

Community & Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Plan serves as the roadmap for achieving the city's environmental sustainability goals. The plan covers five focus areas: climate, energy, waste, mobility & land use, and natural systems. Each focus area has high level goals, numerical targets, and strategies and actions for achieving those goals and targets.

Bellevue has a long tradition of engaging residents and stakeholders in planning for the future. Community engagement for the Environmental Stewardship Plan update is spread over three phases:

- **Phase One: Refine goals and targets (fall 2019):** Understand key concerns & priorities and share progress under the last Environmental Stewardship Plan.
- **Phase Two: Develop strategies and actions (winter-spring 2020):** Work with the community to explore key strategies and talk about the actions needed for the plan's success.
- **Phase Three: Review draft plan (summer 2020):** Share the draft plan with residents and other stakeholders for comment.

During [Phase 1 of outreach](#), we heard from over 400 residents and stakeholders from across the city. Through surveys, pop-up events, presentations and workshops for the community and key stakeholders we heard that there is a strong desire for the city to:

- Take bold action on sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- Support healthy and livable communities.
- Thoughtfully balance costs and benefits with an eye towards planning for the future.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with business, youth, non-profits, and major employers.

That feedback, along with input from various departments and research into best practices, was presented to city council in November of 2019. At that time, city council gave direction to set [bold goals](#) and begin considering the actions the city could take to achieve those goals.

Overview of Outreach Efforts

Bellevue has a long tradition of engaging residents and stakeholders in planning for the future. Community support is one of the key criteria for evaluating potential actions the city could take to reduce carbon emissions, so the outreach team created multiple opportunities for people to learn about the Environmental Stewardship Plan, ask questions, provide comments, and share their priorities.

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Online Survey

An online survey EngagingBellevue.com was open from February 21, 2020 to May 29, 2020 and received 602 of responses. Survey participants shared their level of support for each of the potential actions under considerations. Participants then chose the top five actions that they would like the city to prioritize. They also had the opportunity to share comments through open-ended text questions.

Community Open House

On March 3, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. over 80 people joined city staff at a Community Open House at Interlake High School. The purpose of the community open house was to share the city's progress on the Environmental Stewardship Plan update, gather feedback on potential actions, and provide an opportunity for community members to discuss the potential actions.

Attendees were able to drop-in at any time during the evening and choose how they wanted to participate. Six stations provided background information and explanations of the potential actions the city is considering on boards. Each station was staffed by a city employee who could answer questions and provide more context. At each station attendees had the opportunity to vote on potential action using stickers and provide additional comments on post-it notes.

Attendees who wanted to engage in a deeper dive discussion on any of the five focus areas had the opportunity to participate in up to three rounds of table discussions that were facilitated by staff.

Attendees also had the opportunity to fill out comment cards if they wanted to provide more detailed feedback.

Virtual Events

Originally the outreach team planned for three in-person events, but the need to stay home and stay healthy in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak meant that outreach efforts needed to adapt.

Our Earth Week Talk *Climate Anxiety – Staying Engaged Without Getting Overwhelmed* was a collaboration with Bellevue College and was scheduled to take place on campus on April 21, 2020. We were able to successfully move that to a digital platform. Over 60 people, a mix of residents and Bellevue College students, participated in a lively discussion lead by special guest speaker Dr. Jennifer Atkinson of U.W. Bothell.

The outreach team also conducted a Virtual Town Hall on April 23, 2020. Over 30 people participated in a discussion on how the update to the Environmental Stewardship Plan might be impacted by COVID-19. Council Member Janice Zahn welcomed attendees and reiterated council's support for this work. Then Environmental Stewardship Initiative Program Manager, Jennifer Ewing gave an overview of the update process and answered questions.

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Sustainability Leaders

Making progress on the city's environmental stewardship goal will require collaboration with key stakeholder groups. In an effort to build relationships, share ideas, and lay the foundation for future cooperation the city convened a group of Sustainability Leaders made up of representatives from the developer, business, and non-profit environmental communities; major employers; and institutional partners. This group first met last fall for a kick-off event and workshop. During Phase Two Sustainability Leaders had two key opportunities to engage in the update process.

