



Bellevue Planning Commission

July 22, 2020

PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Environmental Stewardship Plan Update – Draft Actions

STAFF CONTACT

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POLICY ISSUES

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Introduction and Vision: *The Comprehensive Plan sets out the community's vision for the future, lays out a groundwork of planning policies to guide city actions, and provides a framework so that city departments and community organizations work together toward common goals.*

City Council's 2018-2020 Vision Priorities #11: *Review the progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the City may wish to take to achieve its environmental goals (e.g. tree canopy).*

The Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) formally began in 2007. Its mission is to implement continuous change, learning and innovation in practices that drive the City of Bellevue organization and the larger Bellevue community toward achieving a larger vision of environmental sustainability. ESI work has been guided by the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan. This plan contains 57 actions related to greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water, mobility, land use, ecosystems, open space, and materials management and waste. It addresses both our municipal operations and the larger community. The Strategic Plan is being updated in direct response to Priority #11, and the plan going forward is now referred to as the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

The Environmental Stewardship Plan is an inter-departmental environmental sustainability action plan which supports the implementation of policies in the Comprehensive Plan related to climate change, natural systems, materials management and waste, mobility and land use, and energy which are located within the Environment, Land Use and Transportation elements. These policies are included in Attachment 3.

As part of the plan update, the City Council directed staff to seek input from boards and commissions on strategies and actions for achieving updated Environmental Stewardship Plan goals in November 2019. Following ultimate adoption of the Environmental Stewardship Plan by Council, the Planning Commission's role will be to consider future amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and land use code provisions that are required as a result of the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION

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DIRECTION

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INFORMATION ONLY

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Staff requests input from the Planning Commission on the draft actions for the Environmental Stewardship Plan, which could potentially result in updates to the Comprehensive Plan and/or land use code.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the February 26, 2020 Planning Commission meeting, staff provided the Commission with an overview of the background, timeline, and approach for updating the Environmental Stewardship Plan. This presentation also included recommendations for environmental goals and targets for the plan along with a summary of progress to date on these performance metrics.

The memo for the February 26 presentation included a discussion of the background and context for the plan, along with the recommended goals and targets. Staff memos and materials from the February 26 meeting are available [online](#).

Process for Developing Actions

In collaboration with the consulting team supporting the update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan, city staff and the consultants developed a master list of potential actions for the plan for each of the five focus areas (Mobility & Land Use, Climate Change, Energy, Natural Systems, and Waste) for both city operational actions and communitywide strategies. This master list of actions was developed by examining existing policies, programs, and plans along with best practices from around the U.S. and the region, along with input from city staff experts.

The consultant team performed a multi-criteria analysis of the actions to evaluate the impact, benefits, costs, and equity outcomes. This shorter list was then reviewed and discussed during a city staff workshop in December 2019, which included approximately 50 city staff from a range of departments. The core staff team and consultants used this input from the staff workshops to develop a list of actions for Phase 2 public outreach and engagement. Using input from Phase 2 public outreach and further city staff review and vetting, the team is seeking input from the Planning Commission on the draft list of actions which could involve future land use code updates or Comprehensive Plan amendments, as described in Attachment 1. Staff will then develop a draft of the Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment, in Phase 3 of the outreach plan.

Proposed Actions to Achieve Goals

Staff has selected a subset of the draft actions for Planning Commission review, which implement policies in the Comprehensive Plan and also address land use in the city. These actions could ultimately result in updates to the Comprehensive Plan and/or the Land Use Code provisions. As land use is intertwined with all of the Environmental Stewardship Plan focus areas, a selection of actions from each focus area is summarized in Attachment 1. These actions include:

Climate Change:

- Sustainable District
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Climate equity
- Environmental equity assessment
- Air quality

Mobility and Land Use:

- Growth Center Parking Study
- Leverage Frequent Transit Network Service

Materials Management and Waste:

- Recycling Space Requirements

Natural Systems:

- Tree preservation code
- Integrated Design and Site Selection

Energy:

- Advanced Green Building Pilot Program
- Green Building Incentives
- Green Affordable Housing

Implementation:

- Environmental Stewardship Plan as a Comprehensive Plan Functional Plan

Staff and the consultant team also performed an analysis of the impact of strategies towards achieving the following goals:

- Greenhouse gas reduction goal of 50% by 2030
- Greenhouse gas reduction goal of 80% by 2050
- Goals for reducing per capita vehicle-miles-traveled,
- Achieving 40% tree canopy,
- Zero waste and energy reduction goals.

The consultant team also analyzed the costs, benefits, impact, and equity aspects of a portfolio of strategies to develop the short-list of actions.

Outreach Summary

The second phase of public outreach and engagement is summarized in Attachment 2, Phase 2 Outreach and Engagement Summary, which focused on feedback on the short-list of actions for the plan. The same short-list of actions was used for the March 3rd Open House and for the online survey, which received over 600 responses.

Residents were generally supportive of the actions outlined in Attachment 1, and a common theme in the feedback was a desire for the City to expand and accelerate implementation. Respondents were asked to select their top five actions, and the top selections included:

- Single-Use Plastics Ban
- Transportation Master Plan
- Tree Preservation Code
- Home Energy Retrofit program
- Targeted Land Acquisition (currently titled Integrated Site Design and Selection).

Further analysis of the survey responses, open house comments, and comments from the survey can be found in Attachment 2.

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Considerations

The city has been working on Environmental Stewardship strategies to increase local sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the past 13 years. This plan is an opportunity to review and update the city's environmental goals and develop a set of strategies for implementation over the next five years. The city's work over the past 13 years has laid a solid foundation for progress, and these proposed actions will continue to build on that foundation over the next five years. Future updates of the Environmental Stewardship Plan will build on these efforts and focus on bringing solutions to scale.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic struck in the middle of this plan update, which in addition to the health and economic impacts has had a significant short-term impact on mobility patterns, greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste. The development of the actions for the plan has taken the economic recovery into account, and this will continue to be a consideration moving into implementation.

Discussion

Staff requests input from the Planning Commission on the draft list of actions for the plan for the five focus areas, and for the Implementation action to update the Environmental Stewardship Plan as a functional plan in the Environment Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Next Steps

Staff will review and address feedback from the Planning Commission and other boards and commissions and will aim to release a draft Environmental Stewardship Plan in late summer or early fall. Staff will summarize input from the Planning Commission and other boards and commissions and include that in the transmittal of the draft plan to Council later in 2020.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1: Draft Actions
2. Attachment 2: Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Phase 2 Outreach Summary
3. Attachment 3: Environmental Stewardship Initiative Applicable Policies

REFERENCE MATERIALS

1. [Recommended Goals and Targets Report](#)
2. [Environmental Stewardship Plan update Phase 1 Outreach Summary](#)
3. [2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan](#)
4. [ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report](#)