OCTOBER 2025

SUSTAINABLE BELLEVUE
BOLD ACTION, BRIGHT FUTURE.

2026-2030

SUSTAINABLE BELLEVUE PLAN

Recommended Plan for Council Review

Table of Contents

Letter from the Sustainability Manager

The City of Bellevue has worked to lead by example by aggressively reducing emissions under our purview. Since 2011, we have reduced emissions from municipal operations by 59%, helping us meet our 2030 target of 50% reduction a full five years early.

Staff and leadership from the City of Bellevue are pleased to share the recommended 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan. Building on the 2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Plan, which was adopted in 2020 during a time of great uncertainty, this updated iteration serves to implement the city's ambitious climate and sustainability goals by charting a course of action for the next five years.

In the five years since the current plan was adopted, the city has made significant strides in accelerating its sustainability efforts, illustrating how economic recovery and sustainability can work hand in hand. New programs like Energy Smart Eastside and the Clean Buildings Incentive Program support building decarbonization in Bellevue and help to create and retain green jobs.

Over the past five years, the City of Bellevue has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability through increased staff and program resources, as well as updated climate and environmental policies in the ambitious 2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan adopted last year.

The city has also worked to lead by example by aggressively reducing emissions under our purview. Since 2011, the City of Bellevue has reduced emissions from municipal operations by 59%, helping us meet our 2030 target of 50% reduction a full five years early.

Achieving our community-wide sustainability goals has proven more difficult, as these targets are dependent on several factors, including scaling up local actions and fully implementing state policies like the Clean Energy Transformation Act. Bellevue has started seeing the benefits of this work in the community as the city has ramped up efforts over the past five years in the form of increased heat pump adoption, energy efficiency improvements, heat and smoke resilience and more. The impact of this work can be seen in Bellevue's 8% decrease in overall community-wide emissions since 2011, despite 25% population and 26% jobs growth during the same period.

Throughout the 2026-2030 plan update, staff heard a strong desire from the community for bold climate action and continued investment in climate and sustainability initiatives. The core city value of Stewardship was highlighted by the community as important to ensuring our "city in a park" is resilient to the impacts of climate change for years to come.

To achieve our sustainability goals, the city will continue to lead and partner with residents, businesses, schools, and community organizations. Together, we can realize our vision of a sustainable, livable city for all.

Thank you to our community for your support and participation in this planning process, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate to implement this plan.

Regards,

Jennifer Ewing

Sustainability Manager

Acknowledgments

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Community-Based Organization Partners

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

Plan Design

KLA
Kim Lundgren Associates, Inc.

Glossary & Acronyms

Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity: The sum of ten metrics that measure various aspects of benthic macroinvertebrate ("stream bugs") diversity and community structure to assess water quality and habitat condition.

Clean Building Performance Standard (CBPS): A 2019 Washington state law designed to lower costs and fossil fuel consumption in eligible state buildings.

Climate Resilience: The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change.

Electric Vehicle (EV): A vehicle that derives all or part of its power from electricity from the electric grid, including plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV) and fully electric vehicles (BEV).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the atmosphere, creating a greenhouse effect. As heat becomes trapped, global temperatures rise. While emissions can result from natural causes, they are primarily the result of human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): An internationally recognized green building certification system providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, GHG emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Metric Tons of CO_2 Equivalent ($MTCO_2e$): A unit of measurement that is used to bundle and compare different types of greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., methane and nitrous oxide) by converting them to an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas.

HVAC: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

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

Puget Sound Energy (PSE): Energy utility providing electrical power and natural gas to the Puget Sound region, including Bellevue.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): A metric used in transportation planning to measure the miles traveled by all vehicles in a geographic region over a given time period.

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

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 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.

OUR VISION: CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050

As affirmed by the Comprehensive Plan, Bellevue has committed to **reducing community GHG emissions 50% by 2030 and 95% by 2050.** This new, more aggressive target of **carbon neutrality** by 2050 positions Bellevue as a leader in sustainability and ensures the city will continue to be a desirable place to live, work, and play. Bellevue has reduced total community-wide 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.

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 by 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.

2007
Environmental Stewardship Initiative launched

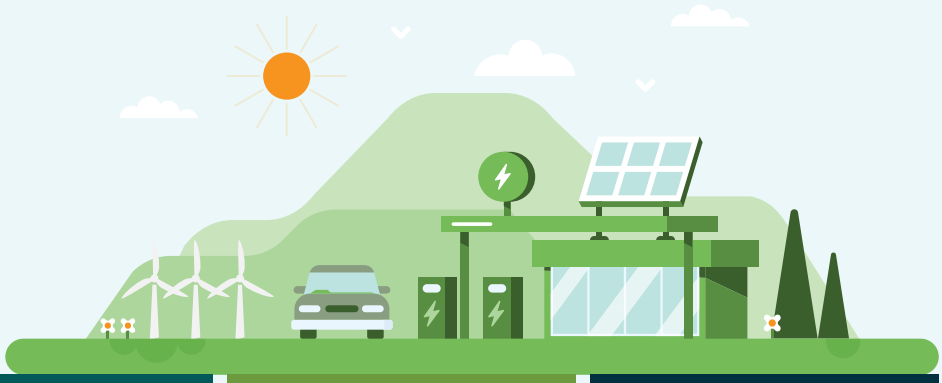
2007
Bellevue signs onto Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement

2011
First city greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory conducted

2013
First Environmental Stewardship Strategic Plan completed

2021-2025 Accomplishments

- Comprehensive Plan updated to include new Climate & Environment element
- Bellevue Climate Challenge campaign engages **189 households**
- EV Roadmap completed
- Piloted Climate Ambassadors program & trained **12 volunteers** for community engagement
- Clean Buildings Incentive Program benchmarks **200 buildings**
- Mobility Implementation Plan developed
- Eastside Climate Partnership established with the cities of Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, and Sammamish
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment completed
- Tree Giveaway provides over **3,000 free trees**
- Energy Smart Eastside program launched; **250+ heat pumps** installed in Bellevue
- Tree Preservation code update completed
- 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



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
Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation

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

Engaging the Community

BUILDING A LIVABLE FUTURE takes everyone. The voices of our community are critical to shaping the sustainable Bellevue we strive to become by 2030 and beyond. Throughout the planning process, the Sustainable Bellevue team sought to listen to and engage as many community members as possible, including residents and key organizations that reflect the diversity of the community to understand their unique experiences, needs, and priorities.

"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

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

across two community surveys

Survey Says...

10

community-based organization partners

The Sustainable Bellevue team conducted two community surveys to learn more about the priorities and needs of community members related to sustainability.