Briefing

On February 12, 2020 NUMBER Sustainability Leaders gathered at GIX for a Lunch and Learn. Attendees got a preview of the some of the actions that would be under consideration, learn about ways to participate in the plan update and take a tour of the Spring District to see how the city is supporting sustainable development.

Focus Groups

The outreach team conducted multiple focus group sessions in March and May of 2020. The focus groups were designed to deep dive discussion on key topics – low impact development, reducing single-use plastics, trees, mobility, energy, and waste. Participants in the focus groups shared how they were addressing these issues, explored implementation, and shared ideas. City staff from relevant departments were on hand to provide information about city efforts.

Across the private, public, and non-profit sectors environmental stewardship is a key priority. For some members of the Sustainability Leaders group addressing climate change is a core value and part of their brand identity. For others, environmental stewardship makes economic sense. Many members of the Sustainability Leaders group have ambitious goals for reducing their own carbon footprint. The Sustainability Leaders are also pragmatic and want to see the city take a thoughtful approach and make data-driven decisions.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Amazon
- ARCH
- Bellevue Brewing+
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
- Bellevue College
- Bellevue Downtown Association
- Bellevue School District
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Chinese Information Service Center
- Climate Solutions*
- ERIC+
- Forterra+
- Forth Mobility
- GLY
- Hopelink+
- King County Housing Authority
- King County Metro
- Master Builders/Built Green
- Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center*
- Microsoft+
- Puget Sound Energy
- REI
- Republic Services
- Sound Transit+
- Su Development
- T-Mobile
- The Nature Conservancy+
- Unico Properties
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network*
- Vulcan

*Accepted invitation but unable to attend
+Interested but declined invitation.

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Youth Engagement

Climate change is a pressing issue for youth; young people are acutely aware that their generation will be greatly affected by the impacts of climate change. Across the country and the globe young people are taking action and finding ways to make a difference. To ensure that youth voice would be a part of our engagement efforts the team established partnerships with Bellevue high school green teams, science teachers and the non-profit [Sustainability Ambassadors](#). Engagement activities with these groups included:

- **Youth Town Hall** – high school students from SCHOOL heard presentations from city staff about how youth can engage at the local level.
- **Sustainability Summit** – high school students shared results from community projects and heard an update from city staff on the development of the Environmental Stewardship Plan.
- **Promoting the Survey** – through their school Green Teams and the Sustainability Ambassadors program, students helped to promote the survey to their peers and families.

Community Presentations

The Environmental also gave presentations to various community groups including faith groups, community organizations, Bellevue schools green teams, and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce.

Overview of Outreach Goals

During Phase Two of the Environmental Stewardship Plan update the outreach team was sought input from the public and key stakeholders on potential actions the city could take to achieve the goals set forward in the in the plan.

To develop the list of potential actions for consideration city staff from the Parks, Transportation, Utilities and Planning met with the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Team and outside experts to review research and best practices. Potential actions were evaluated based on the following criteria:

CRITERION	DEFINITION
Impact	How much will this action help us achieve the goals and targets of the plan?
Cost-Effectiveness	What will it cost to implement the action? Are there potential long-term savings? What is the cost of inaction?
Ease of Implementation	Does the city have the capacity to implement the action given current circumstances?

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Equity Does the action address the needs of all populations, especially vulnerable and historically underserved populations?

Co-Benefits or Synergies Does the action complement other work the city is doing that could boost impact?

Community Support Is there strong support for action from the resident and business community?

Through engagement efforts the ESI Team sought to understand community support by exploring the following questions.

