



2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan

Draft for Public Review

August 2025



Table of Contents

Contents

Sustainable Bellevue: Bold Action, Bright Future	1
A Plan for 2026-2030 – and Beyond	2
Building on Bellevue’s History of Climate Action	3
Plan Update Approach	4
Engaging the Community	4
Building Climate Resilience	5
Climate Action for Everyone	7
Measuring Our Emissions	8
Reducing Our Contribution	9
Accelerating Action by 2030	10
Focus Area Overview	12
Energy & Buildings	14
Materials & Waste	16
Mobility & Land Use	17
Foundational Strategies	20
Municipal Operations	21
Conclusion	23
Action Plan Appendix	24
Glossary	39

Sustainable Bellevue: Bold Action, Bright Future

Bellevue is a dynamic, ever-evolving city characterized by its world-class school system, vibrant economy, unique neighborhoods, and a beautiful natural environment. Over the years, our community has embraced innovation and growth that benefits all. This progress has gone hand-in-hand with decades of environmental stewardship, helping to solidify Bellevue as a thriving city that embraces the future while respecting our past.

Today, Bellevue is experiencing the direct impacts of climate change, from extreme heat and wildfire smoke to intense rainfall events and flooding. As these challenges continue to evolve,

so must our actions to protect what we value: our community members, our economy, and our natural spaces.

The City's strong foundation of environmental stewardship has paved the way for an even stronger commitment to climate action. Ensuring a bright future requires bold action. This is the next evolution of *Sustainable Bellevue*.

A Plan for 2026-2030 – and Beyond

Carbon Neutral by 2050

As affirmed by the Comprehensive Plan, Bellevue has committed to reducing community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions **50%** by 2030 and **95%** by 2050. This new, more aggressive 2050 target puts Bellevue on the path to achieving **carbon neutrality** by mid-century, and will be a desirable place to live, work, and play and be a leader in sustainability. Bellevue has reduced total communitywide emissions 8% since 2011, while also experiencing 25% population growth and 26% job growth during this period. The Sustainable Bellevue Plan charts the vision and priority strategies for accelerating emissions reductions to achieve the City's bold carbon neutrality goal.

In 2020, Bellevue released its previous *Sustainable Bellevue Plan* to guide action on climate change and environmental sustainability. Building on that effort, this 2026-2030 *Sustainable Bellevue Plan* contains high-impact strategies across five key focus areas to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the primary form of pollution causing climate change, increase our community's resilience to climate impacts, and to equitably enhance the livability of the city. By implementing these strategies, Bellevue seeks to achieve the following sustainability goals.

Climate Change

Achieve carbon neutrality and increase Bellevue's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Energy & Buildings

Electrify buildings, increase building efficiency, and transition to renewable electricity

Materials & Waste

Advance responsible consumption, procurement, and disposal to achieve zero waste

Mobility & Land Use

Expand sustainable mobility options and transition to electric and low-carbon transportation modes.

Natural Systems

Preserve and enhance Bellevue's natural resources, tree canopy, green spaces, and water systems.

Municipal Operations

The City will be a leader in reducing GHG emissions and preparing for climate impacts.

Building on Bellevue's History of Climate Action

Sustainable Bellevue builds upon Bellevue's longstanding legacy and commitment to advancing environmental sustainability and climate action. Over the last two decades, Bellevue has sought to become a climate leader through leading by example in city operations and advancing programs, policies, and partnerships that meet the urgency of the moment. This plan builds on the work already done to reduce emissions and prepare the Bellevue community for the impact of climate change.

Timeline

2007 – Environmental Stewardship Initiative launched

2007 – Bellevue signs onto the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement

2011 – First City greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory conducted

2013 – First Environmental Stewardship Strategic Plan completed

2014 – Bellevue joins the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)

2014 – 2018 – Multiple buildings and energy programs established

- Solarize campaigns
- Green Power Challenge
- Georgetown University Energy Prize
- Urban Smart Bellevue

2020 – *Sustainable Bellevue Plan* for 2021-2025 adopted by City Council

2021-2025 – Implementing the Sustainable Bellevue Plan

- Clean Buildings Incentive Program benchmarks 200 buildings
- Tree Giveaway provides over 3,000 free trees
- Eastside Climate Partnership established with the cities of Issaquah, Kirkland, and Redmond
- Energy Smart Eastside program launched; 300 heat pumps installed in Bellevue annually
- Bellevue Climate Challenge campaign engages 189 households
- Piloted Climate Ambassadors program and trained 12 volunteers for community engagement
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment completed
- Tree Preservation code update completed
- EV Roadmap completed
- Mobility Implementation Plan developed
- Comprehensive Plan updated to include new Climate & Environment element
- Hazard Mitigation Plan completed

- \$4M secured in grant funding since 2021, to support plan implementation, for Energy Smart Eastside, climate planning, EV charging infrastructure, annual Tree Giveaway, and city facility retrofits

2025 – *Sustainable Bellevue Plan* for 2026-2030 developed

Plan Update Approach

To update the *Sustainable Bellevue Plan*, the City engaged with community members, businesses, stakeholders, subject matter experts, and reviewed progress to date, updated assessments and inventories using the best data available, reviewed best practices, and updated goals and strategies to align with greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and community needs.

The plan update focused on high-impact strategies and actions to put Bellevue on a path toward achieving our sustainability goals. The plan builds on the efforts to date and focuses on new or expanded actions to implement over the next five years but will allow for some flexibility to make adjustments as conditions change.

Engaging the Community

“It is vital to recognize that climate action and sustainability are not just the government's responsibility but require active community participation.”

- Sustainable Bellevue Survey Participant, response translated from Spanish

Building a livable future takes everyone. The voices of our community are critical to shaping the sustainable Bellevue we will become in 2030 and future decades. During the planning process, the *Sustainable Bellevue* team sought to listen to and engage as many community members as possible. Throughout the development of the plan, and with a goal of equitable engagement, the City sought input from residents and key organizations that reflect the diversity of the community to understand their unique experiences, needs, and priorities.

Overall, the City engaged:

- **350+** Bellevue students during **11** classroom visits and **4** youth Ambassador meetings
- **200+** participants at **4** in-person workshops, town halls, and open houses
- **200+** community members at **8** community events and pop-up tabling
- **700+** survey respondents
- **8** community-based organization (CBO) partners
- **1,000+** visitors to the Sustainable Bellevue online engagement hub

Survey Says...

The *Sustainable Bellevue* team conducted two community surveys to learn more about the priorities and needs of community members related to sustainability. More than 500 responses later, the results are in.

- 80% support bold climate action in Bellevue.
- 83% feel that climate change is an important issue to them personally.
- Reducing GHG emissions and preserving and enhancing urban forest and tree canopy are respondents' highest priorities.

Community Based Organization Partners

300 Trees
Eastside for All
Little Master's Club
Africans on the Eastside
Indian American Community Services
United Hub
Chinese Information Service Center
Global Social Business Partners
People for Climate Action
Sustainability Ambassadors

Building Climate Resilience

Climate resilience (noun): The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change.¹

Climate change is not a future problem: 81% of *Sustainable Bellevue* survey respondents reported that they have already experienced climate change-related hazards in Bellevue, including extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and flooding. In 2023, Bellevue conducted a Climate Vulnerability Assessment to understand how climate change is impacting the community and how more frequent and intense extreme weather events could harm people, places, and services in the future. In this iteration of the *Sustainable Bellevue Plan*, specific strategies have been identified to enhance the resilience of our community, infrastructure, and natural environment to climate change.

