



Memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2020
TO: Human Services Commission Members
FROM: Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager
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SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan

Staff will present on the recently released draft Environmental Stewardship Plan, the City of Bellevue's sustainability plan, and seek input from the Human Services Commission on the draft plan. The focus of the discussion will be on:

- Providing an overview of the draft plan and process for developing the plan
- Summarizing the outreach process and outreach results
- Highlighting actions most relevant to the Human Services Commission
- Providing the Human Services Commission an opportunity to share input on the draft plan.

The Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan has been released for public comment, and the plan, plan summary, and opportunities to share comments can be found here:

<https://www.engagingbellevue.com/environmental-stewardship>.

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Stewardship Initiative is Bellevue's environmental sustainability program, which is coordinated by the Community Development Department. The Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) formally began in 2007 with a mission 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. Over the last five years, ESI's work has been guided by the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan. City Council's 2018-2020 Vision Priorities include Priority #11 related to the ESI, which provides direction to: "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)".

At the November 12th Council presentation, Council provided direction for staff to engage with boards and commissions for input on strategies and actions to achieve the goals in the plan. No formal action is needed from the boards and commissions during this process. The city has been working on environmental stewardship strategies to increase local sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the past 13 years, and will use this plan update to build on

this foundation to identify additional high impact actions for implementation over the next five years, to support implementation of our goals.

As with other city initiatives the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on this planning process and has impacted short-term 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.

PLAN UPDATE APPROACH

On November 13, 2018, staff presented to the Council the scope and approach for updating the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan, along with the main focus areas for the plan. These include: climate change; energy; materials management and waste; mobility and land use; and natural systems.

The following steps outline the City's approach to the update:

Phase 1: (complete)

- Review progress with the ESI Strategic Plan Progress report
- Review the city's environmental goals and update as appropriate (May 20, 2019 Council presentation)
- Develop targets for each goal (November 12, 2019 Council presentation)

Phase 2: (complete)

- Analyze best practices and additional actions for consideration in an updated Environmental Stewardship Plan
- Engage with Boards and Commissions for input on possible strategies and actions related to their purview
- Engage with residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on possible actions for the plan

Phase 3: (current phase)

- Develop a draft Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment
- Board and Commission engagement
- Finalize Environmental Stewardship Plan for adoption by the Council

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The city released the Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment on Thursday September 24, and the formal public comment period will close on October 16. Staff have held two rounds of public outreach and engagement, which are summarized on the Environmental Stewardship Plan update website: [ESI Plan Update Outreach Results](#). The team has heard from nearly 1,000 Bellevue residents throughout this process, who are interested in seeing Bellevue advance its environmental stewardship work. Residents have voiced support for using an equity lens for developing the plan, and are particularly supportive of actions such as home energy retrofits, which benefit Bellevue's lower income communities.

ACTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Staff seek input from the Human Services Commission on actions in the plan which complement or build on other Human Services programming, such as weatherization programs or other home repair assistance programs. The Environmental Stewardship Plan includes actions to remove barriers for Bellevue residents in accessing City of Bellevue or PSE energy efficiency programs, and to consider the creation of a home energy retrofit program for residents who do not qualify for any existing Human Services funded programs.

Actions in the draft plan with an equity benefit are highlighted below for input from the Human Services Commission:

Climate

- [C1.1 Climate vulnerability assessment](#) – Analyze the long-term impacts of climate change and infrastructure, natural systems, and health.
- [C1.4 Climate equity](#) – Focus climate and sustainability investments in areas that have been historically underserved.
- [C1.5 Environmental equity assessment](#) – Perform an analysis to identify environmental issues, such as air pollution, which may be disproportionately affecting communities of color and low income residents.
- [C1.6 Air quality](#) – Improve air quality data sources, understand current air quality concerns, and consider air quality in planning and future development in proximity to freeways and major roads.

Energy

- [E2.2 Home energy retrofit program](#) - Develop a home energy retrofit program to help lower-income residents increase the energy efficiency of their homes. Look to complement existing weatherization programs and energy efficiency incentives.
- [E2.3 Equitable access to energy programs](#)- Improve access to energy efficiency programs for low-income residents and historically underserved communities.

Natural Systems

- [N4.2 Tree planting](#) – Plant 75,000 trees over the next 30 years, and focus tree planting in neighborhoods with lower tree canopy.
- [N4.3 Plan for walkable access to parks](#) – Develop a strategy to ensure that all Bellevue households are within a 1/3 mile of a park.

DISCUSSION

Staff request input from the Human Services Commission on the draft plan.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will review feedback from the public comment period and boards and commissions and incorporate any final edits into the draft plan. Staff will present the final draft plan to Council on November 16, and are anticipating Council adoption of the plan by the end of the year.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan: [link](#)

Draft Environmental Stewardship Plan Summary: [link](#)

Public Engagement Website: www.engagingbellevue.com