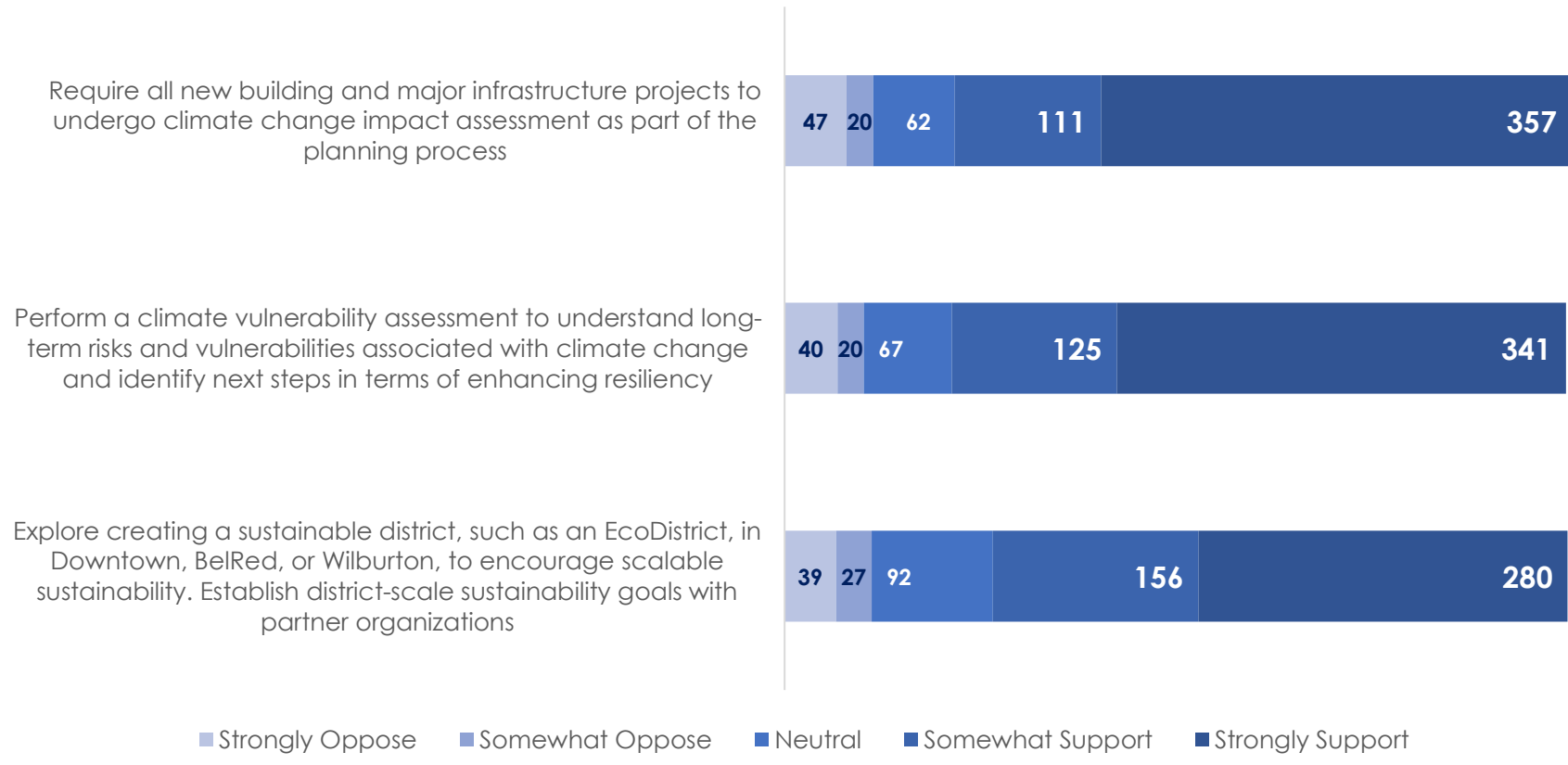
- What level of support was there for each action?
- Which actions would the community and stakeholders prioritize?
- What other ideas or concerns did the community and stakeholders want us to consider?

Overview of Outreach Findings

The following graphs summarize the results of the engagingbellevue.com online survey, which received 602 responses. Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for each of the actions outlined in the charts. Respondents had the ability to skip a question, so some actions may not have responses from every survey respondent. In addition, two actions were modified during the survey as a result of the open house, when staff heard from residents that the intent of the parking study action was not clear and that there should be an action in the survey to support residential tree planting, which was added after the initial launch of the survey.