More than 700 responses later, the results are in.

1,000+

visitors

to the *Sustainable Bellevue* online engagement hub

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.

Building Climate Resilience

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 current and future impacts of more frequent and intense extreme weather events on people, places, and services. In addition, the updated Comprehensive Plan includes a new Climate & Environment element with new and expanded climate resilience and mitigation policies. 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.

Climate resilience (noun):

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change.[1]

Wildfires and Smoke

Since 2015, the Puget Sound region has faced unprecedented wildfire smoke. One historic wildfire season in 2020 contributed to over a week of "unhealthy" or worse air quality across King County.[2]

Future Projections

By 2050, Bellevue will likely have 10 more High Fire Danger days per year.[3]

Solutions to Build Resilience

Prioritizing HVAC updates and MERV 13 filters for air filtration at community facilities that serve high-risk populations can reduce indoor exposure to smoke and other harmful respiratory particles up to 70%.[4]

Intense Precipitation and Storms

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.[5]

Future Projections

By 2050, Bellevue could experience a 9% increase in the frequency and intensity of 2-year storms (storms with a 50% chance of occurring every year).[6]

Solutions to Build Resilience

Upsizing stormwater infrastructure and low-impact development solutions can help manage and divert stormwater.[7]

Flooding

Up to four feet of standing water blocked roadways across Bellevue following heavy rains in December 2019, preventing passage for emergency vehicles and through traffic.[8]

Future Projections

By 2050, 82% of streams across King County could see a 10-50% increase in maximum streamflow.[9]

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.[10]

Extreme Heat

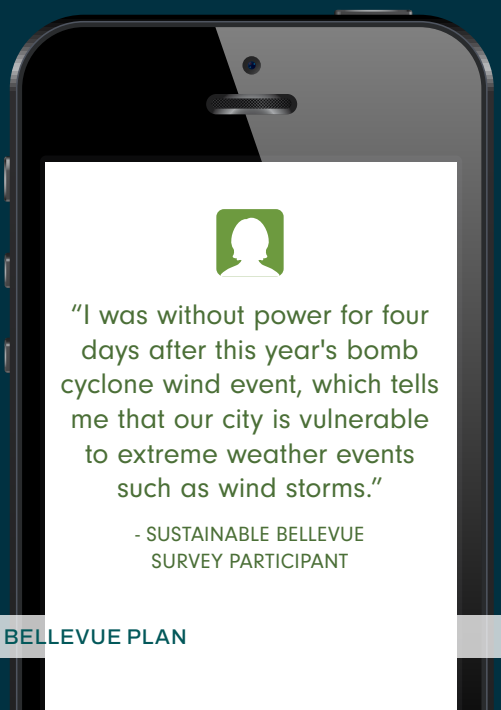
Heat-related hospitalizations in Washington jumped from 42 annually to 437 in 2021 during an extreme heat wave.[11]

Future Projections

By 2050, Bellevue is expected to see an increase from 30.8 days over 88°F to 32.4 days.[12]

Solutions to Build Resilience

Increasing tree canopy across urban heat islands in Bellevue can reduce peak summer heat by 2-9°F.[13]



"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

81% of Sustainable Bellevue survey respondents reported that they have already experienced climate change-related hazards in Bellevue

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 IF:

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 IF:

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

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 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 $MTCO_2e$, or metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. These emissions are primarily from the use of energy in residential and commercial buildings (45%) and on-road transportation (39%).

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. As our community experiences growth in the future, Bellevue will need to take additional steps to prevent new sources of emissions from buildings, transportation, and waste.

1.2 billion vehicle miles traveled annually on Bellevue roadways

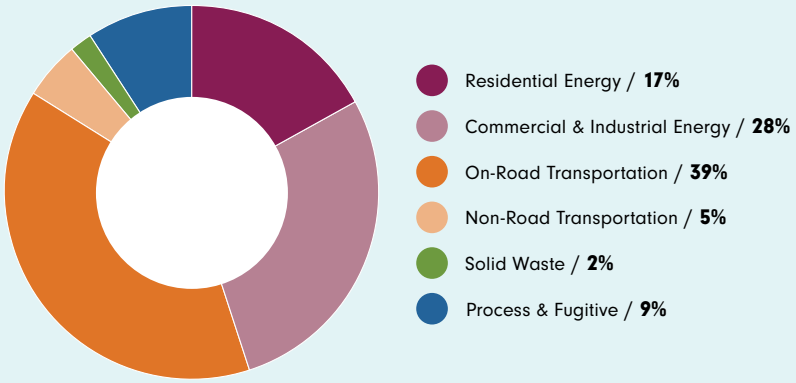
24,000 homes are heated by fossil fuels

50 million sq.ft. of commercial real estate are heated by fossil fuels

$MTCO_2e$

GHG emissions are measured in terms of metric tons of **carbon dioxide equivalent ($MTCO_2e$)**. CO_2e 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.

