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TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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Community Development

SUBJECT: Environmental Stewardship Initiative Quarterly Update

This management brief is the second of the 2023 quarterly updates to Council on the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan and includes highlights of implementation progress over the last quarter. The last Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) quarterly update to Council was on March 6.

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 (GHG) emissions, energy use, and vehicle miles travelled 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 to preserve and enhance the natural environment, encourage transit-oriented development, and increase overall livability in Bellevue. 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.

Progress Report

The Environmental Stewardship Plan covers a five-year implementation period from 2021-2025. The primary departments working on the plan 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 Environmental Stewardship Plan, the primary departments have initiated 29, incorporated 33 into ongoing operations, and completed five to date. Staff plans to start work on the remaining eleven actions during the remaining two and half years of the plan. Progress is also summarized in Table 1 and Attachment A, which includes the percent complete for each action. The Environmental Stewardship Plan includes a timeframe for each action, which outlines when the remaining actions are anticipated to begin.

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation Progress

Status	# of Actions	Description	%
Started	29	Work has started / implementation is partially complete	37%
Ongoing	33	Work has been incorporated into ongoing operations	42%
Complete	5	Work has been completed	6%
Not started	11	Work has not begun	14%
Barrier	0	Need to re-strategize approach. There is a barrier to implementing the action.	0%
Total	78		

Since the last Council update, the departments charged with implementing the plan have initiated the following actions: M.1.1 Sustainable District and E.2.4 Building Electrification Training. For the Sustainable District action, staff have initiated work on two efforts, to support the formation of a Bellevue 2030 District for downtown and to evaluate the potential of a sustainable district for Wilburton. The Bellevue 2030 District is a new program run by the Seattle 2030 District non-profit, which supports commercial buildings in achieving the district's sustainability goals. For Wilburton, staff have initiated research and held a stakeholder meeting to begin the process of evaluating the potential for a sustainable district for Wilburton. The stakeholder event was convened by iSustain as a follow-up to the Copenhagen Study Tour, and involved Mayor Robinson and Councilmembers Zahn and Lee and was facilitated by a sustainability and innovation collaboration expert from Bloxhub, Denmark.

For the Building Electrification training, staff developed a program concept as part of the recently awarded Department of Commerce Clean Energy Fund Building Electrification grant for the Energy Smart Eastside program. Staff plan to work with Energy Smart Eastside Program Partner, Gensco, and potentially other partners, to design and

implement a new effort to expand the trained heat pump installer workforce, using an equity lens.

Staff have also made progress on the actions highlighted below.

Accomplishments and Milestones, First Quarter 2023

Community Actions:

Energy

- *Clean Buildings Act Technical Support program:* Enrolled 203 buildings in the program and completed 107 energy benchmarks with another 96 in progress. The team has completed six building scoping assessments with another 13 in progress and is assisting 12 buildings in applying for Washington State Department of Commerce Clean Buildings Act Early Adopter Incentives.
- *Home Energy Retrofit program:* Awarded a \$1 million grant from the WA State Department of Commerce to expand the program offerings. Partnered with King County Housing Authority (KCHA) to perform an energy audit on Andrews Heights, an Imagine Housing affordable housing property in Factoria. KCHA is reviewing proposals from contractors to install 26 ductless heat pumps.

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 (EIS).
- *Air Quality and Land Use Planning:* Completed the Air Quality and Land Use Planning Report and incorporated the results into the Draft EIS for the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. (Attachment B).
- *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 March to provide an update on 2022 accomplishments and an overview of the 2023 workplan. Received a presentation from Amazon on their sustainability and clean energy initiatives. Also held a Sustainable Bellevue town hall in March to engage with the community on upcoming initiatives, how the comprehensive plan update relates to climate and sustainability, and to provide an overview of the tree code update initiative.
- *Community Climate Challenge:* Enrolled 112 households in the Bellevue Climate Challenge and held a series of workshops leading up to Earth Day, to inform residents on actions they can take to reduce their carbon emissions.

Mobility and Land Use

- *Mobility Implementation Plan:* The Mobility Implementation Plan was completed and adopted by Council on April 18. The Multimodal Concurrence Code and Implementation Guide was completed in 2022.
- *Curbside Management Plan:* Staff developed recommendations in support of curbside management throughout 2022 and Council approved the curbside management policies in December 2022. The plan is anticipated to be adopted in mid-2023.

Natural Systems

- *Tree Code:* Advanced the analysis and planning for the tree code update and prepared for public outreach and engagement.
- *Tree Ambassadors:* Launched the 2023 cohort of the Tree Ambassadors and recruited and trained 15 volunteers.

Waste

- *Decreasing waste at businesses and schools:* Bellevue Utilities has provided mini-grants for durable reusable serviceware for Bellevue businesses and has supported the Bellevue School District in transitioning to metal utensils at all schools.

Program Management

- In the process of hiring for several new staff positions in Community Development and Finance & Asset Management departments to support the plan implementation.

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 WA State Clean Buildings Standard.
- *Electric Fire Apparatus:* The City was awarded a \$649,000 grant from the Department of Ecology for an electric fire truck.
- *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 Environmental Stewardship newsletter, biannual Environmental Stewardship townhall, and other project updates.

Attachments

- A. Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation Progress, June 2023
- B. Air Quality and Land Use Planning Report