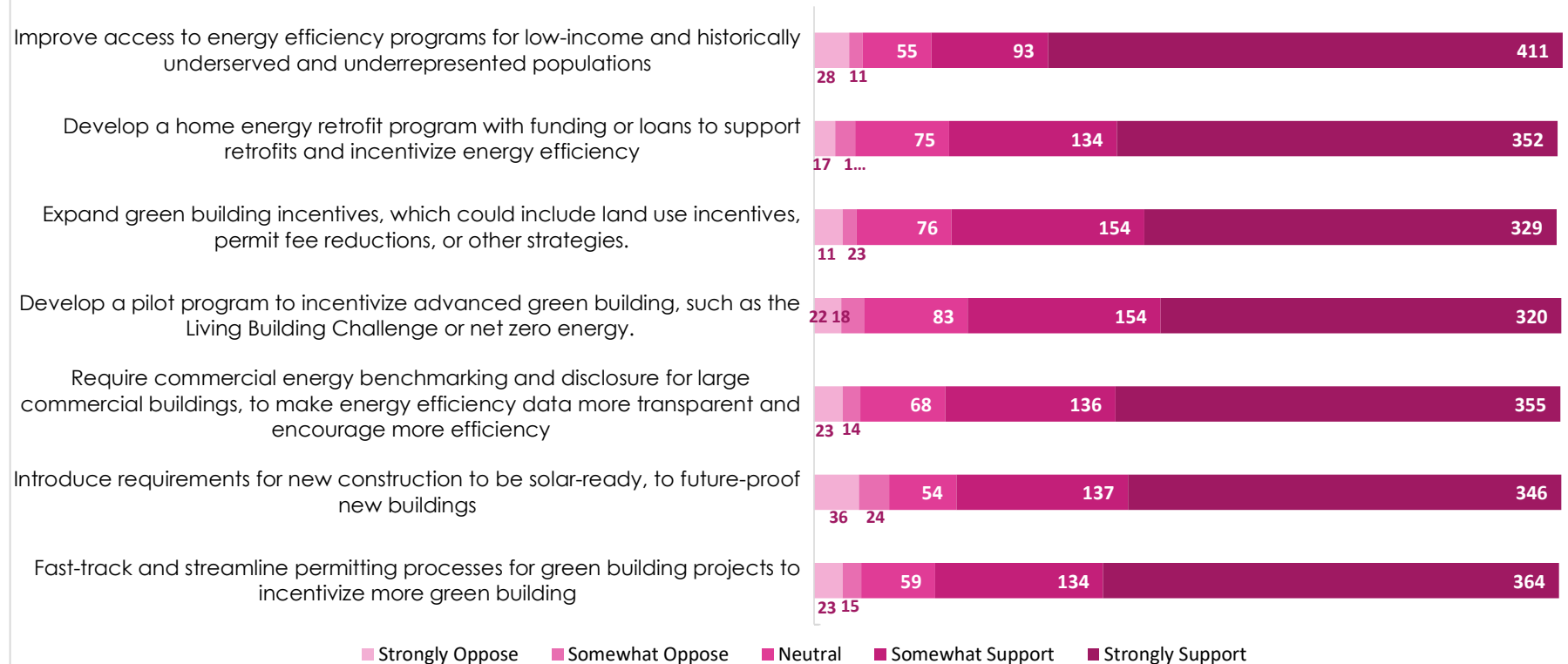
 **Climate Change**

Potential Climate Actions



 **Energy**

Potential Energy Actions



Aim to make Bellevue a place where truly innovative green buildings are built, using a variety of approaches including incentives, partnerships, education, demonstration projects, and recognition. Aim higher than standards considered "green" ten years ago, to net-zero and similar standards. Help build excitement in Bellevue about green building innovation.

Land Use & Mobility



Potential Mobility and Land Use Actions

Introduce electric vehicle charging readiness requirements for new commercial, multi-family, and single-family buildings which exceeds the state building code requirement to future-proof Bellevue's new buildings.



Support pilots, infrastructure, and other efforts to increase use of multi-occupant autonomous, connected, electric, shared and micro-mobility options in Bellevue to provide more options



Develop a Transportation Master Plan that explores opportunities to decrease per capita vehicle miles traveled through prioritization and investments to support transit and non-motorized modes



Study the impact of light rail on the supply and demand needs of parking near transit stations and consider reducing minimum parking requirements to let the market determine the appropriate level of parking for new development.



