

Based on direction from the City Council, staff have initiated the process to update the Environmental Stewardship Plan for adoption by Council. The Environmental Stewardship Plan is an inter-departmental environmental sustainability action plan, coordinated by the Community Development department. The Environmental Stewardship Plan serves to implement policies in the Comprehensive Plan related to climate change, energy, waste, mobility and land use, and natural systems, including the following:

Environment Element:

- Promote and invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy resources as an alternative to non-renewable resources. (EN-4)
- Establish an achievable Citywide target and take corrective actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as reducing energy consumption and vehicle emissions and enhancing land use patterns to reduce vehicle dependency. (EN-6)
- Develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies that create a more resilient community by addressing the impacts of climate change to public health and safety, the economy, public and private infrastructure, water resources, and habitat. (EN-7)
- Provide regional leadership on environmental issues that extend beyond Bellevue's boundaries and require regional cooperation. (EN-8)
- Work toward a Citywide tree canopy target of at least 40 percent canopy coverage that reflects our "City in a Park" character and maintain an action plan for meeting the target across multiple land use types including right-of way, public lands, and residential and commercial uses. (EN-12)
- Implement the city-wide use of low impact development techniques and green building practices. (EN-45)
- Provide land use incentives to minimize the amount of impervious surface area below that allowed through prescriptive standards, in new development, redevelopment, and existing development citywide. (EN-44)
- Support the use of emerging best practices in the area of green building and site design through the use of pilot programs and model ordinances. (EN-48)
- Provide education and incentives to support the implementation of low impact development practices, integrated site planning, and green building, with a focus on early consideration of these in the site development process. (EN-49)
- Promote the use of alternative fuels such as electricity and compressed natural gas and evaluate the use of such fuels for the city's vehicles. (EN-54)

Land Use Element:

- Provide for a mix of housing, office, service and retail uses in a compact walkable development pattern that optimizes the benefits of transit investment in Bellevue's transit-oriented development areas. (LU-28.1)

Transportation Element:

- Establish targets to increase the proportion of commute trips by modes other than driving alone. Periodically evaluate progress toward these targets and adjust programs and activities as needed to achieve the goal. (TR-8)
- Ensure that the transportation system infrastructure in Bellevue provides mobility options for all modes, and accommodates the mobility needs of everyone, including underserved populations. (TR-21)

- Develop the transportation system in Bellevue to minimize environmental and neighborhood impacts, while addressing the city's long-term transportation and land use objectives (TR-139)
- Support means to reduce transportation-source greenhouse gas emissions. (TR-140).
- Provide curbside space for electric vehicle charging stations where on-street parking is allowed. (TR-143)

In addition to Bellevue policy, the Environmental Stewardship Plan will support the following regional policies:

King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, 2019

The Bellevue City Council approved the King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan in June of 2019, which has since been finalized through its approval by the Department of Ecology. This plan includes countywide waste reduction and recycling goals, including achieving an interim recycling rate of 70% and Zero Waste of Resources with economic value by 2030.

Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (Res. 7517)

Council agreed in February 2006 to strive to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets (7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012) for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in City operations and similar actions within our community.

King County Cities Climate Collaboration (Res. 8789)

Council joined the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) on August 4, 2014. The K4C is a partnership among 17 partners and King County, working collaboratively to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP), Environmental Element

Reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25 percent by 2020, 50 percent by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050. Assuming 1 percent annual population growth, these targets translate to per capita emissions of approximately 8.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) by 2020, 5 MTCO_{2e}, and 1.5 MTCO_{2e} by 2050 (CPP EN-18).