

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: 1/9/2025
TO: Chair Stash and Members of the Transportation Commission
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SUBJECT: **2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan Update**

DIRECTION REQUESTED

Action
 Discussion
 Information

Environmental Stewardship Plan Context

On December 14, 2020, City Council adopted the [2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan](#). The plan is a strategic roadmap to achieving Bellevue's 2030 and 2050 climate and sustainability goals and was set to be updated every five years. The plan contains climate action and sustainability strategies for the community as a whole and municipal operations in five focus areas: climate change, energy, materials and waste management, mobility and land use, and natural systems. For the Transportation Commission, Environmental Stewardship staff will be focusing on the Mobility and Land Use section and plan update topics related to transportation.

Strategies in each focus area are designed to take the city closer to the 2030 and 2050 sustainability goals. These goals were developed originally with input from residents, city staff, community leaders, and stakeholders, and fall under the overarching greenhouse gas reduction target of 95% reduction by 2050, which was adopted this October in the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. The updated Comprehensive Plan additionally includes new and updated policies around climate mitigation and resiliency.

On October 29, 2024, City Council launched the update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan and directed staff to engage boards and commissions to gather input on proposed updates to the plan's goals, targets, and actions. In this initial touchpoint with the Transportation Commission, ESI staff are seeking input from the commission primarily on potential or proposed updates to the goals and targets.

2026-2030 Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

The Plan Update is a one-year process expected to be completed in fall 2025. Throughout the process, the Environmental Stewardship team will have multiple touchpoints with boards and

commissions, in addition to robust outreach to residents and internal and external stakeholders. This plan will guide the city’s climate action and sustainability for the next five years, taking the city to our 2030 goals. This update will assess the progress we have made so far and introduce updated performance metrics and new strategies to help the city meet its 2030 goals.

The plan will also include multiple phases of public engagement with the general community and stakeholders, with a focus on reaching underrepresented community members. Activities will include townhalls, surveys, pop-up tabling, and other in-person and online events promoted via city channels and community partners. The Environmental Stewardship Team is partnering with two community-based organizations (CBOs), Eastside for All and The Little Master’s Club, to co-design engagement activities to specifically reach underrepresented community members. The CBO engagement events will take place from January to April of 2025.

Plan Update Timeline

The Plan will be updated in three Phases:



Figure 1: ESI Plan Update timeline

Staff plan to engage with Boards and Commissions as part of Phase I for input on the goals and targets, and Phase II for input on draft strategies actions.

Progress to Date

Bellevue has made progress towards each of our goals since we adopted the first plan in 2020. In the Mobility and Land Use area, the city is on track toward the 2050 target for all six goals including drive alone rates for residents and workers, electric vehicle adoption, per capita VMT reduction, and jobs and housing near transit (Figure 2). However, the city is not on track for our 2030 greenhouse gas emissions goal of 50% reduction compared to a 2011 baseline. Since

2011, Bellevue has reduced community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 8%, despite a population increase of 25% (Figure 3). This translates to a 25% reduction in per capita emissions since 2011.

Focus Area	Metric	2050 Target	2022 Progress	Change Since Previous Year	Overall Trend
MOBILITY AND LAND USE	Residents Commuting Alone	45%	44%	→ Trending Toward Target	ON TRACK
	Workers Commuting Alone	45%	60%	→ Trending Toward Target	ON TRACK
	Registered Electric Vehicles	100%	7%	→ Trending Toward Target	ON TRACK
	Per Capita VMT Reduction	50%	26%	← Trending Away from Target	ON TRACK
	Jobs Within 1/4 Mile of Frequent Transit Stop	85%	76%	→ Trending Toward Target	ON TRACK
	Housing Within 1/4 Mile of Frequent Transit Stop	65%	44%	→ Trending Toward Target	ON TRACK

Figure 2: 2021-2025 ESI Plan Mobility and Land Use goals comparing the 2050 Targets to the most recent data in 2022. For all goals except VMT reduction per capita, the city is on track to meet the 2050 goal.

