



Bellevue Planning Commission

October 26, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation

STAFF CONTACT

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POLICY ISSUES

Council adopted the 2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) in December 2020. 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 plan serves to implement many environmental policies in the Comprehensive Plan, outlined in Attachment A, and includes 78 actions in the five focus areas listed above. The plan includes updated sustainability goals and targets for measuring progress in the five focus areas. Staff provide updates to Council on the plan implementation progress quarterly, and an annual update on the City's greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental performance metrics.

Staff will provide an update to the Planning Commission on the Environmental Stewardship Plan implementation, along with an overview of how the plan helps to implement highlighted policies in the Comprehensive Plan. This presentation is for information only.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

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 increase recycling, tree canopy, walkable access to parks, renewable energy, and electric vehicle use. The plan also includes goals and targets related to land use and transportation, to encourage siting housing and jobs within a quarter of a mile of frequent transit stops. The plan will help to preserve and enhance the natural environment, encourage transit-oriented development, and increase overall livability in Bellevue.

Council Direction

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. As part of the quarterly updates, staff provide annual reporting on the environmental performance metrics during the summer update, and the other quarterly updates focus on progress towards implementing actions. Council directed staff to pursue and build partnerships to support the plan implementation, leverage the expertise of stakeholders and residents, seek innovative solutions and quick wins, lead by example, and move forward with urgency into plan implementation. In the adopted 2021-2022 City budget, Council included funding for enhanced engagement with stakeholders and residents, to support the plan implementation, along with supplemental funding for “quick wins” for the plan implementation. The Preliminary 2023-2024 budget includes recommendations for additional funding to support accelerated implementation of the plan.

Implementation Progress

As of the July 18, 2022, update to Council, staff have initiated work on over 75 percent of the actions in the plan. Of the 78 actions in the Environmental Stewardship Plan, the primary departments working on the plan implementation (Community Development, Finance and Asset Management, Development Services, Parks & Community Services, Transportation, and Utilities) have initiated 32 of the actions and incorporated 26 into ongoing operations less than two years into the five-year implementation program. Sixteen actions have not started yet, and four actions are complete, as shown in Table 1. The ESP includes a timeframe for each action, which outlines when the remain actions are anticipated to initiated.

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation Progress

Status	# of Actions	Description	%
Started	32	Work has started / implementation is partially complete	41%
Ongoing	26	Work has been incorporated into ongoing operations	33%
Complete	4	Work has been completed	5%
Not started	16	Work has not begun	21%
Barrier	0	Need to re-strategize approach. There is a barrier to implementing the action.	0%
Total	78		100%

Environmental Stewardship Initiative and other Planning Efforts

The ESP includes a variety of types of actions to advance progress toward the various sustainability goals, including assessments, implementation plans, new programs, and consideration for new policies or requirements. The actions relating to new or updated policies or requirements could result in updates to Comprehensive Plan policies and/or land use code amendments and will require Council direction to initiate, such as the tree code update. Actions requiring direction from Council to launch, such as any code updates, will outline the aspects of the land use code which could be impacted.

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In addition, as part of the launch of new planning efforts, staff review the ESP to identify any overlapping goals or how planning efforts may help to advance the implementation of the plan.

Both the Wilburton Vision implementation and the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (CPPU) are opportunities to advance the implementation of the ESP actions related to climate resiliency and equity, air quality and land use planning, neighborhood walkability and sustainable districts, green building and others outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Environmental Stewardship Plan Actions to be addressed in the CPPU and Wilburton Vision Implementation

ESP Action	Description
C1.1 Climate Vulnerability Assessment	Perform a climate vulnerability assessment to understand long-term risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change and identify next steps in terms of enhancing resiliency.
C.1.4 Climate equity	Prioritize climate mitigation and adaptation investments in historically underserved and underrepresented communities.
C.1.5 Environmental equity assessment	Perform an environmental equity assessment to identify environmental risks to communities of color and equitable access to environmental resources in Bellevue. Use the assessment to develop recommendations for policies and programs to continue to advance equity and reduce environmental burdens.
C.1.6 Air quality	Pilot air quality monitoring sensors and incorporate air quality considerations into planning for major rezonings.
C.1.8 Functional plan in Comprehensive Plan	Update the Comprehensive Plan to reflect that the Environmental Stewardship Plan is a functional plan.
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.
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.
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.
E.1.3 Green building incentives	Review effectiveness of existing green building land use incentives and consider options for increasing the impact and making them more consistent across neighborhoods undergoing rezoning.
E.1.4 Green affordable housing	Evaluate opportunities to support green affordable housing and identify strategies to encourage additional levels of green building beyond the Evergreen green building standard for city-funded projects.

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Next Steps

As the Wilburton Vision Implementation and Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update advance, staff and consultants will be analyzing areas in which additional or updated policies are needed to support the implementation of the ESP and amend climate and sustainability related policies to align with Vision 2050 and the Countywide Planning Policies.

ATTACHMENT

A. Environmental Stewardship Initiative Applicable Policy

REFERENCE MATERIALS

1. [2021-2021 Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan](#)
2. [Environmental Stewardship Plan Summary](#)