EXTREME HEAT

- ***Did you know?*** Heat-related hospitalizations in Washington jumped from 42 annually to 437 in 2021 during an extreme heat wave.²

¹ Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, [Climate Resilience Portal](#) (2025).

² Washington State Department of Health, "[Heat Stress Hospitalization – Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000](#)," *Washington Tracking Network*, 2025.

- **Future Projections:** By 2050, Bellevue is expected to see an increase from 30.8 days over 88°F to 32.4 days.³
- **Solutions to Build Resilience:** Increasing tree canopy across urban heat islands in Bellevue can reduce peak summer heat by 2-9°F.⁴

WILDFIRES AND SMOKE

- **Did you know?** Since 2015, the Puget Sound region has faced unprecedented wildfire smoke.⁵ One historic wildfire season in 2020 contributed to over a week of “unhealthy” or worse air quality across King County.⁶
- **Future Projections:** By 2050, Bellevue will likely have a 10-day increase in High Fire Danger Days.⁷
- **Solutions to Build Resilience:** Prioritizing HVAC updates and MERV 13 filters for air infiltration at community facilities that serve high-risk populations can reduce indoor exposure to smoke and other harmful respiratory particles up to 70%.⁸

FLOODING

- **Did you know?** Standing water up to four feet blocked roadways across Bellevue following heavy rains in December 2019, preventing passage for emergency vehicles and through traffic.⁹
- **Future Projections:** By 2050, 82% of streams across King County could see a 10-50% increase in maximum streamflow.¹⁰
- **Solutions to Build Resilience:** Identifying and elevating critical infrastructure located in floodplains can mitigate flood risks, in addition to addressing frequently flooded “hot spots” around the city.¹¹

INTENSE PRECIPITATION AND STORMS

³ “Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 3. Climate Vulnerability Assessment,” City of Bellevue, 2023.

⁴ Yupeng Wang, Hashem Akbari, “The Effects of Street Tree Planting on Urban Heat Island Mitigation in Montreal,” *Sustainable Cities and Society* 27, (November 2016): 122-128. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2016.04.013>.

⁵ “[Air Quality Data Summary for 2024](#),” Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, 2024.

⁶ “[Air Quality Data Summary for 2020](#),” Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, 2020.

⁷ “Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 2. Climate Change in Bellevue,” City of Bellevue, 2023.

⁸ Tianyuan Li et al. “Science tells us that portable air filters reduce infection risk. It’s time for public health authorities to make this clear,” *Journal of Infection and Public Health* 18, Issue 3 (March 2025). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiph.2024.102650>

⁹ “Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 3. Climate Vulnerability Assessment,” City of Bellevue, 2023.

¹⁰ “Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 2. Climate Change in Bellevue,” City of Bellevue, 2023.

¹¹ “[Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan](#),” City of Bellevue, 2025.

- **Did you know?** In late 2024, an atmospheric river combined with a “bomb cyclone” to unleash a deadly storm of heavy rainfall and severe winds that resulted in damages across the community including extended power outages, fallen trees, loss of life, and destruction of personal property.¹²
- **Future Projections:** By 2050, Bellevue could experience a 9% change in the frequency and intensity of 2-year storms (storms with 50% chance of occurring every year).¹³
- **Solutions to Build Resilience:** Upsizing stormwater infrastructure and low-impact development solutions can help manage and divert stormwater.¹⁴

“I was without power for four days after this year’s bomb cyclone wind event, which tells me that our city is vulnerable to extreme weather events such as wind storms.”
 - Sustainable Bellevue Survey Participant

Climate Action for Everyone

Bellevue residents are not impacted by climate change equally. More vulnerable residents – including children, seniors, low-income residents, and persons with disabilities – often face additional barriers to accessing services and resources during emergency events. For example, people who are elderly may have more limited mobility or preexisting health conditions, and children under five years old may have a harder time regulating temperature and may have underdeveloped immune systems. Low-income households may be more susceptible to illnesses and have limited resources to adapt or respond to climate change.

Imagine: An intense storm hits Bellevue and knocks out power for several days. One resident with a pre-existing health condition needs to keep her medicine cool in a refrigerator. But without a back-up supply of power at home, she’ll need to find another solution.

Or, imagine that Bellevue experiences an intense heat wave during the summer. A resident without air conditioning could find relief at a local community center. But unless he has access to a personal vehicle or lives close to public transportation, he may not be able to get there.

These scenarios are real-life possibilities for members of the Bellevue community. As the strategies in the plan are implemented, it will be essential to ensure that everyone can benefit from them and access the support they need to become more resilient to climate change.

Address Pollution, Address Climate Change

¹² Martha Bellisle, Hallie Golden, Lisa Baumann, “[Northwest U.S. sees ‘bomb cyclone’ kill 2 and knock out power to half a million homes | PBS News](#),” PBS News, November 20, 2024.

¹³ “Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 2. Climate Change in Bellevue,” City of Bellevue, 2023.

¹⁴ “[Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan](#),” City of Bellevue, 2025.

Air pollution negatively impacts respiratory health and can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and certain cancers. In 2023, Bellevue conducted an Air Quality and Land Use Planning report that identified major freeways as air pollution “hot spots” – a particular concern when neighborhoods and sensitive facilities like daycares and housing are located close to freeways. Installing indoor air filtration systems, enhancing public transit and active mobility options, and transitioning to electric vehicles – all of which can also help Bellevue mitigate and adapt to climate change – can improve local air quality and reduce pollution.

83% of *Sustainable Bellevue* survey respondents think climate action and environmental stewardship are good for the health of their community.

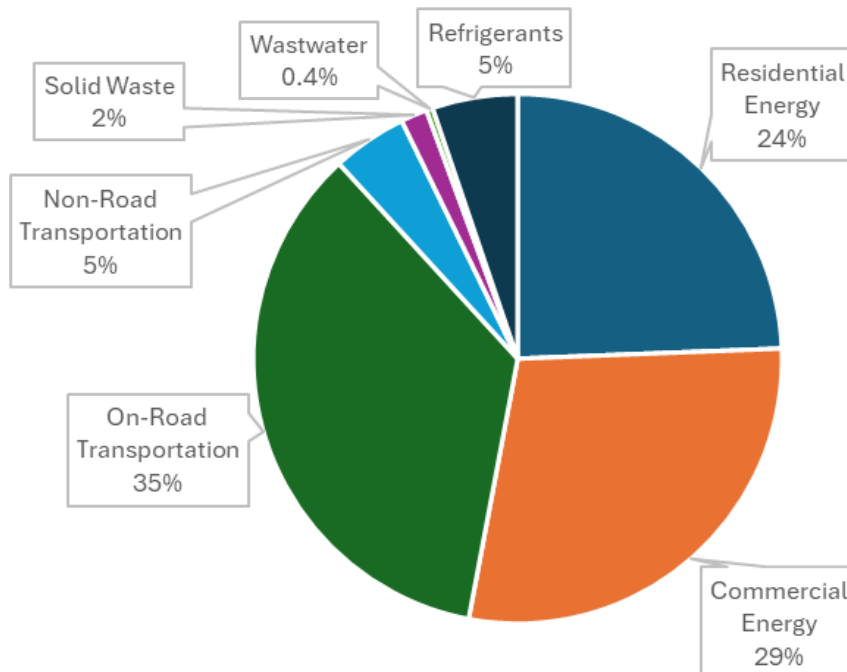
Measuring Our Emissions

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the primary form of pollution causing climate change, are produced when fossil fuels such as gas and oil are burned to power buildings, cars, and industrial processes. In 2023, Bellevue’s community-wide emissions totaled 1,620,311 MTCO₂e, or metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. These emissions are primarily from the use of energy in buildings (52%) and on-road transportation (35%).

