

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution adopting the Sustainable Bellevue Plan, which sets forth direction to guide the City's sustainability efforts over the next five years.

Emil A. King AICP, Director, 452-7223

Thara Johnson, Planning Director, 452-4087

Jennifer Ewing, Sustainability Manager, 452-6129

Community Development Department

Ana Hagerup, Sustainability Planning Manager, 452-2729

Finance and Asset Management Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This Resolution adopts the Sustainable Bellevue Plan and initiates its implementation for the 2026-2030 period.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10554

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Resolution presented reflects October 14 Council direction on the recommended 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan (SBP) to return at a subsequent meeting for adoption. This marks the culmination of close to 12 months of work, which has included reviewing progress to date, updating the City's environmental goals, analyzing additional strategies to achieve the goals and implementing newly adopted policies relating to climate change and resilience in the Comprehensive Plan, performing public outreach and engagement, releasing a draft plan for public comment, and finalizing a recommended plan for Council action.

Background and Approach

The Bellevue City Council adopted the 2021-2025 SBP ("the plan") in December 2020. Since adoption, the City has made significant progress on implementing the plan. The 2021-2025 plan includes environmental goals and targets for 2030 and 2050, covering both the community as a whole and municipal operations. The plan is organized by these focus areas:

- Climate Change
- Energy & Buildings
- Materials & Waste
- Mobility & Land Use
- Natural Systems

The plan consists of a suite of strategies and actions intended to improve the environment and address resilience. The actions help the City to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; minimize environmental impacts from transportation and development; ensure long-term access to clean energy; strive towards zero waste; and preserve the integrity and health of natural systems. The municipal

operations section of the plan describes how the City will continue to lead by example in reducing GHG emissions from City operations, facilities, and municipal fleet. The plan helps preserve and enhance the natural environment, encourage transit-oriented development, and increase overall livability in Bellevue.

Technical Adjustments & Updates

After the October 14 Council Study Session on the Draft 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan, staff made the following technical adjustments and updated some plan narrative for clarity.

1. Updated the emissions pie chart on page 17 to reflect the most up-to-date data.
2. Added definitions for decarbonization and electrification to the Glossary on page 6.
3. Added clarifying language on page 19 relating to the Clean Energy Transformation Act's (CETA) impact on local emissions over time.
4. Revised wedge diagram on pg. 18-19 to better reflect technical analysis.
5. Added clarifying language to page 20 relating to CETA's impact on Bellevue emissions in 2030.

Recommended 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan Overview and Highlights

The final 2026-2030 SBP represents input from the community, stakeholders, Bellevue sustainability staff, subject matter experts from across the City, and the best available science and practices. Since the launch of the plan update with Council in October 2024, sustainability staff have shared updates on the plan update with Council on the plan's structure, goals, and strategies.

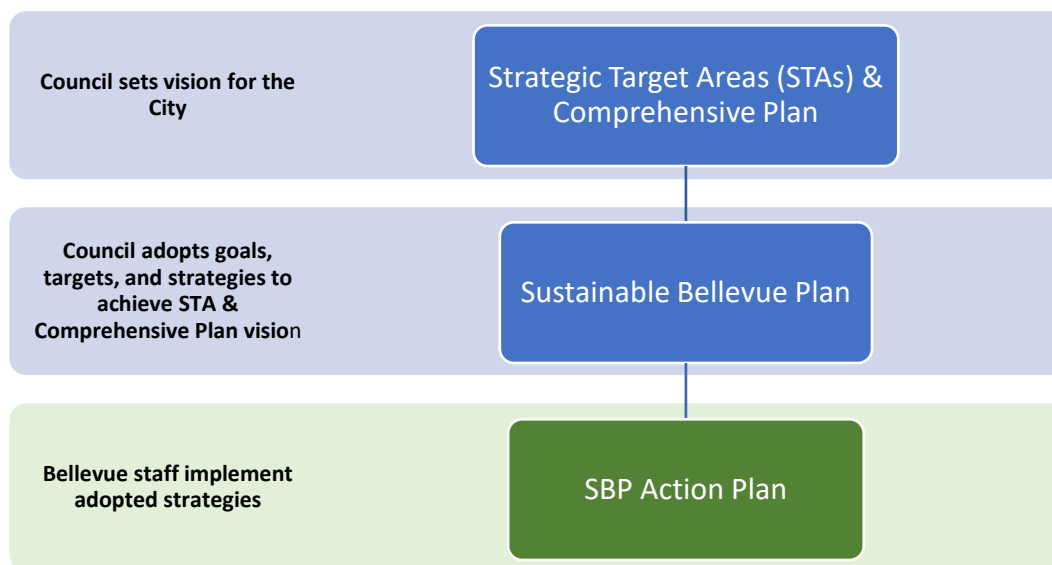


Figure 1: A simplified diagram illustrating the relationship between the 2026-2030 Draft Sustainable Bellevue Plan, the SBP Action Plan, and the Council-adopted Strategic Target Areas and Comprehensive Plan.

Council will be adopting the 2026-2030 SBP with this resolution. The SBP Action Plan, which is included in the Council library, includes the actions associated with each strategy, along with implementation timeline, metrics, estimated cost range, and impacts.

The final SBP includes both Communitywide and Municipal Operations goals and strategies across five focus areas: Climate Change, Energy & Buildings, Mobility & Land Use, Natural Systems, and Materials & Waste. With this plan update, to better integrate sustainability into City processes and procedures, the 2026-2030 SBP includes a new category of "Foundational Strategies" that support the plan.