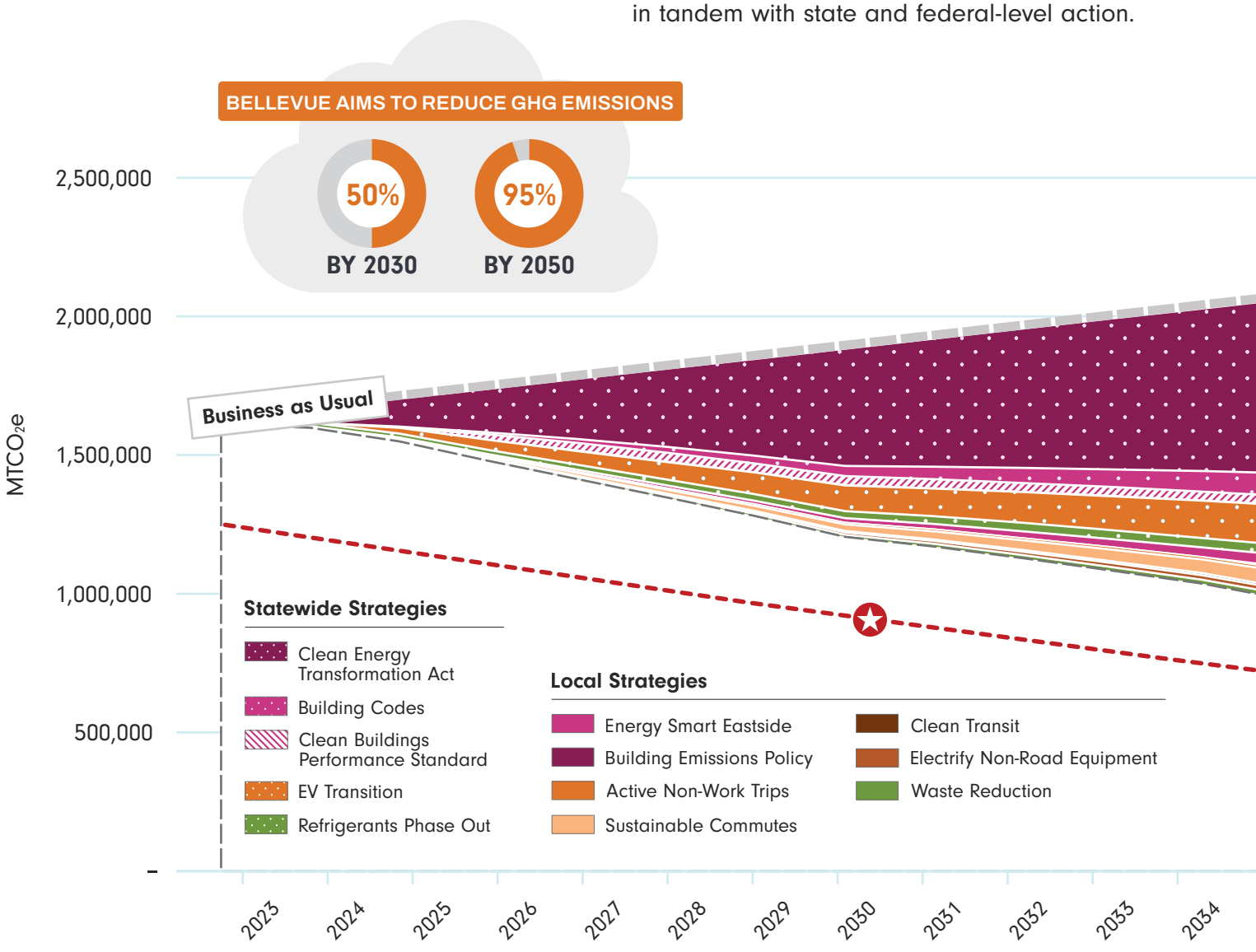
Bellevue's 2023 Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Reducing Our Contribution

WITH EACH UPDATE to the Sustainable Bellevue Plan, the city evaluates the GHG reduction potential of different policies and programs enacted at different levels of government. 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.

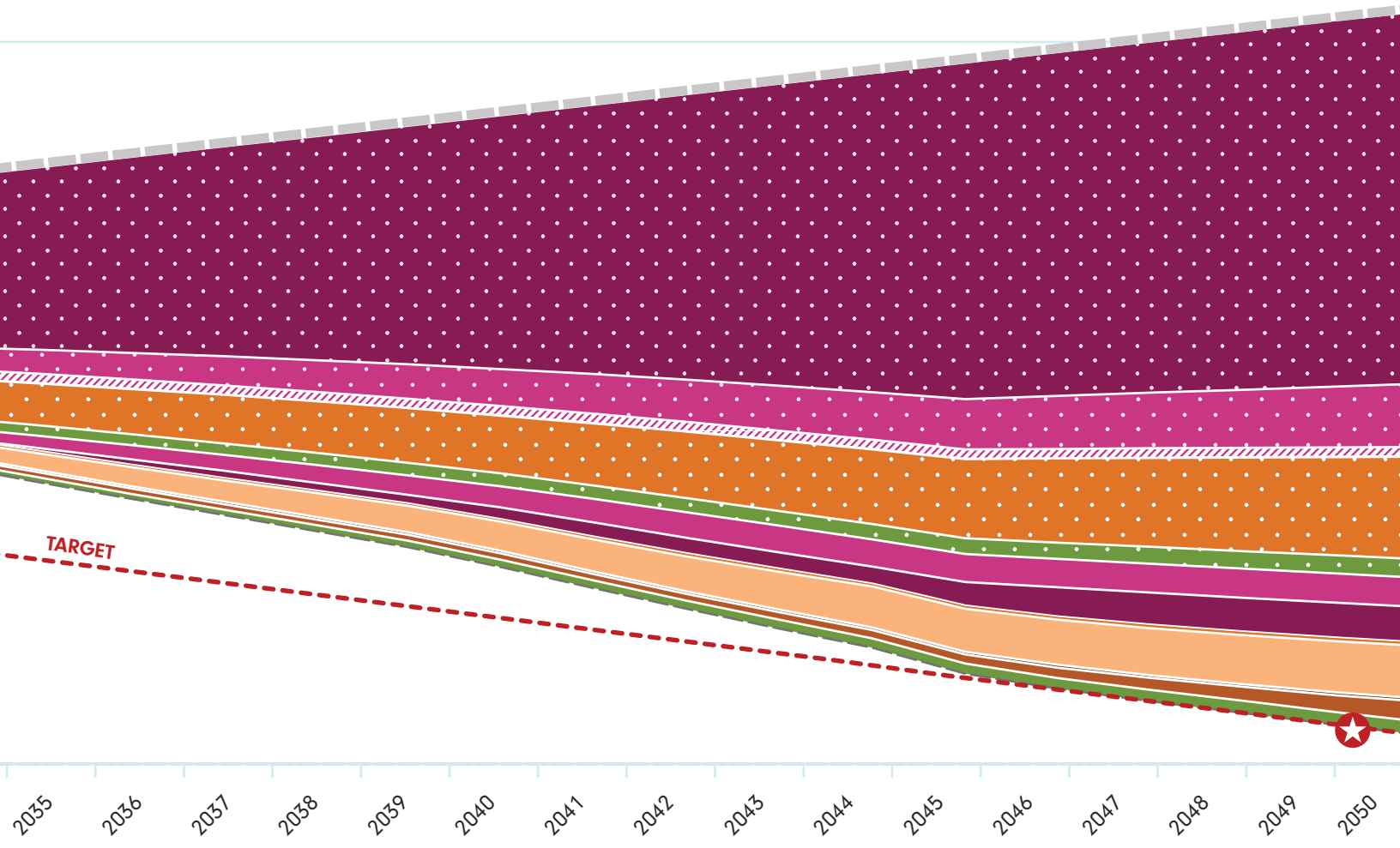
The accompanying "wedge" diagram illustrates the relative potential of each policy to reduce GHG emissions through 2050, when Bellevue aims to achieve a 95% reduction in GHG emissions relative to a 2011 baseline. Analyzing policies and programs through this kind of analysis helps to identify the strategies that will have the greatest impact and where Bellevue has opportunities to reduce emissions in tandem with state and federal-level action.