Since these direct sources of emissions are within city borders, Bellevue has a greater ability to reduce them. For example, 1.2 billion annual vehicle miles are traveled on Bellevue’s roadways, and 24,000 homes and 50 million square feet of commercial real estate are heated by fossil fuels. Moving the needle on these sources of emissions – which can be achieved by electrifying buildings and increasing transit use, for example – will require targeted and persistent action. At the same time, as our community experiences additional growth in the future, Bellevue will need to take additional steps to prevent new sources of emissions from buildings, transportation, and waste.

MTCO₂e

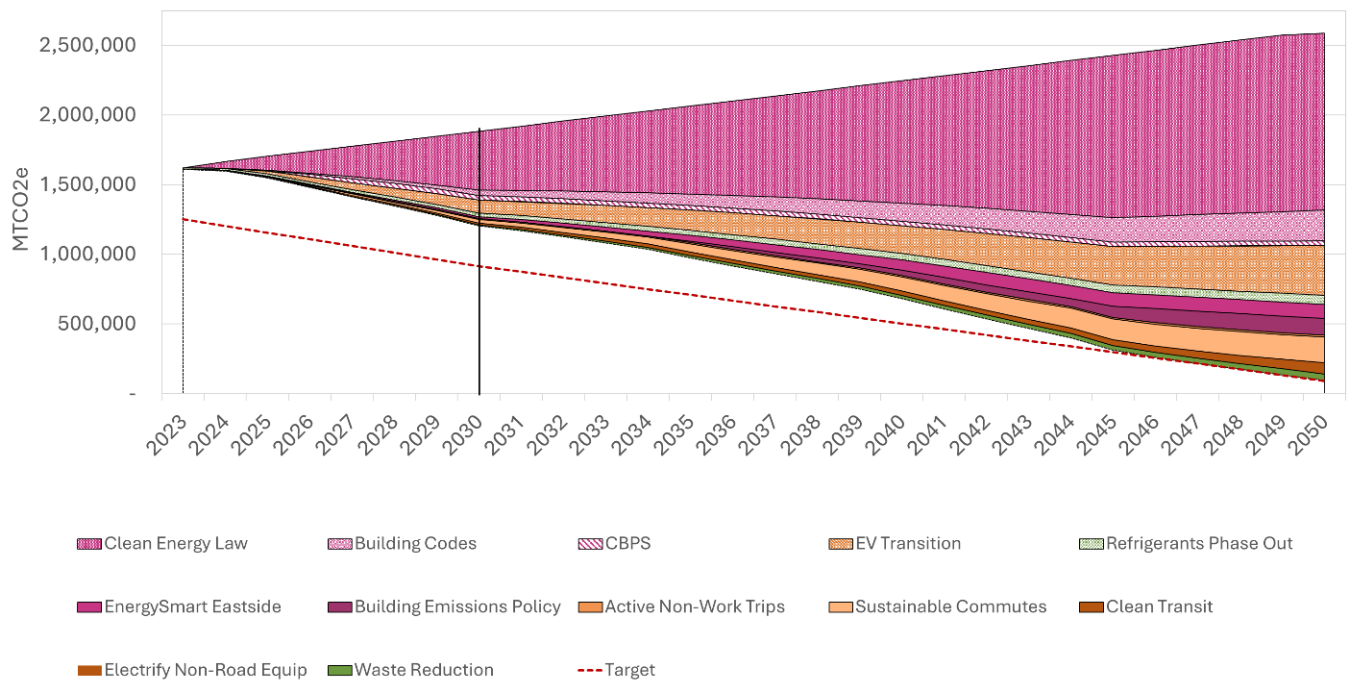
GHG emissions are measured in terms of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e). CO₂e or carbon dioxide equivalent is a metric used to bundle and compare different types of GHG emissions (e.g., methane, nitrous oxide) by converting them to an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide, the most common GHG.



Bellevue's 2023 Communitywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Reducing Our Contribution

With each update to the *Sustainable Bellevue Plan*, the City evaluates the GHG reduction potential of different policies that are being taken at different levels of government. The accompanying “wedge” diagram illustrates the relative impact of each policy to reduce GHG emissions below what they would be if Bellevue continued to grow and develop without any efforts to reduce them. The top of the wedge represents “business-as-usual” levels of GHGs. The first set of wedges show the reductions that we expect from state-level policies and changes driven by external factors. Below these are wedges that reflect the impact of the strategies in the *Sustainable Bellevue Plan*. Many of the impacts start small but widen and increase over time, which will help Bellevue to ultimately achieve net zero emissions by 2050; the dotted line represents this reduction target.



Bellevue's updated Communitywide emissions wedge analysis

Wedge diagrams condense a significant amount of information about rapidly changing energy systems, the built environment, and different modes of travel used throughout a community. These illustrations do *not* illustrate all of the reductions that Bellevue's actions will create. For example, developing housing to support Bellevue's growth alongside local transportation that integrates into our world-class regional transit system will reduce transportation demand – contributing to emissions reductions throughout neighboring communities in the region. There is also an interrelationship between many, such as the switch to electric vehicles has a growing impact as the electricity grid transitions to 100% renewable energy.

Historically, Bellevue's GHG projections have relied upon reinforcing support from all levels of government (local, state, and federal) to drive systemic changes across all sources of emissions. As 2030 has come into better view, the City currently anticipates a gap to the 2030 communitywide reduction target. However, with accelerated implementation, the City can achieve a 50% reduction of communitywide GHG emissions by 2035.

Accelerating Action by 2030

The strategies in this plan will be transformative for our community's emissions profile. Together with supporting state policies, fully implementing these strategies will reduce or avoid

more than 706,000 MTCO₂e by 2030, as the region's electricity transitions to 100% renewables. To achieve that result, over the next five years we will need:

- **6,000** existing single-family homes to convert to highly efficient electric heat pumps
- **19 million square feet** of commercial building efficiency upgrades
- **9,000** additional commuters utilizing active transportation and transit as their primary modes of traveling to work and play destinations throughout the city
- **35,000** more zero-emissions vehicles on the road instead of gas-powered ones
- **12,000** fewer tons of waste sent to landfill by residents and businesses



Bellevue's wedge analysis shown as a "tree diagram" showing the areas with the greatest impact on reducing the city's GHG

This chart illustrates the share of GHG reductions from each mitigation strategy in the *Sustainable Bellevue Plan* in the year 2030. These represent the most critical areas for focused

attention and dedicated resources in order for our community to realize these reductions in just a few years. Each box in this chart is proportional to the reduction Bellevue expects each strategy to produce in 2030.

Focus Area Overview

The *Sustainable Bellevue Plan* addresses both Community and Municipal Operations strategies, which are divided into five focus areas each: **Climate Change**, **Energy & Buildings**, **Mobility & Land Use**, **Materials & Waste**, and **Natural Systems**. This plan also includes an overarching category of **Institutionalizing Sustainability**.

