

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Proposed workplan for the update of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Strategic Plan. Council adopted a priority related to ESI in the most recent adopted set of City priorities.

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

Staff will present the workplan to update the ESI Strategic Plan and seek feedback from Council. The plan is in effect from 2013-2018 and Council adopted a priority in early 2018 to continue the initiative.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**Background**

The ESI formally began in 2007 with a mission “To exercise focused leadership with a “One City” approach, to implement continuous change, learning and innovation in practices that drive the organization and the City of Bellevue toward achieving the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Vision.” The initial ESI Strategic Plan spanned from 2008 – 2012 and was sponsored by the City Manager’s Office and endorsed by all departments. The current work of the ESI is now guided by the ESI Strategic Plan 2013-2018, which includes 57 actions related to greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water, mobility and land use, ecosystems and open space, and materials management and waste for both our municipal operations and the entire community. Based on Council direction, setting ESI as one of the 2018-2020 Council priorities, staff will be preparing the update to the ESI Strategic Plan for the next five years, from 2019 – 2023.

Project Goals

The goal of this effort is to update the ESI Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 with input from an interdepartmental working group, Bellevue residents, businesses, and key stakeholders for formal adoption by Council. This effort will allow for a structured process to respond to Council’s 2018-2020 priority related to the ESI to “review the progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the City may wish to take to achieve environmental goals (e.g. tree canopy)”, (Priority #11). The plan update process will involve: (1) reviewing progress to date (ESI Progress Report); (2) analyzing additional strategies for the program; (3) reviewing Bellevue-specific environmental goals and targets and updating as appropriate, and (4) developing an action plan to guide the work of ESI for the next five years.

The updated ESI Strategic Plan will build on the current plan and existing efforts, and will be an action-oriented plan aimed at implementing existing environmental policies. However, through the plan update

process, opportunities for new or updated goals or policies may be identified for discussion and direction by Council. The planning process will seek to engage with a diverse group of residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders to foster broad community engagement and support for the plan. The planning process will also seek to build partnerships in the community to achieve the City's environmental goals.

Scope and Approach

The approach to addressing the Council priority related to ESI will be to take the following steps as part of the ESI Strategic Plan update:

- Review progress on the current ESI Plan (ESI Progress Report)
- Review the City's environmental goals and update as appropriate
- Analyze best practices and additional actions for consideration in the updated ESI plan
- Engage with residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on progress of ESI and possible additional actions
- Develop a draft ESI Strategic Plan for public comment
- Finalize ESI Strategic Plan for adoption by Council

The scope of the 2019-2023 ESI Strategic Plan will be generally consistent with the current plan. The proposed 2019-2023 ESI Strategic Plan focus areas include:

- Climate Change and Air Quality
- Mobility & Land Use
- Green Building, Energy, and Water
- Materials Management & Waste
- Ecosystems, Open Space, and Stormwater
- Trees

This plan will primarily be a community-focused plan, but will also highlight how the City is leading by example in municipal operations. Any case studies or municipal goals will be supplemented by an internal implementation plan for fleet, municipal buildings and grounds, and employee commute.

One of the goals of the planning process will be to engage with residents, businesses, and stakeholders and build support in the community for achieving the goals in the plan. Through the plan outreach process, staff seeks to build ownership of the plan amongst residents, businesses, and stakeholders, to foster partnerships to support implementing the plan and achieving our Citywide environmental goals.

This proposed approach will address the interest by some stakeholders for a climate action plan, by including a section on climate change, and will also address the need for a tree canopy action plan, as directed in the Comprehensive Plan and as a next step from the tree canopy assessment. The plan will include strategies and actions for achieving the City's environmental goals, such as the 40 percent tree canopy goal.