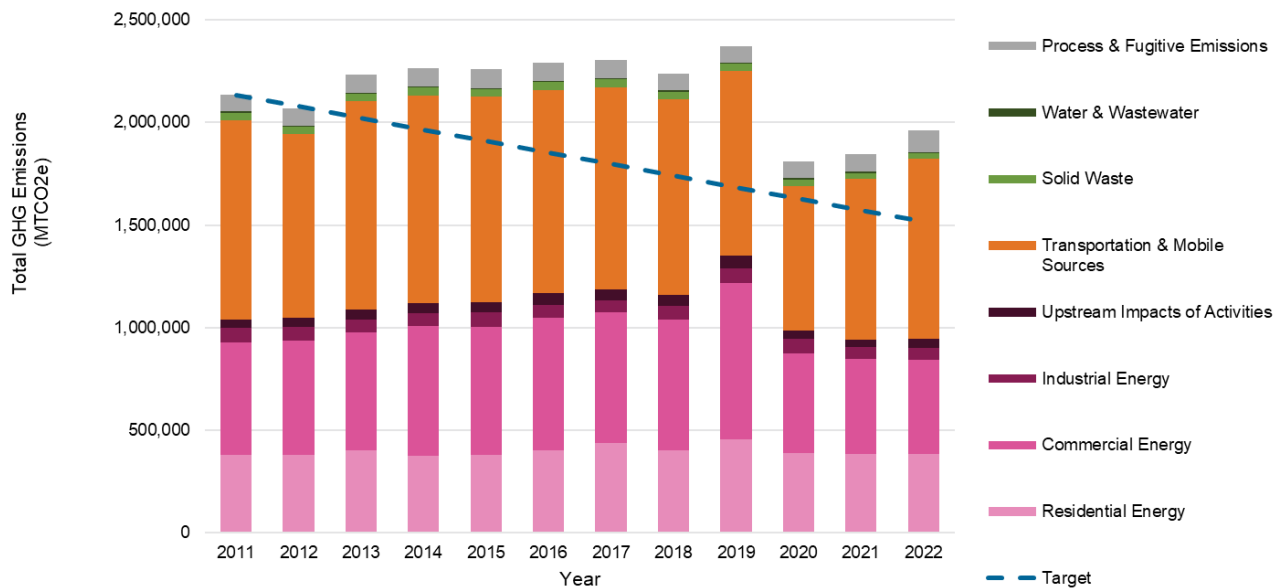


Figure 3: Bellevue’s communitywide greenhouse gas emissions from 2011-2022. Although current emissions are below the 2011 baseline year, Bellevue is not on track to meet its 2030 GHG reduction target.

Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Topics

The Environmental Stewardship team is preparing to revisit our Mobility and Land Use goals and strategies in the 2026-2030 Plan Update. Topics relevant to the Transportation Commission include:

Mobility and Land Use Goals

The Environmental Stewardship team, with input from internal stakeholders and transportation and planning staff, will be updating our 2030 and 2050 goals related to mobility and land use. Possible changes to community-wide goals include amending the 2030 and 2050 targets based on current metrics and planned updates to city plans and infrastructure (Figure 4).

Focus Area	Metric	2030	2050	Comment
MOBILITY AND LAND USE	Residents Commuting Alone	60%	40%	Aligning with updated 2024-2033 TDM Plan
	Workers Commuting Alone	65%	45%	Aligning with updated 2024-2033 TDM Plan
	Registered Electric Vehicles	35%	100%	Aligning with EV Roadmap
	Per Capita VMT Reduction	30%	50%	Already met current 2030 goal, propose to change the goal to 25% or 30%
	Jobs Within 1/4 Mile of Frequent Transit Stop	75%	85%	Reviewing based on updated Comprehensive Plan policies and projections
	Housing Within 1/4 Mile of Frequent Transit Stop	50%	65%	Reviewing based on updated Comprehensive Plan policies and projections
			Proposed change	
			Further analysis required	

Figure 4: Proposed changes to 2030 and 2050 ESI Plan Goals with additional details for proposed changes.

Mobility & Land Use Strategies and Actions

Since the adoption of the 2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan, the city has made significant progress on its Mobility & Land Use strategies and actions across departments. Major accomplishments and progress in this section include completing the Mobility Implementation Plan, Curb Management Plan, and EV Roadmap significant progress on the Wilburton Sustainable District, and ongoing work on the city's Commute Trip Reduction program. A full list of 2021-2025 ESI Plan Strategies and Actions can be found in **Appendix B**.

For the plan update, after updating our goals and targets in Phase I, the Environmental Stewardship team will focus on updates to the Plan's strategies and actions for achieving the goals in Phase II of the Plan Update; Environmental Stewardship staff will work with internal and external stakeholders to develop and refine these actions for implementation in 2026-2030.