Strategies in the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan are intended to be *high-impact*: steps that will help us achieve our GHG reduction targets or meaningfully enhance climate resilience. The *high-impact strategies* in this plan are new to the city or substantial expansions on existing programs – this is not intended to be a comprehensive list of every sustainability initiative across Bellevue.

Three Tiers of Strategies

To manage Bellevue's contribution to climate change (mitigation) and build resilience to its impacts (adaptation), Bellevue will pursue the following types of high-impact strategies.

- **Priority Strategies**
 - These strategies have the potential to rapidly reduce GHG emissions in the short term to meet Bellevue's 50% reduction target.
- **Catalyst Strategies**
 - These strategies have the potential to lay a foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet Bellevue's 2050 target.
- **Resilience Strategies**
 - These strategies have the potential to meaningfully enhance the resilience of community members, infrastructure, and natural systems to climate impacts.

Climate Change



Goal

Achieve carbon neutrality and increase Bellevue's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

To address climate change, Bellevue must rapidly reduce GHG emissions and prepare the community for the current and future impacts of climate change. On the mitigation side, the following chapters include strategies to reduce emissions across the Bellevue community from buildings, transportation, waste, and more. On the adaptation side, Bellevue can bolster resilience to climate change for all community members by expanding access to emergency communications tools, preparing city staff and community organizations to respond to climate impacts, and partnering with community-based organizations to improve access to resources during emergency events. Bellevue's infrastructure is also vulnerable to climate impacts like extreme heat, extreme precipitation, and wildfire smoke. The strategies in this focus area aim to prepare Bellevue's infrastructure and buildings for climate impacts and ensure critical facilities and infrastructure can perform key functions even in emergencies.

Outcome Metrics

Outcome	Metric	Current Status	2030	2050
Carbon Neutral City: Reduce communitywide emissions 50% by 2030 ¹	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (%)	8% reduction	50%	95%
Climate Resilience: TBD	TBD	New	TBD ¹⁵	TBD

Priority Strategy

Implement Initiatives to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: Engage the community in greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate resilience.

Resilience Strategy

Community Resilience: Protect community safety, health, and quality of life by enhancing the Bellevue community's resilience to climate impacts.

Resilience Strategy

Resilient Community Facilities: Support Bellevue's community facilities and gathering spaces in preparing for climate impacts to protect assets, services, and people.

¹⁵ Through Action C.2.5, Bellevue staff will work to establish applicable community climate resilience metrics

Resilience Strategy

Air Quality. Foster healthy and sustainable growth by mitigating air pollution in sensitive use areas, such as adjacent to freeways.

What You Can Do

Residents: Stay informed on potential local hazards and threats by subscribing to [ALERT King County](#) and [Bellevue's Alerts System](#) emergency alerts. These free services allow extreme weather and emergency notifications to promptly reach community members, giving you the time and information needed to respond accordingly.

Organizations & Businesses: Track greenhouse gas emissions for your organization and develop a plan to reduce emissions and increase resiliency to climate impacts. There are many different [tools and services available](#) to help!

Energy & Buildings



Goal

Electrify buildings, increase building energy efficiency, and transition to renewable electricity.

Intro

In Bellevue, buildings have a big impact. While 20% of Bellevue's community-wide GHG emissions are from residential energy use, 26% stem from commercial building (including multi-family building) energy use. Meeting Bellevue's net-zero emissions goal in 2050 will depend on retrofitting existing buildings to run on electricity and consume energy more efficiently while also ensuring that new development is built fossil-fuel-free. Of course, success will also depend on supplying electricity to buildings and transportation systems with a grid that is clean and emissions-free – an ongoing process that will require collaboration with and investment from the State and local utilities.

Outcome Metrics

Outcome	Metric	Current Status	2030	2050
Reduce emissions from residential buildings 69% by 2030	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (%)	3% reduction	69%	99%

Transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2045	Renewables in energy mix (%)	53% as of 2024	80%	100%
Reduce overall energy use	Energy use reduction (%)	4%	15%	30%

Priority Strategy

Residential Building Decarbonization. Reduce residential energy use by addressing natural gas consumption and energy efficiency through programming and partnerships, such as scaling the Energy Smart Eastside program.

Priority Strategy

Renewable Energy. Support the transition to renewable energy through partnerships and pilots to ensure Bellevue's electricity is clean and emissions-free by 2045.

Priority Strategy

Large Building Decarbonization Incentives. Support decarbonization of commercial and multi-family buildings through support in state policy compliance, incentives, and technical assistance to drive building efficiency and electrification upgrades, cost-savings, and GHG emissions reductions.

Priority Strategy

Green Building. Facilitate green building construction with incentives and technical assistance to drive efficient, electric buildings that promote health, climate resilience, and alignment with Bellevue's emissions targets.

Priority Strategy

Grid Capacity. Ensure a clean, resilient grid by partnering with local and public partners to support rapid and long-term vehicle and building electrification in a growing Bellevue.

Catalyst Strategy

Building Performance Policy Evaluation. Electrify and improve efficiency for existing buildings by evaluating policies to put Bellevue on track to meet its emissions targets, promote resilience, and protect public health.

What You Can Do

Residents: Identify the high value energy-efficient alternatives for your home or business by completing a home energy assessment. [Energy Smart Eastside](#) supports residents of Bellevue with rebates for heat pump installations, a solution that can cool your house in the summer, heat it in the winter, and make a noticeable difference in your energy costs. Check out [PSE's Community Solar](#) and other renewable energy programs to buy green power.

Organizations & Businesses: Bellevue offers free support through the [Clean Buildings Incentive Program](#) for commercial buildings such as energy benchmarking, navigating incentives, and compliance reporting. Check out [PSE's Efficiency and Green Options](#) for energy efficiency incentives and renewable energy options for businesses.



Materials & Waste

Goal

Advance responsible consumption, procurement, and disposal to advance zero waste systems

Bellevue provides efficient and convenient collection of solid waste, recyclables, and compostables, while protecting public health and promoting equitable service. To minimize GHG emissions and environmental impact, the City will continue to work alongside residents and businesses to reduce consumption and recycle and compost as much material as possible – in collaboration with the citywide solid waste collection contractor, county, state, and other regional partners. In support of the WA State Organics Management Law, Bellevue can provide outreach, incentives, and technical assistance to increase composting across the community. The recent WA State Recycling Reform Act is intended to motivate producers to redesign packaging materials to improve waste reduction, reuse, and recycling outcomes. The City can also leverage its solid waste services contract to advance its zero waste goals.

Outcome Metrics

Outcome	Metric	Current Status	2030	2050
Reduce emissions from landfilled waste 17% by 2030	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (%)	20% reduction	17%	90%
Zero Waste	Recycling rate (%)	47%	50%	90%
Reduce overall waste generation	Reduction of total waste generated (%)	New	5%	10%

Priority Strategy

Waste Reduction. *Increase recycling rates in multifamily and commercial buildings through continued efforts to reduce waste, reuse, recycle, and compost.*

Priority Strategy

Zero Waste Policy Evaluation. Prioritize zero waste opportunities by evaluating and/or implementing policies such as Extended Producer Responsibility, enhanced solid waste contract provisions, and deconstruction.

What You Can Do

Residents: Avoid significant food waste and save money by storing food properly to protect its lifespan, right-sizing grocery lists, and planning meals. For tips and resources visit [Use Food Well](#). The city has more information on waste reduction, recycling, and composting at home at [Solid Waste for Residents](#).