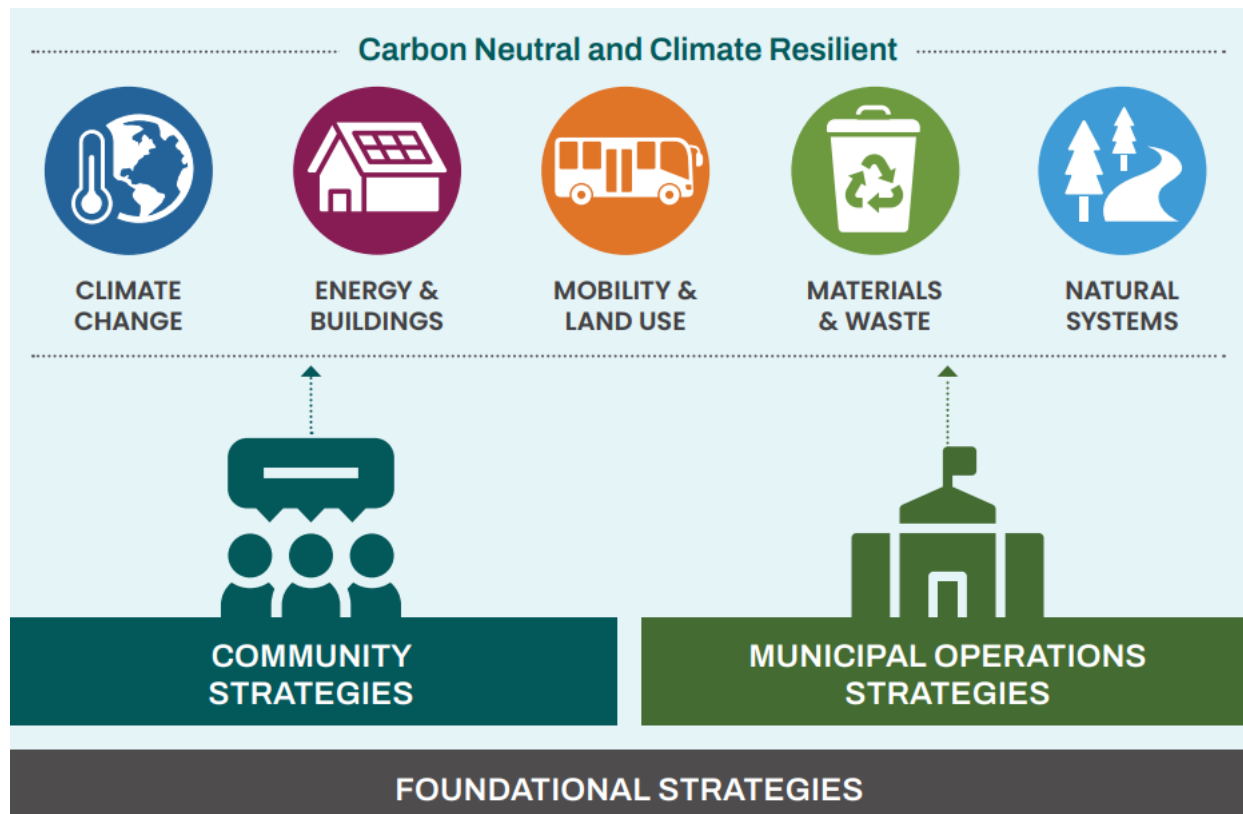


Figure 2: The overall structure of the 2026-2030 Plan and the relationship between the Community, Municipal Operations, and Foundational Strategies across five focus areas, in addition to a new section in this update, Foundational Strategies.

The 2026-2030 SBP divides strategies into three categories:

- **Priority Strategies**
 - These strategies and their associated actions have the potential to rapidly reduce GHG emissions during the 2026-2030 timeframe.
- **Catalyst Strategies**
 - These strategies and their associated actions have the potential to lay a long-term foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet Bellevue's 2050 target.
- **Resilience Strategies**
 - These strategies and their associated actions have the potential to meaningfully enhance the resilience of community members, infrastructure, and natural systems to climate hazards.

Staff will continue to update Council on plan implementation progress on a semiannual cadence, and as part of the upcoming 2027-2028 biennium budget process will include proposals for actions to support plan implementation.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Plan, (Res. 9859, 2020)

- The Sustainable Bellevue Plan was adopted on December 14, 2020, and includes environmental goals and targets and 78 actions for implementation over a five-year period, 2021-2025.

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Climate Change Policies (2024)

- CL-13. Adopt and implement policies and programs to achieve a target of reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2011 baseline, by:
 - 50 percent by 2030,
 - 75 percent by 2040, and
 - 95 percent by 2050 and net-zero emissions through carbon sequestration and other strategies.

Evaluate and update these targets over time in consideration of the latest international climate science and best practices.

- CL-15. Lead by example by reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from city operations by amounts equal to or greater than citywide goals.
- CL-25. Evaluate climate vulnerabilities as part of long-range planning efforts and capital projects. 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.

Fiscal Impact

The adopted 2025-2026 City Budget includes funding to support the Sustainable Bellevue Plan update and implementation of sustainability projects and programs through the current biennium. Future fiscal impacts will be considered as part of the 2027-2028 biennial budget process.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution adopting the Sustainable Bellevue Plan, which sets forth direction to guide the City's sustainability efforts over the next five years.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan
Proposed Resolution No. 10554

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

SBP Action Plan