Role of the Transportation Commission

Throughout the plan update process, the Environmental Stewardship team is seeking guidance from each of the City's boards and commissions on topics related to their areas of expertise in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. For this meeting, the Environmental Stewardship team is seeking input from the Transportation Commission on the following topics:

- Mobility and Land Use Goals: Does the Transportation Commission have feedback on the mobility and land use goals? Does the commission see the goals as aligned with the environmental priorities in the city's transportation plans and policies?
- Sustainability Priorities: What mobility sustainability topics, broadly, does the Transportation Commission recommend the Environmental Stewardship team prioritizes in plan update?

Next Steps

The Environmental Stewardship team will continue to engage internal and external stakeholders, as well as the Bellevue community, in updating our goals and targets in Phase I. In Phase II, beginning in February 2025, the Environmental Stewardship team will use the feedback collected in Phase I to update the draft strategies aligned with the updated goals and targets. The Environmental Stewardship team will return to the Transportation Commission in Phase II to share our work on the plan update and topics relevant to the Board surrounding our draft strategies.

Appendices

Appendix A

Relevant Environmental Stewardship Initiative resources:

[Environmental Performance Dashboard](#)

[Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Engaging Bellevue Page](#)

[Environmental Stewardship Plan Home Page](#)

Appendix B

2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan Mobility and Land Use actions and progress as of Q3 2024

#	Action	Lead Department	Status	% Complete (Q3 2024)	Timeframe (from Plan)
Strategy M.1. Sustainable land use					
M. 1.1	Sustainable district. Explore creating a sustainable district, such as an EcoDistrict, in downtown, BelRed, or Wilburton, to encourage district-scale sustainability. Establish district-scale sustainability goals with partner organizations.	Community Development	Started	50%	2022-2023
M. 1.2	Using the 15-Minute City concept, promote and advance essential components of livability. Identify locations along the frequent transit network to continuously promote improvements that support access to transit and a high quality of life and livability.	Community Development & Transportation	Ongoing	N/A	2022-2024
M.1.3.	Consider climate and sustainability in land use and neighborhood planning. Address environmental stewardship in all land use projects and neighborhood planning and services.	Community Development & Development Services	Ongoing	N/A	2021-2025
M.1.4	Growth corridor parking review. Study the impact of light rail and the increasing use of mobility options on the supply and demand for commuter and residential parking in buildings near transit stations. Consider modifying parking requirements to account for shifts in commuting behavior.	Community Development	Not Started	N/A	2024
Strategy M.2. Expand mobility options					

M.2.1	Mobility Implementation Plan. Develop a Mobility Implementation Plan that includes opportunities to decrease per capita vehicle miles traveled through prioritization and investments to support transit and non-motorized modes.	Transportation	Complete	100%	2021-2022, 2024
M.2.2	Transportation impact fees. Consider expanding the Transportation Impact fee program to support construction of projects to improve walking and biking, in addition to increasing capacity of motorized vehicles.	Transportation	Not started	0%	2022-2023
M.2.3	Curbside Management Plan. Explore strategies to effectively manage curbside space for a variety of uses such as ride-share, buses, pedestrians, and other needs.	Transportation	Complete	100%	2021-2023
M.2.4	Accelerate implementation of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. Increase accessibility of travel routes for people walking and bicycling by accelerating implementation of projects identified and prioritized in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan and the standards and guidelines recommended in the 2017 report on Multimodal Level-of-Service Standards and Guidelines.	Transportation	Ongoing	N/A	2021-2025
M.2.5	Commute Trip Reduction. Continue the Commute Trip Reduction and Transportation Demand Management program for employers and study the impact of COVID-19 on future commuting patterns and associated multi-modal mobility needs.	Transportation	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
Strategy M.3. Convert and replace vehicles and equipment to electric and other low-carbon fuels					
M.3.1	EV readiness. Introduce electric vehicle charging readiness requirements for new commercial, multi-family, and single-family buildings to exceed the state building code requirement.	Development Services & Community Development	Started	50%	2021-2022
M.3.2	EV infrastructure. Increase EV charging infrastructure through partnerships, incentives, and targeted investments.	Community Development	Started	60%	2022
M.3.3	Electrify heavy duty vehicles. Partner with local organizations to identify funding sources	Community Development	Not Started	N/A	2021-2025

	and opportunities to electrify buses and heavy duty vehicles.				
M.3.4	Clean Fuel Standard. Support a regional or statewide Clean Fuel Standard to reduce emissions from transportation fuels and support funding for clean fuels.	City Manager's Office	Complete	100%	2021-2025