

CD-46 ESI Implementation

Category: **High Quality Built and Natural E** Status: **Approved Prior**
 Department: **CD** Location: **Various**

Programmed Expenditures

Programmed Expenditures	Appropriated To Date	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budget
1,295,000	170,000	250,000	250,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000

Description and Scope

The updated Environmental Stewardship Plan includes actions to improve the environment in Bellevue in the following five focus areas: Energy, Waste, Mobility and Land Use, and Climate Change. This proposal requests funding to implement actions in the plan to support the achievement of the climate, energy, and tree canopy goals. 1) Tree Canopy Implementation: This proposal seeks funding to support tree planting to aid in the achievement of the city's 40 percent tree canopy goal. To achieve this goal, the city will need to both preserve existing tree canopy and add approximately 670 acres of tree canopy, roughly equating to about 75,000 trees over 30 years. This funding will support planting trees on public property and develop a program to support tree planting on private property, as the majority of the 75,000 trees will need to be planted on private property. This proposal will seek to directly support the planting of approximately 500 trees per year. Additional outreach, education, and partnerships supported through the Environmental Stewardship Initiative operating proposal will support further tree planting and tree preservation efforts. This proposal requests \$55k/year for a tree giveaway program, mini-grant program, and tree planting on public property; 2) Energy Efficiency and Green Building: To support energy efficiency in existing buildings and in new construction, this proposal seeks to fund a technical assistance program for new commercial construction projects to help them increase their energy efficiency. With the unprecedented development and job growth in Bellevue, ensuring all new buildings meet the highest standards of green building is critical for achieving the city's energy conservation and climate change goals. This proposal also requests funding for a new home energy retrofit program, to support energy efficiency projects for qualifying low-to medium income residents. This program is essential for reducing energy use in residential buildings to support the achievement of the 30 percent energy reduction target, and the 80 percent greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. This proposal requests funding of \$50k/year for an energy efficiency and green building program; 3) Climate Change: This proposal seeks funding of \$60k for a climate vulnerability assessment and resiliency planning, to occur in 2021-2022. This analysis will help to inform the next Comprehensive Plan update along with capital project planning for infrastructure projects throughout the city. The need to understand climate vulnerabilities and enhance resiliency has been underscored during the COVID-19 crisis as the city's resiliency has been tested, and this analysis will look at environmental, social, and economic vulnerabilities to climate change and identify strategies for increasing resiliency through updated policies, codes, and infrastructure designs. This assessment is a key step in advancing progress on the climate change goal of the Environmental Stewardship Plan, to reduce Bellevue's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare and adapt to ongoing climate change impacts; and, 4) Energy Efficiency in City Facilities and Green Fleet: A key principle of the Environmental Stewardship Plan is that the City will lead by example through its municipal operations in the areas of climate, energy, mobility, waste, and natural systems. This proposal seeks funding to support the achievement of the municipal operations climate and energy goals for the plan, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2040, and to reduce energy use by 50 percent by 2040 for city operations. This proposal seeks funding of \$20k/year to advance green building and energy efficiency in city capital projects and in existing facilities and to develop a long-term plan for greening Bellevue's fleet.

Rationale

Bellevue's community ranks having a high quality built and natural environment as a top priority. In the 2020 budget survey, residents ranked maintaining a high quality built and natural environment as their number one priority. In the 2019 performance measures survey, residents ranked maintaining a healthy environment and "City in a Park" as highly important, with a recommendation to invest further, due to the lower than average satisfaction rating. These factors are critical to Bellevue's 5-Star rating, yet residents are not satisfied with the level of funding for the environment, based on the results of the 2019 performance measures survey. The City Council's anticipated adoption of the 2020 Environmental Stewardship Initiative reflects these priorities and desire to advance Bellevue's environmental efforts, and outlines bold targets and actions to achieve the city's environmental goals. This proposal aligns specific strategies for implementation that would enable Bellevue to meet Council's environmental targets for 2030 and beyond, and to increase Bellevue's ranking in the percent of residents who think Bellevue is doing a good job creating a healthy natural environment.

Environmental Impacts

Any projects resulting from this proposal, such as increased tree planting in the right-of-way, will build upon existing planned capital projects and ensure that operating funds are available to ensure proper maintenance of the investment.

Operating Budget Impacts

This program will have no impact on operating expenditures.