Consider expanding the Transportation Impact Fee program to support construction of projects for walking and biking in addition to motorized transportation



■ Strongly Oppose
 ■ Somewhat Oppose
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Somewhat Support
 ■ Strongly Support

Sample Comments:

I think there is always going to be a need for private vehicles; but electric vehicles could make a difference in pollution. I note that their batteries are not easily recyclable and they depend on rare-earth technology - which is a very polluting process.

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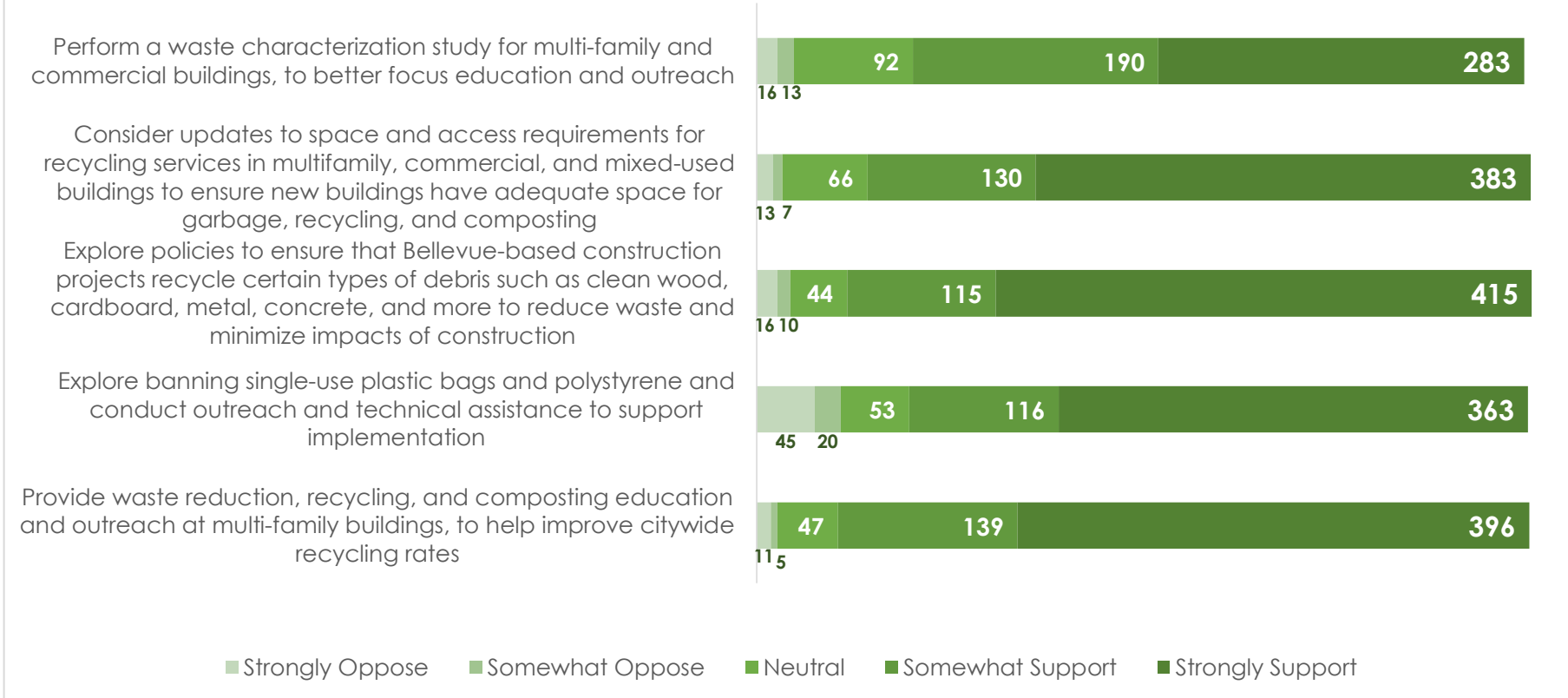
ATTACHMENT 3



Continue to emphasize Transit Oriented Development in city planning -- Continue with existing planning that emphasizes Transit Oriented Development, and work to make it take shape as intended. Identify ways to expand efforts toward TOD, so that more neighborhoods are bikeable and walkable, and so they provide good connections to transit, needed services, nature, and other key destinations.

