City of Bellevue

Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: 7/2/2025

TO: Chair Stash and Members of the Transportation Commission

FROM: Colin Munson, Climate & E-Mobility Coordinator, cmunson@bellevuewa.gov, 425-452-2855

SUBJECT: **2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update**

DIRECTION REQUESTED

	Action
	Discussion
X	Information

Environmental Stewardship Plan Context

On Dec. 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 across six focus areas: Climate Change, Buildings & Energy, Materials & Waste, Mobility & Land Use, Natural Systems, and Municipal Operations. For this memo to the Transportation Commission, sustainability staff are providing an update on the strategies in the Mobility & Land Use focus area.

Strategies in each focus area are designed to take the city closer to the 2030 and 2050 sustainability goals in each area. These goals were developed originally with input from residents, city staff, community leaders, and stakeholders, and fall under the overarching greenhouse gas emissions target of 95% reduction by 2050, which was adopted by Council this October in the 2044 Comprehensive Plan.

2026-2030 Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

On October 29, 2024, City Council launched the update of the Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan, expected to be completed in late 2025. Throughout the process, the sustainability team is presenting to boards and commissions, in addition to robust outreach to residents and internal and external stakeholders to gather

input on proposed updates to the plan's goals, strategies, targets, and actions. This plan will guide the city's climate action and sustainability for the next five years, aiming towards our 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction targets.

Sustainable Bellevue Plan Engagement

Staff are conducting extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders to inform the Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update. Engagement also includes multiple phases of public engagement with the general community and stakeholders, with a focus on reaching underrepresented community members. In Phase I of the Plan Update, from January through April, staff completed a community townhall on the updated goals and targets, surveys, pop-up tabling, and other in-person and online events promoted via City channels and community partners. To reach underrepresented community members, staff partnered with two community-based organizations (CBOs), Eastside for All and The Little Master's Club, to co-design engagement activities. Through Eastside for All, staff also engaged six additional CBOs: Africans on the Eastside, Chinese Information Services Center, Global Social Business Partners, Indian American Community Services, Muslim Community Network Association, and United Hub.

In total during Phase I engagement, the Environmental Stewardship team received over 450 survey responses, including 2 in Spanish and 46 in Simplified Chinese and connected with over 250 students, had over 100 participants in in-person workshops and the townhalls, connected with over 50 community members at pop-up tabling events. Key themes from these events include significant support for bold climate action and communitywide tree canopy protection. Additionally, community members identified a strong need for climate resilience measures in Bellevue. 81 percent of survey respondents stated that they have experienced climate impacts in Bellevue, with extreme heat and smoke events being the most experienced impacts.

In addition to community engagement, the Bellevue sustainability team hosted a series of staff workshops during the week of April 28th. Over 60 staff members attended, representing all of Bellevue's departments, to provide input on how the Plan can meet the city's goals for both the community and municipal operations. The draft strategies in **Appendix B** represent input from the community, Bellevue sustainability staff, staff subject matter experts from across the city, and the best available science and practices. The update of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan is focused on developing actionable strategies that are focused on outcomes needed to reduce emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Plan Update Focus

To meet the city's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and 95% by 2050, the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan is focused on strategies that can help the city achieve

its targets and increase resilience to climate impacts. To meet this challenge, the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan divides strategies into three categories:

- **Priority Strategies**
  - These strategies and their associated actions have the potential to rapidly reduce GHG emissions to meet Bellevue's 50 percent emissions reduction target during the 2026-2030 timeframe.
- **Catalyst Strategies**
  - These strategies and their associated actions have the potential to lay a long-term foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet Bellevue's 2050 target.
- **Resilience Strategies**
  - These strategies and their associated actions have the potential to meaningfully enhance the resilience of community members, infrastructure, and natural systems to climate hazards.

To assess what strategies and actions need to be taken by the City to achieve the 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction targets, staff are working on an updated emissions reduction analysis to illustrate greenhouse gas emissions reductions associated with specific strategies and actions, along with the levels of investment needed to achieve these reductions. **Appendix B** contains the draft strategies relevant to the Transportation Commission's purview in the Mobility & Land Use section of the plan update.

Next Steps

In the coming months, Environmental Stewardship staff will continue to engage the public on the draft strategies and draft plan. Staff anticipate returning to Council with a recommended draft plan for Council input on October 7th and with a final plan for Council adoption on November 18th.

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

2026-2030 Environmental Stewardship Plan Mobility & Land Use draft strategies

Focus Area: Mobility & Land Use	
Priority Strategy	***Mobility Options.*** *Increase sustainable commutes and active transportation modes to reduce vehicle miles travelled.*
Priority Strategy	***Electric Vehicles****. Support a rapid transition to electric vehicles and electrified transportation to reduce emissions when vehicle trips are taken.*
Catalyst Strategy	***Accessibility and Connectivity****. Expand access to transit, and bicycle, and pedestrian facilities to build infrastructure for future of sustainable transportation*
Catalyst Strategy	***Sustainable Land Use.*** *Facilitate sustainable development to meet climate targets through increased density and livability.*