Organizations & Businesses:

Businesses can avoid food waste through evaluating purchasing and preparation practices and donating edible food to local food banks. For more waste reduction tips and zero waste resources available to businesses in Bellevue, visit [Zero Waste For Businesses](#).

Mobility & Land Use



Goal

Expand sustainable mobility options and transition to electric and low-carbon transportation modes.

Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources, including passenger vehicles, account for over 40% of Bellevue's emissions. Meeting Bellevue's climate goals will require more residents and visitors to use sustainable transportation modes, including carpools, van pools, and transit, or by biking or walking. It will also require converting remaining passenger vehicle trips to electric. Bellevue can look to support both additional charging for the public and multifamily buildings and electrifying transit options. Finally, dense development and land use planning can facilitate connected neighborhoods, quality of life improvements, and access to walkability and sustainable transportation modes. Increasing density where appropriate and greening new development can help secure this sustainable future.

Outcome Metrics

Outcome	Metric	Current Status	2030	2050
Reduce emissions from passenger vehicles 22% by 2030	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (%)	16% reduction	22%	95%

Outcome	Metric	Current Status	2030	2050
Increase sustainable commutes	Residents commuting sustainably (%)	46%	55%	65%
	Workers commuting sustainably (%)	35%	45%	60%
Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled	Reduction of per capita vehicle miles traveled (%)	25%	30%	50%
Registered EVs	EVs registered in Bellevue (%)	8%	35%	100%
Jobs and housing near transit	Jobs within ¼ mile of frequent transit stop	76%	85%	95%
	Housing within ¼ mile of frequent transit stop	44%	55%	75%

Priority Strategy

Mobility Options. Increase sustainable commutes by expanding mobility options, first/last mile solutions, transit ridership, carshare programs, and active transportation modes to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Priority Strategy

Electric Vehicles. Support a rapid transition to electric vehicles to reduce emissions when vehicle trips are taken.

Catalyst Strategy

Accessibility and Connectivity Funding. Identify additional funding to support transit access and reliability and complete bicycle and pedestrian networks to increase community use of sustainable transportation modes.

Catalyst Strategy

Sustainable Land Use. Increase transit-oriented development and livability by supporting sustainable land use and development.

What You Can Do

Residents: If you drive to work, consider switching up your routine and biking or taking the bus one or more days per week. The [Choose Your Way Bellevue](#) platform can support you with a free, personalized route based on your home, worksite, and schedule.

Organizations & Businesses: Look to help your employees and community commute more sustainably. Through [Choose Your Way Bellevue, the city offers free consultations](#) for businesses looking to support sustainable commuting.

Natural Systems



Goal

Preserve and enhance Bellevue's natural resources, tree canopy, green spaces, and water systems.

Bellevue has long enjoyed its reputation as a “City in a Park”, due to the City’s abundance of parks, open spaces, natural areas and healthy urban forest. Providing additional park space, particularly in areas poised for additional growth, and expanding trail connections will provide for additional access close to home and work. Sustainable natural systems management and healthy ecosystems are critical to Bellevue’s climate resilience. The urban tree canopy provides many benefits for community livability and resilience; neighborhoods with higher tree canopy remain cooler during heatwaves and have better air quality and stormwater absorption compared to neighborhoods with low canopy. Given that Bellevue will also experience more intense and frequent rainfall events, implementing Low-Impact Development (LID) projects and other stormwater management techniques will be critical to controlling flooding and maintaining water quality and stream health.

Outcome Metrics

Outcome	Metric	Current Status	2030	2050
Maintain citywide tree canopy	Citywide tree canopy (%)	40%	40%	40%
Promote healthy streams	Streams with increasing Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (%)	30%	40%	50%
Walkable access to parks	Residents within 1/3 mile of a park, trail, or open space (%)	73%	80%	100%
Conserve water	Achieve Bellevue’s proportion of Cascade Water Alliance’s regional water savings goal	New ¹⁶		

¹⁶ Cascade Water Alliance goals not set yet – planning is currently underway. City 2030 and 2050 outcome metrics will be set in alignment with Cascade’s goals once established.

Resilience Strategy

Sustainable Tree Canopy and Open Spaces. Promote healthy, sustainable, and resilient urban forests and ecosystems by preserving and enhancing tree canopy and natural areas.

Priority Strategy

Electric Yard care Equipment. Reduce emissions, air and noise pollution, by assessing transition to electric yard care equipment.

Resilience Strategy

Stormwater Management. Improve water quality and stream health with new and improved stormwater infrastructure and low-impact design.

Resilience Strategy

Reduce Water Use. Enhance drought resilience by improving communitywide efforts to reduce water use during peak season.

What You Can Do

Residents: Keep our streams and water supply safe from soapy water and chemicals by washing your car at commercial facilities. Looking for an opportunity to get outside, be with neighbors, and support environmental restoration in your own backyard? Take advantage of volunteer opportunities posted on the City's [volunteering webpage](#) to support organizations in the community protecting our local ecosystems.

Organizations & Businesses: Protect our surface water by only sending rain down Bellevue's storm drains by keeping dumpster areas clear to prevent runoff pollution and properly storing any potential contaminants. Protect your drinking water through backflow prevention. The city has more information on [Business Pollution Prevention](#), [Fats, Oils, and Grease](#), and [Backflow Prevention](#).

Foundational Strategies

Goal

Institutionalize climate and sustainability in city governance structures and processes.

Implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan is a One-City effort, which involves collaboration across with departments and with residents, business, and other organizational partners. The strategies below are cross-cutting, involve changes to City processes, and support the achievement of both the communitywide and municipal operations sustainability goals.

Institutionalize Climate and Sustainability. Continue to incorporate climate and environmental sustainability priorities into City processes, plans, and decision-making, and organizational structure to support the plan implementation.

Sustainability Funding. Assess options and develop a recommendation for long-term funding for the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan and meeting our GHG targets.

Equity. Prioritize engagement and partnerships with underrepresented community members to embed equity in sustainability program design and implementation.

Municipal Operations



Leading by Example

Bellevue is committed to leading by example in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate impacts through its municipal operations. The City has set a goal to achieve carbon-neutral operations by 2040, demonstrating for other cities, organizations, and community members how to turn climate commitments into measurable progress.

The strategies in this section outline the path forward to achieving carbon-neutrality by 2040 and will require ownership and action from all City departments. Building on ongoing efforts, these strategies continue to integrate climate considerations into policies, programs, capital planning, and daily decisions. As with communitywide emissions reduction, municipal efforts will focus on decarbonizing its buildings, fleet and infrastructure, while building a foundation of sustainability leaders and cross-departmental collaboration.

Municipal Operations – Where are we now?

Bellevue Municipal Operations has already achieved its 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 50%, exemplifying its “lead by example” approach to climate action. The City has made significant progress in reducing emissions and building organizational capacity.

Key accomplishments include:

- 1. Constructed Fire Station 10 to LEED Gold and Salmon-Safe standards**, integrating solar panels, green roof systems, EV charging, wetland restoration, tree preservation, and firefighter wellness features.
- 2. Initiated building electrification planning across five city-owned facilities**, aiming to eliminate natural gas use and improve energy efficiency.
- 3. Retrofitting the Bellevue Service Center with LED lighting and electric HVAC systems**, to achieve 80% energy savings and leverage over \$600,000 in grants and incentives.

