

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Resolution adopting the Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan which sets forth direction to guide the City's environmental stewardship activities over the next five years.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As directed by Council on November 16, this Resolution adopts the Environmental Stewardship Plan and initiates its implementation. The final Environmental Stewardship Plan incorporates Council input and direction from November 16. The Environmental Stewardship Plan includes both short and long-term goals and targets for 2030 and 2050, along with a suite of 77 actions to implement over the next five years to enhance sustainability for City operations and for the entire community.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9859

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

Staff presented the recommended Environmental Stewardship Plan to Council on November 16 for review and discussion. Council provided direction to incorporate specific edits into the recommended plan (as highlighted later in this memo) and to return at a subsequent meeting for adoption.

The adoption of the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan marks a significant milestone after nearly two years of work to review progress to date, update the City's environmental goals, analyze additional strategies to achieve the goals, perform public outreach and engagement, release a draft plan for public comment, and finalize a recommended plan for Council review and adoption. This updated Environmental Stewardship Plan will guide the City's environmental stewardship efforts over the next five years. Engagement on plan implementation and progress will continue with an internal implementation team, engagement with the public, and regular Council updates.

**Background and Approach**

Council's 2018-2020 Vision Priorities include Priority No. 11 specific to the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI). It states: "Review 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 formally began in 2007 and has been guided by the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan.

On November 13, 2018, and in response to the direction from Council's 2018-2020 Vision Priorities, staff presented to Council the scope and approach for updating the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan. The following steps outline the City's approach to the update:

### Phase 1: (complete)

- Review progress with the ESI Strategic Plan Progress report (February 19, 2019 Council study session).
- Review the City's environmental goals and update as appropriate (May 20, 2019 Council study session).
- Develop recommended targets for each goal (November 12, 2019 Council study session).

### Phase 2: (complete)

- Analyze best practices and additional actions for the updated plan, looking at the costs, benefits, and impact of various actions.
- Engage with City Boards and Commissions for input on possible strategies and actions related to their purview.
- Engage with residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on potential actions for the plan.
- Review progress and updated goals and targets with Council (September 14, 2020 Council study session).

### Phase 3:

- Develop a draft Environmental Stewardship Plan and release for public comment.
- Incorporate updates from public comment into the final Recommended Environmental Stewardship Plan.
- Review Recommended Environmental Stewardship Plan with Council (November 16 Council study session).
- Incorporate updates to plan based on Council direction from November 16 study session.
- Council adoption of Environmental Stewardship Plan.

The plan sets out short-term and long-term goals and targets for 2030 and 2050 for both the community and City operations as well as a suite of 77 actions to improve the environment in five focus areas: climate change, energy, mobility and land use, natural systems, and materials management and waste. The actions are designed to help achieve the City's environmental goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and vehicle miles travelled per person and to increase recycling, tree canopy, walkable access to parks, renewable energy, and electric vehicle use. The plan includes an implementation plan with the lead department identified and anticipated timeframe for implementation over the next five years.

The plan was developed and thoroughly reviewed with City department staff and leadership, and also through a robust public outreach process with residents and business stakeholders. Implementing the plan will continue to involve public engagement and reporting on progress through the new Environmental Stewardship online dashboard.

### **Council Direction**

On November 16, Council provided direction to move the plan to adoption and incorporate the following edits:

1. Incorporate the Environmental Stewardship Plan into neighborhood planning and neighborhood services programs (incorporated into action #M.1.3, page 53) and incorporate the “15-minute City” concept (added to action #M.1.2, page 52).
2. Identify opportunities for public-private partnerships to implement the plan (discussion added to the Implementation section, page 134).
3. Include a reference to the various toolkits and resources used over the course of developing the plan, including best practice resources and the People for Climate Action Toolkit, K4C Climate Action Toolkit, among others (reference included in the plan on page 28).

On November 16, Council also discussed the frequency of environmental stewardship initiative updates to Council and the potential to form a technical advisory group. Council agreed that those issues would be deferred to discussion at a future date as part of plan implementation, and thus are not included in the final plan.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impacts**

#### City Council Vision Priorities (2018-2020)

- Priority No. 11: Review progress of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and analyze additional steps that the City may take to achieve environmental goals (e.g., tree canopy).

#### Bellevue Comprehensive Plan (2015)

##### Environment Element

- EN-6. 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-7. 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-8. Provide regional leadership on environmental issues that extend beyond Bellevue’s boundaries and require regional cooperation.

##### Transportation Element

- TR-140. Support means to reduce transportation-source greenhouse gas emissions.

#### City of Bellevue Resolution No. 8789 (2014)

- Council adopted a Resolution authorizing execution of an interlocal agreement with King County for the City to participate in the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C). K4C is a partnership among cities across King County working to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

#### K4C Joint Commitments (February 17, 2015 and September 14, 2020)

- Council voted to sign the original K4C Joint Commitments on February 17, 2015; and to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments on September 14, 2020, to reaffirm Bellevue’s participation in K4C and support the regional countywide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

### King County Countywide Planning Policies, Environmental Element (2016 Amendments)

- EN-17. Establish a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target that meets or exceeds the statewide reduction requirement that is stated as the 2050 goal of a 50 percent reduction below 1990 levels.
- EN-18. 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<sub>2e</sub>) by 2020, 5 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> by 2030, and 1.5 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> by 2050.

### City of Bellevue Resolution No. 7517 (2007)

- Council adopted a Resolution establishing a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, consistent with the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The 2021-2022 Preliminary City Budget (October 19) includes a number of projects to support the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan, including the ESI Implementation proposal (CD-46), and supporting budget proposals within Transportation, Parks & Community Services, Finance and Asset Management, and Utilities. Funds for the ESI Implementation proposal have been included in the proposed 2021-2022 budget.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution adopting the Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan which sets forth direction to guide the City's environmental stewardship activities over the next five years.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

A. Sustainable Bellevue: Environmental Stewardship Plan  
Proposed Resolution No. 9859

### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Environmental Stewardship Plan, Phase 1 Outreach Summary  
Environmental Stewardship Plan, Phase 2 Outreach Summary  
Environmental Stewardship Plan, Phase 3 Outreach Summary