Waste

Potential Waste Actions



Sample Comments:

As more of the city population resides in multi-family situations, they need to be able to do their even larger share of recycling.

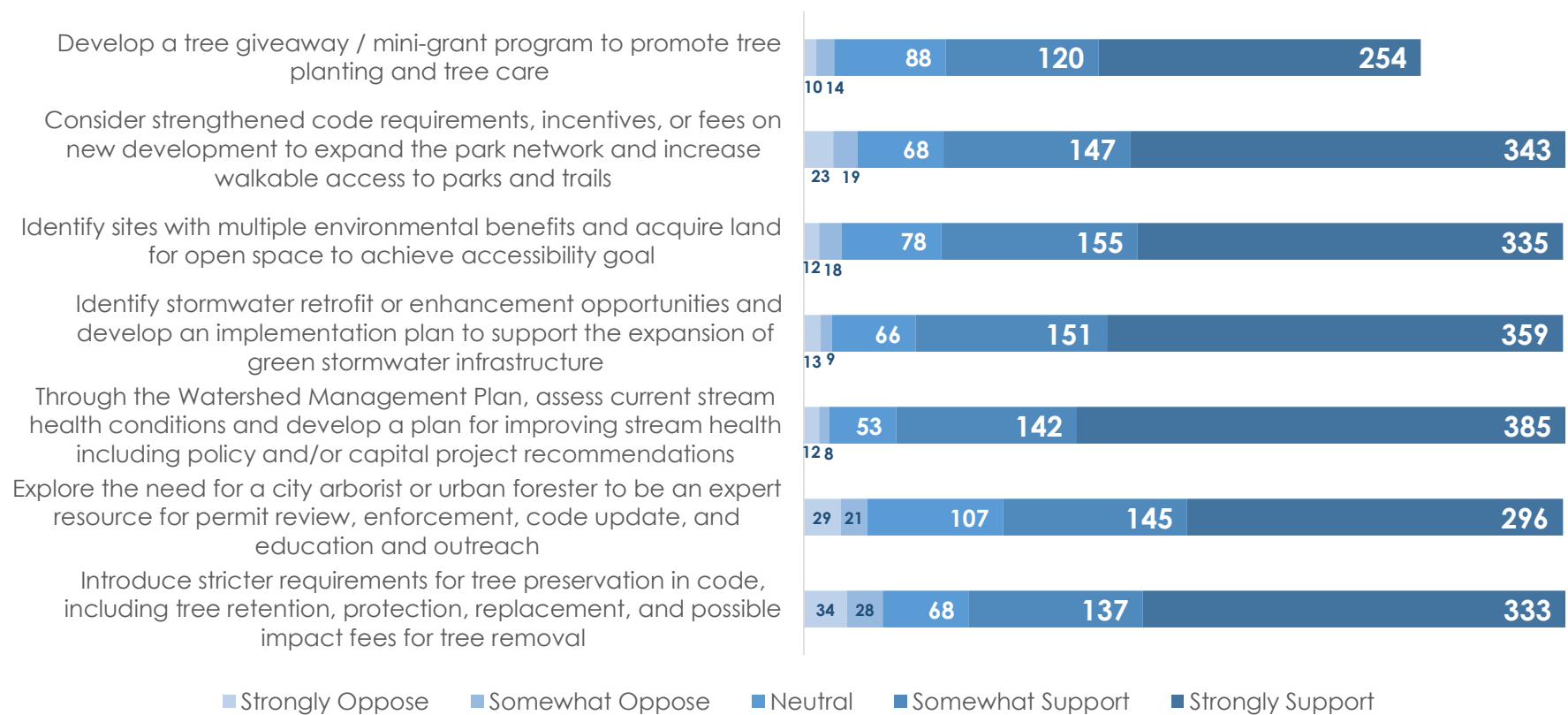
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From recent news, most recycled products still end up in landfills. There needs to be education about sorting or easier access to convenient recycling and composting.



Natural Systems

Potential Natural Systems Actions



Sample Comments:

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ATTACHMENT 3



This is a critical time to act. There is huge pressure on Bellevue to add housing and commercial space. If we are smart, we can preserve access to Green space as well and partner with the developers to continue to make Bellevue such a desirable place to live and work.

Prioritization of Actions