Outreach and Engagement Plan

Due to a growing interest from residents in environmental issues in Bellevue, staff recommend an outreach and engagement process to hear from residents and stakeholders about their concerns and priorities related to environmental sustainability. Staff recommend an outreach and engagement process involving focus group meetings on each of the focus areas of the plan, kicking off with the February Neighborhood Leadership gathering focused on tree canopy. These sessions will be designed to accomplish three primary goals: (1) update residents on progress to date toward achieving Bellevue's environmental goals; (2) listen to residents' concerns and ideas; and (3) share information with residents about how they can get involved and what steps they can take to help improve the environment. Additional input from stakeholders will be gathered through a survey and using new Community Development online engagement tools. This input will be incorporated into the draft ESI Strategic Plan, and residents will have an opportunity to provide feedback and learn about the draft plan at an open house.

For issues which fall under the purview of Bellevue's Boards and Commissions, such as tree canopy in Bellevue parks, staff will seek input and recommendations from the relevant Boards and Commissions.

Proposed Timeline

The proposed timeline for the ESI Strategic Plan Update is as follows:

1. Finalize ESI Progress Report and review existing goals: Dec 2018/Jan 2019
 - Council Study Session: Dec 2018/Jan 2019 on ESI Progress and Goals
2. Public Outreach and Meetings with Stakeholders: February - June 2019
 - Council Study Session: Mar/April 2019 on Possible Updates to Goals and Initial Public Outreach
3. Analyze strategies for achieving environmental goals: January – June 2019
4. Environmental Forum at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center: May/June 2019
5. Draft ESI Strategic Plan Released for Comment August 2019
 - Council Study Session on Draft Plan July - Sept 2019 (additional sessions as needed)
6. Finalize ESI Strategic Plan:
 - Present Final ESI Strategic Plan to Council for Adoption: Nov 2019

Recommendations and Next Steps

Staff recommends utilizing the process to update the ESI Strategic Plan to respond to Council's priority related to ESI, as outlined in the memo, with a goal of having the plan adopted by Council. This approach is consistent with other recent strategic planning initiatives, such as the Affordable Housing Strategic Plan and the last Economic Development Plan, which were both adopted by Council. The draft budget includes funding for the update of the ESI Strategic Plan. Depending on the final funding allocations, staff will likely need to return to Council with a contract for consultant services to support the update of the plan.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

This presentation addresses the implementation of several policies related to the ESI, as outlined below. This presentation also responds to Council's 2018-2020 priority #11 to review progress of the ESI and analyze additional steps that the City may take to achieve environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy).

Policy Impact

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Environmental Element

The Environmental Element of the Comprehensive Plan provides the key policy directives driving ESI's work.

- EN-4. Promote and invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy resources as an alternative to non-renewable resources.
- EN-5. Protect air, water, land, and energy resources consistent with Bellevue's role in the regional growth strategy.
- 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-8. Provide regional leadership on environmental issues that extend beyond Bellevue's boundaries and require regional cooperation.
- EN-9. Educate the public about environmental issues and illustrate how individual actions can have a cumulative effect to benefit the environment.
- EN-12. Work toward a Citywide tree canopy target of at least 40 percent canopy coverage that reflects our "City in a Park" character and maintain an action plan for meeting the target across multiple land use types including right-of way, public lands, and residential and commercial uses.
- EN-48. Support the use of emerging best practices in the area of green building and site design through the use of pilot programs and model ordinances.

Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (Res. 7517)

Council agreed in February 2006 to strive to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets (7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012) for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and similar actions within our community.

King County Cities Climate Collaboration (Res. 8789)

Council joined the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) on August 4, 2014. The K4C is a partnership among thirteen cities and King County working collaboratively to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP), Environmental Element

Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25 percent by 2020, 50 percent by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050. Assuming 1 percent annual population

growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) by 2020, 5 MTCO_{2e}, and 1.5 MTCO_{2e} by 2050 (CPP EN-18).

Fiscal Impact

Funding for this proposed workplan is included in the 2019-2020 preliminary budget, including \$310,000 to support the update and implementation of the ESI Strategic Plan.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

N/A

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Environmental Stewardship Initiative Strategic Plan 2013-2018