How to Read a Wedge Diagram

- The dashed line across the top of the wedge represents "business-as-usual" levels of GHGs, if Bellevue were to continue to grow and develop without any efforts to reduce emissions.
- The patterned set of wedges shows the reductions that we expect to occur from state-level polices and changes ("Statewide Strategies"). These strategies include the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), which will transition Washington's energy supply to 100% renewable.
- The solid set of wedges reflects the impact of the strategies in the Sustainable Bellevue Plan ("Local Strategies").
- The dotted line across the bottom of the wedge illustrates Bellevue's GHG reduction targets.

With 2030 on the horizon, the city is anticipating a gap in achieving its 2030 community-wide reduction target. However, with accelerated implementation, the city can achieve a 50% reduction in community-wide 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 $MTCO_2e$ by 2030, as the region's electricity transitions to 100% renewables. **To achieve that result, over the next five years Bellevue 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

Proportional GHG Reductions in 2030

This chart illustrates the **share of GHG reductions** expected from each mitigation strategy in the *Sustainable Bellevue Plan*. Each box is proportional to the amount of emissions reductions that each strategy will produce in 2030. These strategies represent Bellevue's most critical areas of opportunity for the next five years.

Energy & Buildings

58% All Electricity
STRATEGY: **Clean Energy Transformation Act**

3% Commercial Energy
STRATEGY: **Building Codes**

4% Commercial Energy
STRATEGY: **Clean Buildings Performance Standard**

5% Residential Energy
STRATEGY: **Energy Smart Eastside**

Mobility & Land Use

17% Passenger Cars
STRATEGY: **EV Transition**

3% Passenger Cars
STRATEGY: **Sustainable Commutes**

1% Passenger Cars
STRATEGY: **Recreational Bike/Ped**

2% Freight Trucks
STRATEGY: **EV Transition**

1% Off-Road Equipment
STRATEGY: **Electrify Lawn & Other Equipment**

1% Transit
STRATEGY: **EV Transition**

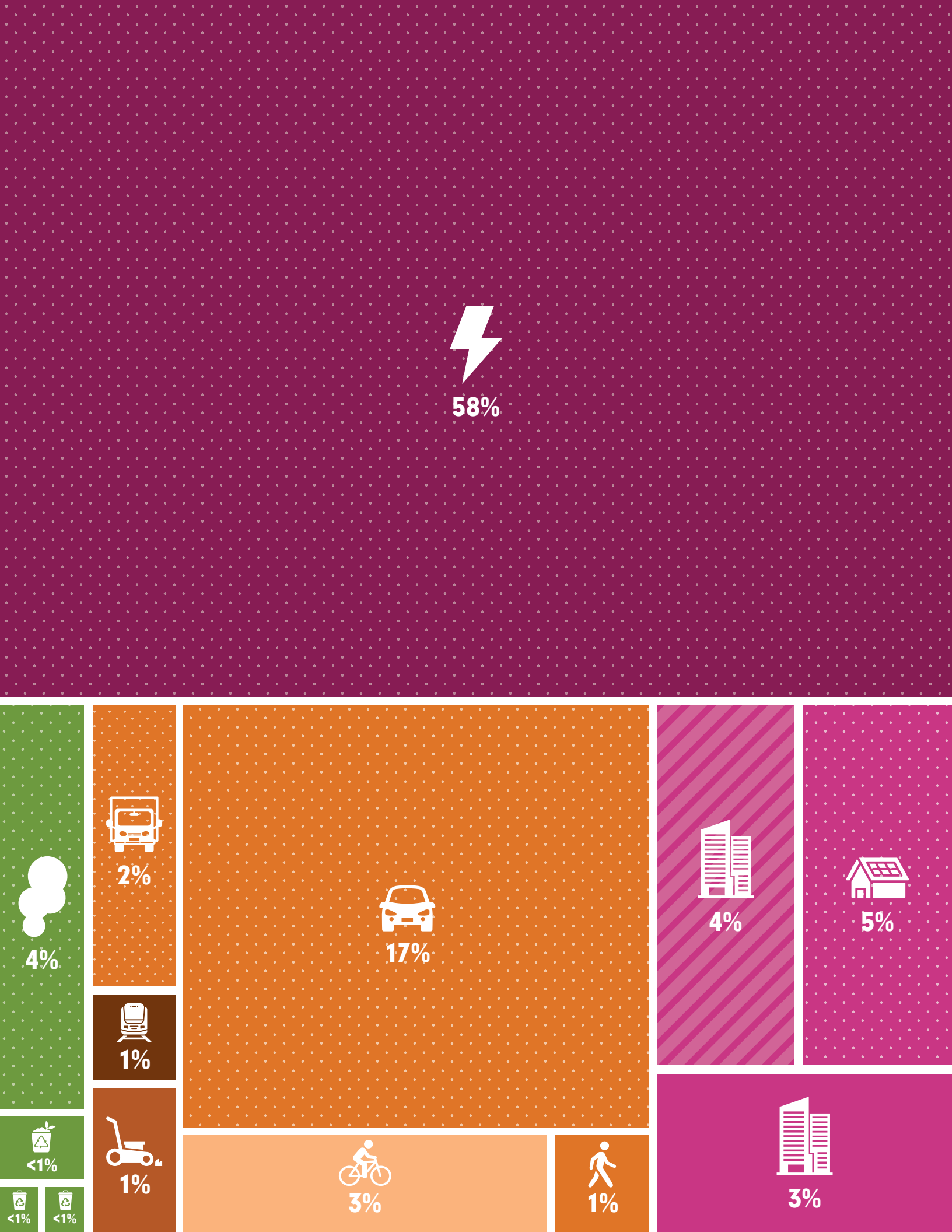
Materials & Waste

4% Ozone-Depleting Substances
STRATEGY: **Refrigerant Phase Out**

<1% Landfill
STRATEGY: **Organics Diversion**

<1% Landfill
STRATEGY: **Reduced Waste Generation**

<1% Landfill
STRATEGY: **Increased Recycling**


58%
4%
2%
17%
4%
5%
1%
<1%
1%
3%
1%
3%
<1%
<1%

Plan Update Approach & Structure

TO UPDATE the *Sustainable Bellevue Plan*, the city engaged with community members, businesses, stakeholders, and subject matter experts; reviewed progress to date and best practices; updated assessments and inventories using the best data available; adopted new policy direction from the Comprehensive Plan; and updated goals and strategies to align with Bellevue's updated GHG reduction goals and community needs.

