- Home Energy Retrofit program
- Clean Buildings Act technical support
- Climate vulnerability assessment and air quality monitoring
- Sustainable land use planning in growth areas, as part of other land use efforts

Additional actions to be implemented in 2021 for the City's operations include a green fleet strategy and continued City facility retrofits. Several major planning efforts outlined in the Environmental Stewardship Plan will also be led by Transportation, Utilities, and Parks & Community Services including the Mobility Implementation Plan, Watershed Management Plan, and Parks & Open Space System Plan update. These significant planning efforts will receive input from their respective boards and commissions and will be presented to Council separately from regular ESI Council updates.

The additional \$200k in funding added to the ESI budget for 2021 and 2022 will fund tree planting efforts, a climate vulnerability assessment, and significantly increase the funding for a home energy retrofit program and the Clean Buildings Act technical support program. The enhanced engagement approach outlined below will allow for engagement opportunities with residents and businesses to provide input and support the implementation of these communitywide actions.

### **Enhanced Engagement**

Attachment A includes an overview of the approach to enhanced engagement to support the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. The enhanced engagement approach will build

upon the collaboration with the Sustainability Leaders Group of stakeholders, formed for the plan development. This group provided input throughout the plan development, and provided Bellevue businesses, non-profits, and other partners the opportunity to come together to share their priorities related to environmental sustainability.

The goal of enhanced engagement is to leverage the subject matter expertise throughout the community to support the plan implementation, build partnerships, share best practices, and gather input and advice from both stakeholders and residents. For the residential engagement component, this will enable residents to provide input on the best way to set up education and outreach programs and provide input on programs where residents will specifically benefit, such as a home energy retrofit program. For the business and stakeholder engagement component, organizations will have the opportunity to provide input on programs directed to them or where their participation can scale up impact.

### **Monitoring Progress**

Staff will monitor implementation progress with an annual progress report and the new Environmental Performance Dashboard and will plan for periodic check-ins with Council for updates on implementation progress.

### **Quick Wins**

The ESI quarterly updates will include a brief overview of accomplishments from the last quarter, including:

- Puget Sound Energy's Green Direct Skookumchuck wind farm and Lund Hill solar farm are both online and will provide City municipal operations with clean energy for approximately 70 percent of annual energy use.
- The City's Bellevue Service Center has been selected to receive two free electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and associated installation from PSE, through their Up and Go pilot EV charging program.
- The City received an ICMA Certificate of Distinction for Performance Management, in part, for demonstrating excellence through the ESI performance dashboard.
- The City received a \$30,000 King Conservation District Member Jurisdiction grant for a new tree giveaway program, to be launched this fall.
- The City's tree planting partner, 300 Trees, was awarded a Washington State Department of Natural Resources grant for a wetland restoration and tree planting project at Sammamish High School.

## **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.

#### City Council Vision Priorities (2018-2020)

- Priority #11: Review progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the City may take to achieve environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy).

#### 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 No. 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 funding for \$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. ESI Enhanced Engagement Approach

#### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Environmental Stewardship Plan, 2021-2025