4. **Transitioned 78% of municipal electricity to renewable sources** through PSE's Green Direct program and installed 3 solar arrays and a micro-hydro turbine in water infrastructure.
5. **Planned and began constructing EV charging stations at Bellevue's three largest fleet depots**, to support fleet electrification over the next 15 years.
6. **Secured over \$500,000 in state grant funding** to install EV chargers across city facilities, accelerating clean transportation goals.
7. **Achieved a 55% reduction in GHG emissions from employee commutes**, with 49% of staff walking, biking, or taking the bus supported by city-issued Orca cards.
8. **Diverted 75% of construction and demolition waste from the landfill**, with another 50% of on-site materials reused in city construction and renovation projects.
9. **Achieved a 64% recycling and composting rate** in municipal operations, reducing landfill waste across departments.
10. **Maintained 72% of Bellevue's urban forests in healthy condition**, to limit stormwater runoff and improve water quality, supporting salmon habitats.
11. **Trained over 40 city staff as Envision Sustainability Professionals** to embed sustainability into capital projects and operations.

Three Tiers of Strategies

The City has already achieved its 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 50%. To continue progress towards the 2040 carbon neutrality goal and build resilience to climate impacts, the City is implementing a three-tiered strategy framework for high-impact actions.

- **Priority Strategies**
 - These strategies have the potential to reduce GHG emissions in the short term.
- **Catalyst Strategies**
 - These strategies have the potential to lay a foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet the City's 2040 target.
- **Resilience Strategies**
 - These strategies have the potential to meaningfully enhance the resilience of community members, infrastructure, and natural systems to climate hazards.

Resilience in City Operations

To ensure Bellevue's operations and facilities are prepared for future climate impacts, Municipal Operations will begin evaluating resilience using a 1-5 rating scale that reflects climate readiness across assets and services. The resiliency indicators will help guide

investments and track progress in adapting to risks such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, and power loss events.

Level	Resiliency Description
1 – Vulnerable	Limited preparedness for climate or emergency events.
2 – Basic	Some essential systems protected, but major gaps remain.
3 – Moderate	Core services can operate during disruptions.
4 – Strong	City is prepared for multiple climate risks and can support the public.
5 – Climate Ready by 2040	Fully equipped to maintain operations and support the community during climate emergencies.

Note: The final Sustainable Bellevue Plan will include goals, strategies, and actions for the city’s Municipal Operations, however this has been omitted from the draft for public review in August 2025.

Conclusion

Achieving Bellevue’s sustainability goals is not just about reducing emissions – it’s about creating a more livable, more equitable, and cleaner city for generations to come. Our sustainability plan aims to create a Bellevue where everyone can travel around the city conveniently for work and play, a Bellevue where our ecosystems are healthy and trees provide shade and clean air in every corner of the city, a Bellevue that responsibly uses its resources, and a Bellevue with efficient buildings powered by clean energy.

Realizing this future takes all of us. Staff and resources to meet the moment for the community and city operations. Passionate residents and organizations committed to a more sustainable future. Businesses willing to push new ideas and technologies forward. Committed elected officials who share this vision of a sustainable Bellevue. And you – ready to take bold action for our bright future.

Action Plan Appendix

Definitions

Target Budget Year: Estimated timeframe for implementation. Note that not all actions will require city funding outside of staff time to implement

Estimated Duration: Approximate time to implement a given action

Co-Benefits: Additional public benefit associated with each action. Co-benefits in this plan are *equity, resilience, livability, and cost savings*.

Mechanism: The tool that will be leveraged to implement the action. Mechanisms will either be *regulatory requirements, voluntary standards, incentives, education, study, or program*.

Climate Change



Priority Strategy						
C.1	Implement Initiatives to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: Engage the community in greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate resilience. ¹⁷					
Actions	Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism	
C.1.1	Create a program to support multifamily, commercial, and mixed-use buildings on waste management, retrofits, green leases, EV charging infrastructure, and other efficiency measures.	CD	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity Livability	Program
C.1.2	Develop outreach and education programming to support residents and businesses in taking action to reduce emissions and environmental impact, with a focus on engagement with Bellevue's most vulnerable communities.	CD	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity Cost Savings Livability	Education
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach and education program(s) created (#) Community members and businesses reached through outreach (#) 				

¹⁷ Specific initiatives are outlined in the Energy & Buildings, Materials & Waste, and Mobility & Land Use Focus Areas

Resilience Strategy						
C.2	Community Resilience: Protect community safety, health, and quality of life by enhancing the Bellevue community's resilience to climate impacts.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
C.2.1	Expand and enhance emergency communication tools to improve preparedness and response to climate impacts.	Fire	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Program
C.2.2	Coordinate with community partners to improve planning, communications, and training to increase climate readiness.	Fire; CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Education
C.2.3	Perform a gap analysis of emergency response infrastructure and services delivered through existing City facilities and community organizations, to inform development of a resilience hub network.	CD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Study
C.2.4	Review high utility-caused wildfire risks and develop a collaborative mitigation plan.	CD	2029-2030	Short: <2 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Study
C.2.5	Develop community wide metrics for measuring climate resilience based on 2023 Climate Vulnerability Assessment	CD	2026	Short: <2 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Study
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members subscribed to ALERT King County and Bellevue's Alerts System's emergency alerts (#) City employees, community partners, and community members trained in hazard preparedness and response (#) Frontline residents within 1 mile of a resilience hub (%) Wildland Urban Interface residents aware of the protection plan (%) 				

Resilience Strategy						
C.3	Resilient Community Facilities: Support Bellevue's community facilities and gathering spaces in preparing for climate impacts to protect assets, services, and people.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
C.3.1	Facilitate and support installation of low- or no-emissions backup power and energy storage systems in critical facilities (healthcare facilities, cooling centers, community organizations, etc.).	CD	2029-2030	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Resilience Livability	Program

C.3.2	Support infrastructure updates that protect against wildfire smoke (e.g., HVAC updates and MERV 13 filters for air intake) for nonprofit and other community facilities that serve high-risk populations.	CD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Program
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-serving Facilities equipped with low- or no-emissions backup power and energy storage (#) Community-serving Facilities equipped with wildfire smoke-safe HVAC and filtration systems (#) 				

Resilience Strategy						
C.4	Air Quality. Foster healthy and sustainable growth by mitigating air pollution in sensitive use areas, such as adjacent to freeways.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
C.4.1	Identify targeted areas within Bellevue for air pollution mitigation and assess feasible solutions and implementation pathways.	CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Resilience Livability	Program
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties with new AQ mitigations (#) Community-serving facilities equipped with wildfire smoke-safe HVAC and filtration systems (#) Total square feet of newly mitigated space (#, outdoor or building gross floor area) 				

Energy & Buildings



Priority Strategy						
B.1	Residential Building Decarbonization. Reduce residential energy use by addressing natural gas consumption and energy efficiency through programming and partnerships, such as scaling the Energy Smart Eastside program.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
B.1.1	Develop a long-term funding strategy for the program that enables sustained action to meet outcomes.	CD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.		Study