The 2026-2030 *Sustainable Bellevue Plan* is focused on **high-impact strategies** to put Bellevue on a path toward achieving its sustainability goals. High-impact strategies are those that will help Bellevue achieve its GHG reduction targets and/or meaningfully enhance climate resilience. The plan builds on Bellevue's efforts to date and focuses on **new** or **expanded strategies** to implement over the next five years while allowing for some flexibility to make adjustments as conditions change. This plan does not include 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 STRATEGY

These strategies have the potential to rapidly reduce GHG emissions in the short term to meet Bellevue's community-wide 50% reduction target.

CATALYST STRATEGY

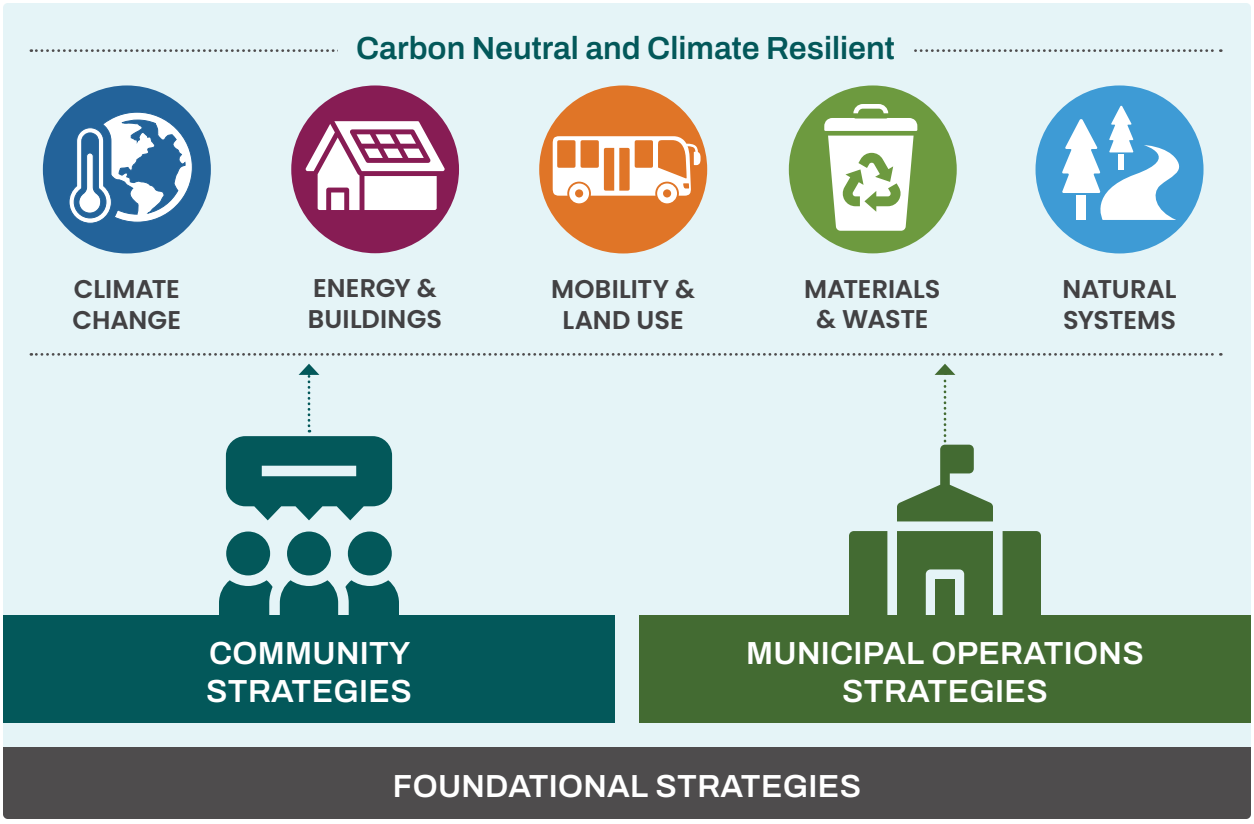
These strategies have the potential to lay a foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet Bellevue's community-wide 2050 target.

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

These strategies have the potential to meaningfully enhance the resilience of community members, infrastructure, and natural systems to climate impacts.

Bold Action. Bright Future.

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 Foundational Strategies to institutionalize climate and sustainability in city governance structure and processes. The following chapters outline those strategies and illustrate how implementation over the next five years can put Bellevue on a path to achieving its goals.



Climate Change

TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, Bellevue must rapidly reduce GHG emissions and prepare the community for the current and future impacts. 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.

Goal

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

Outcome Metrics

OUTCOME	METRIC	CURRENT STATUS	2030	2050
Carbon Neutral City: Reduce community-wide emissions 50% by 2030	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (%)	**8% reduction**	**50%**	**95%**
Climate Resilience	TBD[14]		**New Metric**	

PRIORITY STRATEGY

C.1: Implement Initiatives to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Engage the community and stakeholders in greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate resilience.

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

C.2: Community Resilience

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

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.

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

C.4: 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

IN BELLEVUE, BUILDINGS HAVE A BIG IMPACT. While 17% of Bellevue's community-wide GHG emissions are from residential energy use, 28% 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 without fossil fuel systems. 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.

Goal

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

Outcome Metrics

OUTCOME	METRIC	CURRENT STATUS	2030	2050
Reduce per capita emissions from residential buildings 57% by 2030	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (%)	**16% reduction**	**57%**	**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

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.

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.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

B.3: Large Building Decarbonization Incentives

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

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.

PRIORITY 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.

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.

IMPACTS OF ACTIONS BY 2030

Energy & Buildings

Share of GHG Reductions Expected by Strategy

Clean Energy Transformation Act	58%
Building Codes	3%
Clean Buildings Performance Standard	4%
Energy Smart Eastside	5%

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Residents

Identify 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

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, 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.

Goal

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

Outcome Metrics

OUTCOME	METRIC	CURRENT STATUS	2030	2050
Reduce per capita emissions from landfilled waste 58% by 2030	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (%)	**40% reduction**	**58%**	**90%**
Achieve zero waste	Diversion rate (%)	**47%**	**50%**	**90%**
Reduce overall waste generation	Reduction of total waste generated (%)	**New Metric**	**5%**	**10%**

IMPACTS OF ACTIONS BY 2030

PRIORITY STRATEGY

W.1: Waste Reduction

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

PRIORITY 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.

Materials & Waste

Share of GHG Reductions Expected by Strategy

- Reduced Waste Generation **<1%**
- Increased Recycling **<1%**
- Organics Diversion **<1%**
- Refrigerant Phase Out **4%**

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

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS from on-road transportation sources, including passenger vehicles, account for 39% of Bellevue's emissions. Meeting Bellevue's climate goals will require more residents and visitors to use sustainable transportation modes, including carpools, van pools, public transit, or by biking or walking. It will also require converting remaining passenger vehicle trips to electric. Bellevue can look to support additional charging for the public and multifamily buildings as well as electrifying transit options. Finally, dense development and land use planning can facilitate connected neighborhoods, quality of life improvements, walkability, and access to sustainable transportation modes. Increasing density where appropriate and greening new development can help secure this sustainable future.

Goal

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

Outcome Metrics

OUTCOME	METRIC	CURRENT STATUS	2030	2050
Reduce emissions from passenger vehicles 58% by 2030	Reduction of per capita greenhouse gas emissions (%)	**40% reduction**	**58%**	**95%**
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

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.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

M.2: Electric Vehicles

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

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.

CATALYST STRATEGY

M.4: Sustainable Land Use

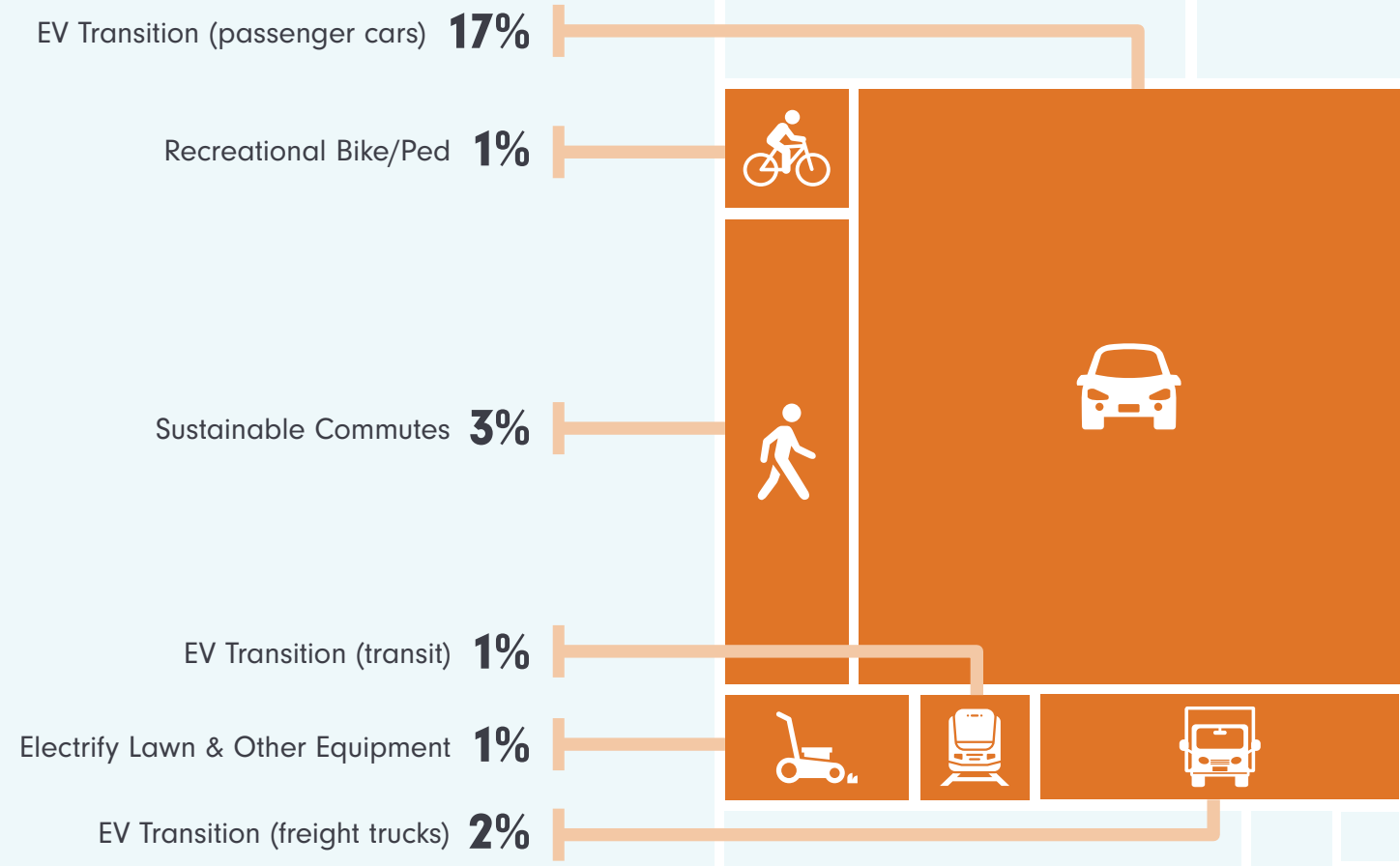
Increase transit-oriented development and livability by supporting sustainable land use and development.

Bold Action. Bright Future.

IMPACTS OF ACTIONS BY 2030

Mobility & Land Use

Share of GHG Reductions Expected by Strategy



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.


211A
Link
SOUNDTRANSIT
Online and en route!
4culture.org/poetry
public
SOUNDTRANSIT
SIDEWALK CLOSED

Natural 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 and expanding trail connections, particularly in areas poised for additional growth, will increase 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.

Goal

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

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 Metric**[15]		

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.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

N.2: Electric Yard Care Equipment

Reduce emissions, air and noise pollution, by assessing transition to electric yard care equipment.[16]

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

N.3: Stormwater Management

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

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

N.4: Reduce Water Use

Enhance drought resilience by improving community-wide efforts to reduce water use during peak season.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Residents

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

Keep dumpster areas clear and properly store any potential contaminant to protect surface water by only sending rain down Bellevue's storm drains. Protect your drinking water through backflow prevention. The city has more information on Business Pollution Prevention Fats, Oils, and Grease, and Backflow Prevention.

Municipal Operations

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 community-wide emissions reduction efforts, municipal efforts will focus on decarbonizing buildings, fleet, and infrastructure, while building a foundation of sustainability leaders and cross-departmental collaboration.

Key Accomplishments to Date

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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LEED Gold & Salmon-Safe Certified

construction of Bellevue's new Fire Station 10

80%
energy savings from Bellevue Service Center retrofits

78%
municipal electricity transitioned to renewable sources

64%
recycling and composting rate achieved in municipal operations

75%
construction and demolition waste diverted from landfill

55%
reduction in GHG emissions from employee commutes

3 Depots
adding EV charging infrastructure for fleet vehicles

72%
healthy urban forest maintained

40+
city staff trained as Envision Sustainability Professionals

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 strategies that aligns with the community framework.