B.1.2	Accelerate market transformation of residential space heating away from natural gas to heat pumps.	CD	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Program
B.1.3	Support low-and-moderate-income households in adoption of heat pumps through loans and financial incentives.	CD	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity Resilience Cost Savings	Incentive
B.1.4	Support residents accessing existing weatherization programs through Puget Sound Energy and King County Housing Authority and offer bundled weatherization measures with low-income heat pump installs.	CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Incentive
B.1.5	Lay groundwork to support future widespread adoption of heat pump water heaters through investment in contractor education and a pilot incentive program.	CD	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity	Education
B.1.6	Identify funding opportunities, partners, and incentives to reduce energy use in affordable housing buildings.	CD	2026	Short: <2 Yrs.	Cost Savings	Study
B.1.7	Explore approaches to increasing market awareness to home energy efficiency during home sales or other opportunities.	CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.		Study
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVAC retrofits that are heat pumps (%) • Annual LMI households getting financial support for heat pump (#) • Annual weatherization projects completed (#) • Heat pump water heater adoption (%) • Grant or private funds leveraged (\$) • Furnace replacements converting to heat pumps (%) 				

Priority Strategy						
B.2	Renewable Energy. Support the transition to renewable energy through partnerships and pilots to ensure Bellevue's electricity is clean and emissions-free by 2045.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
B.2.1	Support solar installations and storage on parking lots and buildings and with community solar projects.	CD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Resilience	Incentive

B.2.2	Pilot demand response, virtual power plant (such as vehicle to building and vehicle to grid), and battery storage at community-facing facilities.	CD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Resilience	Program
B.2.3	Offer technical assistance to support the development of thermal energy networks in building designs.	CD	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.		Program
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar capacity installed (MW) Battery storage capacity installed (MW) Permits issued for thermal energy systems (#) Grant funding leveraged for renewable energy projects (\$) 				

Priority Strategy						
B.3	Large Building Decarbonization Incentives. Support decarbonization of commercial and multi-family buildings through support in state policy compliance, incentives, and technical assistance to drive building efficiency and electrification upgrades, cost-savings, and GHG emissions reductions.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
B.3.1	Expand technical assistance and incentives to commercial and multi-family buildings through the Clean Buildings Incentive Program.	CD	2026; 2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.		Program
B.3.2	Engage in planning and rulemaking of the WA State Clean Buildings Act to streamline compliance processes and accelerate decarbonization	CD	2026; 2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.		Advocacy
B.3.3	Develop and implement program to support energy efficiency retrofits of priority nonprofit facilities, to support Clean Buildings Act compliance and increase resiliency of community-serving facilities.	CD	2026; 2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Program
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy saved or avoided (#, MMBTU) Emissions reduced or avoided (#, MTCO2e) Buildings benchmarked through CBIP (#) Buildings Accessing CBA Early Adopter Incentives (#) Share of commercial buildings meeting state performance standards (%) 				

Priority Strategy

B.4	Green Building. Facilitate green building construction with incentives and technical assistance to drive efficient, electric buildings that promote health, climate resilience, and alignment with Bellevue’s emissions targets.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
B.4.1	Support building code enhancements to advance decarbonization and resilience against climate impacts.	CD; DSD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Resilience	Advocacy
B.4.2	Evaluate opportunities to incentivize new construction energy efficiency and green building that exceeds the state building code.	CD; DSD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Resilience	Study
B.4.3	Provide technical assistance to incorporate green building and electrification into affordable housing.	CD	2026; 2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity	Program
B.4.4	Evaluate opportunities to support and incentivize green building for middle housing.	CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Livability	Study
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives distributed for energy efficient new construction (\$, # projects) Green affordable housing units supported (#) 				

Resilience Strategy						
B.5	Grid Capacity. Ensure a clean, resilient grid by partnering with local and public partners to support rapid and long-term vehicle and building electrification in a growing Bellevue					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
B.5.1	Promote PSE’s programs to manage peak load, such as conservation, energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, and Demand Response.	CD	2026; 2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Cost savings	Education
B.5.2	Collaborate with PSE and others to streamline planning for and delivery of any local grid updates.	CD	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Resilience	Advocacy

Implementation Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSE load reduction through select programs (kWh) PSE load shifting during Flex events (kWh)
-------------------------------	--

Catalyst Strategy						
B.6	Building Performance Policy Evaluation. Electrify and improve efficiency for existing buildings by evaluating policies to put Bellevue on track to meet its emissions targets, promote resilience, and protect public health.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
B.6.1	Assess the feasibility and implementation pathways for policies for further decarbonizing existing commercial and multi-family buildings larger than 20,000 square feet.	CD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Cost savings	Study
B.6.2	Assess the feasibility and implementation pathways for policies for accelerating existing residential and commercial buildings decarbonization smaller than 20,000 square feet.	CD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Cost savings	Study
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions reduced by building type and size (# MTCO2e) Energy saved by building type and size (# MMBTU) 				

Materials & Waste



Priority Strategy						
W.1	Waste Reduction. Increase recycling rates in multifamily and commercial buildings through continued efforts to reduce waste, reuse, recycle, and compost.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
W.1.1	Provide resources to residents and local businesses to help them comply with the State's Organics Management Law.	Utilities	2026	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Cost savings	Education

W.1.1	Equitably conduct outreach and education activities to encourage students, residents, employees, and visitors to properly compost and recycle.	Utilities	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity Cost savings	Education
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined Recycling Rate (%) 				

Catalyst Strategy

W.2	Zero Waste Policy Evaluation. Prioritize zero waste opportunities by evaluating and/or implementing policies such as Extended Producer Responsibility, enhanced solid waste contract provisions, and deconstruction.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
W.2.1	Support implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility law for Bellevue residential solid waste customers.	Utilities	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs	Cost savings	Program
W.2.2	Leverage the citywide solid waste services contract as an opportunity to advance Zero Waste goals.	Utilities	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs	Equity	Program
W.2.3	Evaluate feasibility for developing a Deconstruction Policy.	Utilities	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.		Study
W.2.4	Continue to build and foster regional partnerships to provide the community with convenient access to waste reduction and reuse practices.	Utilities	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity Cost savings	Advocacy
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduction of total waste disposed per capita (%)Waste reduction and reuse initiatives (#)				

Mobility & Land Use



Priority Strategy	
M.1	Mobility Options. Increase sustainable commutes by expanding mobility options, first/last mile solutions, transit ridership, carshare programs, and active transportation modes to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
M.1.1	Implement trip reduction program for large multifamily buildings, providing similar services as required for large employers under Washington's Commute Trip Reduction Law.	Transportation	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Livability	Program
M.1.2	Expand access to e-bikes through pilot equitable e-bike incentive program and/or support the establishment and operation of a shared micromobility service in Bellevue.	CD; Transportation	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Livability	Program; Advocacy
M.1.3	Support expansion of first/last mile transit access solutions, such as BellHop and MetroFlex, to better connect neighborhoods to the frequent transit network, light rail, and Stride bus rapid transit (BRT).	CD; Transportation	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Cost Savings Livability	Advocacy
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of multifamily housing participating in commute trip reduction program (#) Average monthly trips on bike/scooter share (#) Average monthly trips on first/last mile transit (#) E-bike incentives issued (#) 				

Priority Strategy

M.2	Electric Vehicles. Support a rapid transition to electric vehicles to reduce emissions when vehicle trips are taken.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
M.2.1	Expand access to publicly available EV charging by implementing the approach outlined in Bellevue's Electric Vehicle Roadmap.	CD	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity	Program
M.2.2	Partner with local organizations and transit providers to identify funding sources and opportunities to electrify buses and heavy-duty vehicles.	CD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.		Advocacy
M.2.3	Implement program to provide EV charging direct incentives and technical assistance for multifamily housing and commercial property owners.	CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Livability	Program