PRIORITY STRATEGY	CATALYST STRATEGY	RESILIENCE STRATEGY
These strategies have the potential to reduce GHG emissions in the short term.	These strategies have the potential to lay a foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet the city's 2040 target.	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.

Climate Change

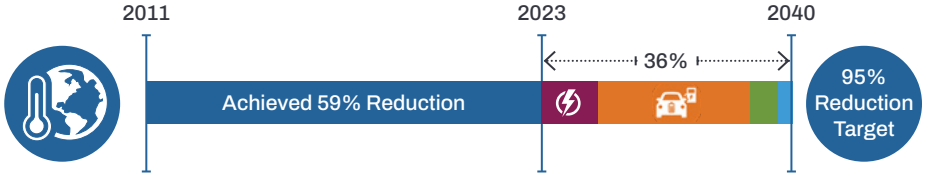
GOAL: Achieve carbon neutrality and increase Bellevue's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Leading by Example

The city has reduced overall municipal GHG emissions by 59%, surpassing its 2030 goal of 50%. This progress is driven by long-term renewable energy purchasing, including 78% solar and wind power through Puget Sound Energy's Green Direct program. City staff will focus on embedding sustainability into daily operations by training staff on sustainability rating systems for green buildings and infrastructure, and applying lessons learned across capital projects to drive efficiency, conservation, and long-term climate resilience. Building and fleet electrification will continue to drive down GHG emissions through long-range planning.

GHG Reduction Progress and Targets

Colors represent remaining emissions in each municipal operations focus area.



Level 5: Climate Ready by 2040

Achieving Level 5 on the resilience rating scale means Bellevue's critical facilities are resilient, with reliable backup power in place to keep services running during emergencies. City staff are trained, equipped, and supported with resources to respond effectively to hazards, while all-hazard plans are regularly tested and updated to ensure the city is prepared for floods, heat waves, wildfire smoke, and severe storms.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

C.1: Track and mitigate GHG emissions in construction and municipal operations.

CATALYST STRATEGY

C.2: Expand education & training for city staff in sustainability, climate, preparedness, and resiliency.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

C.3: Meet green building performance standards for new and existing city-owned buildings and infrastructure.

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

C.4: Evaluate and upgrade existing city-owned facilities and infrastructure to address climate impacts.

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

C.5: Upgrade and secure backup power for municipal operations (i.e. buildings, fleet, traffic signals, etc.).

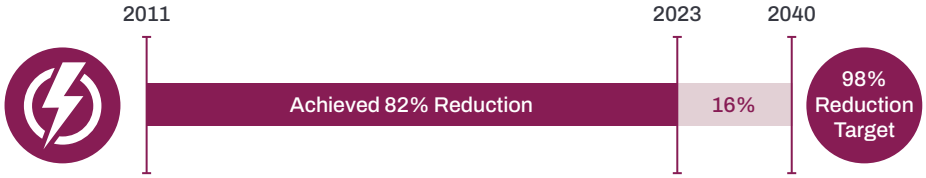
Energy & Buildings

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

Leading by Example

The city has reduced GHG emissions from energy use by 82%, surpassing its 2030 goal of 25%. Through a partnership with PSE, the city supported the development of the Skookumchuck Wind Farm and Lund Hill Solar Farm by committing to purchase 78% renewable power for 20 years. More than 50% of city-owned buildings are achieving energy efficiency targets through ongoing improvements, preventative maintenance and strategic renovations. To maintain efficiency and improve fault detection, the city is installing smart building software on buildings with the highest energy use and training staff to utilize insights. Planning for building efficiency and electrification will be a priority to phase out natural gas and advance renewable energy use.

GHG Reduction Progress and Targets



Level 5: Climate Ready by 2040

Achieving Level 5 on the resilience rating scale means city-owned buildings are climate ready with resilient facilities, trained staff, and tested response plans to maintain operations through floods, heat waves, wildfire smoke, and severe storms. Electrical and generator capacity is sufficient to meet future building and fleet electricity demands, supporting decarbonized, efficient, and reliable city operations.

PRIORITY STRATEGY	PRIORITY STRATEGY	PRIORITY STRATEGY
B.1: Increase energy efficiency in city facilities and infrastructure.	B.2: Transition to electric buildings and decrease fossil fuel use.	B.3: Transition to renewable energy and storage solutions.

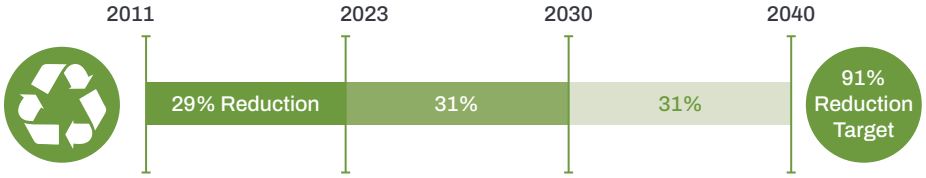
Materials & Waste

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

Leading by Example

Since 2011, the city has reduced GHG emissions from operational waste by 2%, achieving a 64% recycling rate with 51% recycled and 13% composted. To address the remaining 36% of landfilled waste, the city will strengthen materials and waste strategies—leveraging sustainable procurement, green vendor partnerships, and construction waste diversion—to reduce emissions and support a circular economy. The focus of the next five years will be to expand tracking to include diversion rates from construction and demolition, as well as reporting on quantities of compost used in capital projects.

GHG Reduction Progress and Targets



Level 5: Climate Ready by 2040

Achieving Level 5 on the resilience rating scale means city operations and projects prioritize locally sourced materials and robust waste diversion, moving toward zero waste to landfill, minimizing environmental impacts, and supporting a circular, sustainable approach to materials.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

W.1: Divert waste streams from landfills through composting, recycling, and reuse.

CATALYST STRATEGY

W.2: Strengthen sustainable procurement practices that prioritize local, durable, low-carbon materials in capital projects and municipal operations.

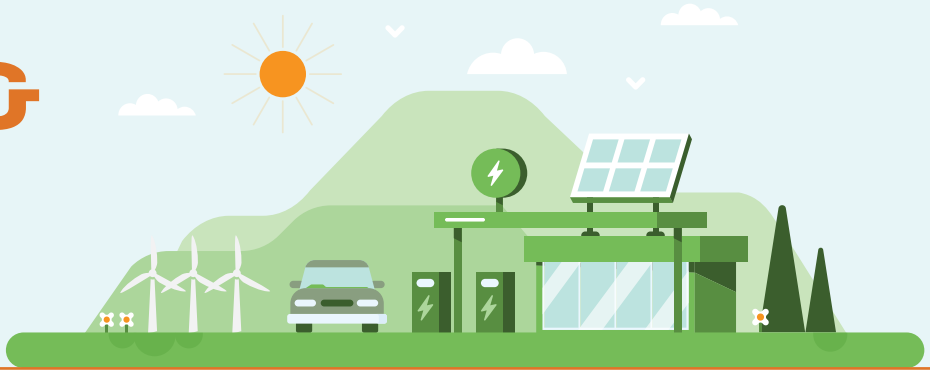
CATALYST STRATEGY

W.3: Plan for ongoing, long-term maintenance and end-of-life impacts in infrastructure design.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

W.4: Increase composted soils in capital projects to improve erosion control and biofiltration.

Mobility & Land Use

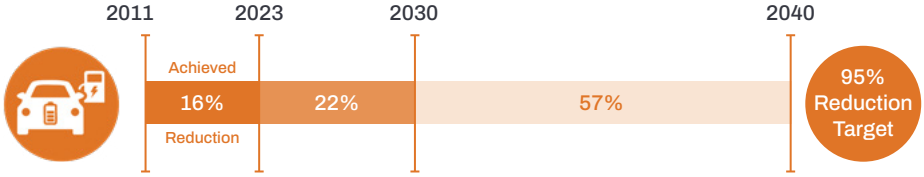


GOAL: Expand sustainable mobility options and transition to electric and low-carbon transportation modes.

Leading by Example

The city has reduced GHG emissions from fleet operations, employee commutes and business travel by 16% since 2011. Through the city's Commute Trip Reduction program, a 2023 survey reported that 49% of city employees walk, bike, carpool or bus to work, which is expected to increase when the Sound Transit Light Rail connects to Seattle. Over the next five years, the city will focus on implementing the Green Fleet—Electric Vehicle (EV) Master Plan to deploy the EV infrastructure and charging stations to support EV replacements and operations across city departments. Additionally, the city is preparing to pilot EV options for public safety vehicles, such as police patrol vehicles and an electric fire apparatus, to expand EV adoption to more specialized fleet vehicles.

GHG Reduction Progress and Targets



Level 5: Climate Ready by 2040

Achieving Level 5 on the resilience rating scale means fleet operations are resilient and low-carbon, with an electrified and backed-up fleet, mapped critical routes, and emergency mobility plans that ensure essential services and staff can operate year-round, including remote work where needed.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

M.1: Transition the municipal fleet to electric vehicles, equipment, and low-carbon fuels.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

M.2: Encourage sustainable commutes and business travel.

CATALYST STRATEGY

M.3: Pilot electric vehicles, equipment, and low-carbon fuels for specialty vehicles.

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

M.4: Secure backup power to support fleet operations during emergency events.

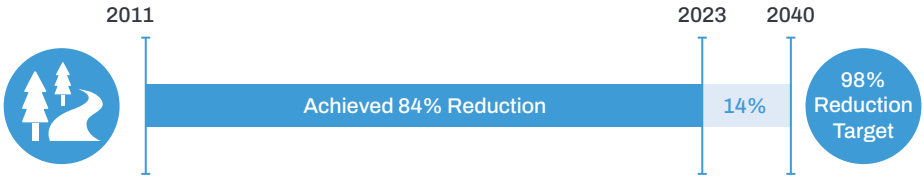
Natural Systems

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

Leading by Example

Since 2011, the city has reduced GHG emissions from water infrastructure by 84% and reduced energy use by 27%, even though water demand continues to grow. Innovations like a hydro-micro-turbine at Lake Hills and a rainwater cistern at Fire Station 10 demonstrate how sustainable design lowers energy and water use while earning certifications like Salmon-Safe or LEED. The 2024 update to the Parks Environmental Best Management Practices & Design Standards guide projects to integrate native landscaping, stormwater features, and multi-benefit solutions that enhance resilience. The Municipal Sustainability Planning Team will focus on embedding these practices citywide by training staff, pursuing Envision certifications for sustainable infrastructure, and applying lessons learned to ensure efficiency, conservation, and long-term climate readiness.

GHG Reduction Progress and Targets



Level 5: Climate Ready by 2040

Achieving Level 5 on the resilience rating scale means urban forests, watersheds, and landscapes are healthy, resilient, and actively protected, with native and drought-tolerant plantings standard across city properties to support biodiversity, water management, and climate resilience.

RESILIENCE STRATEGY

N.1: Preserve water resources and reduce negative impacts on freshwater availability, quantity, and quality.

PRIORITY STRATEGY

N.2: Advance the implementation of green infrastructure across capital projects.

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 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 community-wide and municipal operations sustainability goals.

F.1: Institutionalize Climate and Sustainability

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

F.2: 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.

F.3: Equity

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

Bold Action. Bright Future.

ACHIEVING BELLEVUE'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS is not just about reducing emissions—it's about creating a more livable, equitable, and clean city for generations to come. *Sustainable Bellevue* aims to create a community where everyone can travel conveniently for work and play, ecosystems are healthy, resources are used responsibly, and buildings are powered by clean energy.

Realizing this future will take 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**.

Endnotes

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

2 Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Air Quality Data Summary for 2020 (2020).

3 City of Bellevue, Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 2 "Climate Change in Bellevue" (2023).

4 Tianyuan Li et al., "Science tells us that portable air filters reduce infection risk. It's time for public authorities to make this clear," Journal of Infection and Public Health (2025).

5 PBS News, "Northwest U.S. sees 'bomb cyclone' kill 2 and knock out power to half a million homes" (2024).

6 City of Bellevue, Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 2 "Climate Change in Bellevue" (2023).

7 City of Bellevue, Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025).

8 City of Bellevue, Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 3 "Climate Vulnerability Assessment" (2023).

9 City of Bellevue, Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 2 "Climate Change in Bellevue" (2023).

10 City of Bellevue, Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025).

11 Washington State Department of Health, Heat Stress Hospitalization: Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 (2025).

12 City of Bellevue, Comprehensive Plan 2044: Section 3 "Climate Vulnerability Assessment" (2023).

13 Yupeng Wang, Hashem Akbari, "The Effects of Street Tree Planting on Urban Heat Island Mitigation in Montreal," Sustainable Cities and Society (2016).

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

15 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.

16 The reduction potential of this strategy is included with other "equipment" in the Mobility and Land Use chapter. Electrifying yard care equipment would reduce emissions by 8,391 $MTCO_2e$ by 2030.

SUSTAINABLE
BELLEVUE

BOLD ACTION, BRIGHT FUTURE.