M.2.4	Reintroduce EV Readiness requirements for EV charging infrastructure in new multifamily and/or commercial buildings above state minimums	CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.		Regulatory Requirement
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly available EV charging stations (#) EV chargers installed at multifamily buildings facilitated by city action (#) 				

Catalyst Strategy

M.3	Accessibility and Connectivity Funding. Identify additional funding to support transit access and reliability and complete bicycle and pedestrian networks to increase community use of sustainable transportation modes.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
M.3.1	Explore new funding sources to fund and implement capital projects including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit speed and reliability projects, transit access projects.	Transportation	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Livability	Study
M.3.2	Complete study assessing VMT reductions from different transportation investments to better incorporate climate goals into transportation planning	Transportation	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Livability	Study
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transit routes meeting Mobility Implementation Plan performance targets Delay savings from transit speed & reliability projects Miles of bike/ped infrastructure installed 				

Catalyst Strategy

M.4	Sustainable Land Use. Increase transit-oriented development and livability by supporting sustainable land use and development.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
M.4.1	Consider land use or other incentives for certified green affordable housing (e.g. a super bonus)	DSD	2027-2028	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Equity	Incentive
M.4.2	Evaluate opportunities to restart a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program for sites within Bellevue, which could be paired with other incentives or requirements for green building.	DSD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Resilience	Incentive

M.4.3	Assess feasible pathways to further reduce parking requirements in transit rich areas.	CD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Cost Savings	Study
M.4.4	Ensure the Comprehensive Plan complies with all the requirements of HB 1181 and consider submitting for compliance early to lead by example and to increase competitiveness for state funding opportunities.	CD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.		Voluntary Standards
M.4.5	Continue planning and implementation of the Wilburton Sustainable District Opportunity Assessment, such as pursuing LEED for Communities.	CD	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Livability	Voluntary Standards
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Green Buildings in Bellevue (#) Number of projects using Green Building Incentives (#) 				

Natural Systems



Resilience Strategy						
N.1	Sustainable Tree Canopy and Open Spaces. Promote healthy, sustainable, and resilient urban forests and ecosystems by preserving and enhancing tree canopy and natural areas.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
N.1.1	Create a citywide list of recommended tree species for planting in the right-of-way and on public and private property that meets current climate conditions and is updated as the best available science evolves.	DSD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Resilience	Voluntary Standards
N.1.2	Prioritize tree planting on public and private property in areas with low tree cover and/or high heat vulnerability to ensure the benefits of tree canopy are equitably distributed throughout Bellevue.	Parks; CD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Resilience Equity	Voluntary Standards
N.1.3	Monitor impacts of updated tree code and explore need for city arborist or urban forester resource to support tree canopy management and tree code implementation.	DSD	2026	Short: <2 Yrs.		Study

N.1.4	Support private landowners in managing Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPAs) to support the health of Bellevue's tree canopy and urban forest.	Parks	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Livability	Education
N.1.5	Continue targeted land acquisitions to support walkable access to parks and open spaces.	Parks	2026	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Livability Equity	Program
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate resilient tree species approved for planting (#) Park and open space land acquired (acres) 				

Priority Strategy

N.2	Electric Yard care Equipment. Reduce emissions, air and noise pollution, by assessing transition to electric yard care equipment.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
N.2.1	. Pilot programs to mitigate pollution from electric yard equipment such as buy-back programs, education, and demonstrations of city operations.	CD	2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Livability	Program
N.2.2	Evaluate options for phasing out gas-powered yard equipment, taking into consideration costs, benefits, technology trends, and operational impacts	CD	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Resilience	Study
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GHG emissions reduced from gas-powered yard equipment (# MTCO2e) 				

Resilience Strategy

N.3	Stormwater Management. Improve water quality and stream health with new and improved stormwater infrastructure and low-impact design.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
N.3.1	Implement land use code requirements where feasible and incentives where possible to increase low-impact development (LID) projects in new development and reduce impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff with redevelopment.	DSD	2029-2030	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Resilience	Regulatory Requirement

N.3.2	Evaluate strategies for incentivizing green stormwater infrastructure retrofits on existing properties, to support stormwater quality and stream health.	DSD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs.	Resilience	Study
N.3.3	Implement retrofit projects identified in the Stormwater Capital Improvement Program to expand green infrastructure and stormwater management.	Utilities	2029-2030	Long: 5+ Yrs.	Resilience	Program
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use code requirements implemented (#) Stormwater Capital Improvement Program projects completed (#) 				

Resilience Strategy						
N.4	Reduce Water Use. Enhance drought resilience by improving communitywide efforts to reduce water use during peak season.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
N.4.1	Create a community drought preparedness pilot public education program with Cascade Water Alliance to improve drought resilience.	CD; Parks	2029-2030	Short: <2 Yrs.	Resilience	Education
N.4.2	Create a pilot program to accelerate the uptake of low-water and sustainable landscaping practices and green infrastructure among community members to reduce water use in community lawncare and landscaping.	CD; Parks	2029-2030	Medium:3-4 Yrs.	Resilience	Program
Implementation Metrics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellevue’s proportional water reduction in relation to Cascade’s adopted regional water efficiency goal (gal) 				

Foundational Strategies

Catalyst Strategy					
F.1	Institutionalize Climate and Sustainability. Continue to incorporate climate and environmental sustainability priorities into City processes, plans, and decision-making, and organizational structure to support the plan implementation.				
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits Mechanism

F.1.1	Review organizational options to further support interdepartmental collaboration and the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan.	CD	2026	Short: <2 Yrs	Cost Savings	Program
F.1.2	Evaluate options for external coordination and oversight to support the plan implementation, such as a board, commission, advisory committee, or working group.	CD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs	Equity	Program
F.1.3	Create a framework for incorporating sustainability criteria and considerations across City planning efforts and capital projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal budget planning • Interdepartmental capital planning • Parks Renovation Plan • Transportation facilities project selection • Parks & Open Space System Plan 	FAM	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs	Resilience	Program
F.1.4	Strengthen sustainability criteria and review for City budget processes, to further incorporate sustainability into City budget planning.	CD; FAM	2026	Short: <2 Yrs		Program
F.1.5	Incorporate climate and sustainability questions into the citywide resident survey.	CD; FAM	2026	Short: <2 Yrs		Program

Catalyst Strategy						
F.2	Sustainability Funding. Assess options and develop a recommendation for long-term funding for the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
F.2.1	Assess options and develop a recommendation for long-term sustainable funding for the implementation of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan.	CD FAM	2026; 2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs		Study
F.2.2	Evaluate opportunities for neighborhood grants or other approaches to incentivize neighborhood or community-led sustainability initiatives.	CD	2027-2028	Short: <2 Yrs	Equity Resilience	Program

Catalyst Strategy

F.3	Equity. Prioritize engagement and partnerships with underrepresented community members to embed equity in sustainability program design and implementation.					
Actions		Lead Department	Target Budget Year	Estimated Duration	Co-Benefits	Mechanism
F.3.1	Embed equity in sustainability program design and implementation, including through prioritizing engagement with underrepresented community members and partnering with community-based organizations to co-design engagement and inform decision-making.	CD	2026; 2027-2028	Medium: 3-4 Yrs.	Equity Resilience	Program

DRAFT

Glossary

GHG: Greenhouse gas

MTCO₂e: Metric tons of CO₂ equivalent

HVAC: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

MERV 13: Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values; MERV 13 operates on a 1-16 scale, the higher the rating the better a filter is at trapping specific types of particles

VMT: Vehicle miles traveled

DRAFT