

WELCOME TO THE

SUSTAINABLE

BELLEVUE

TOWNHALL





WELCOME TO THE SUSTAINABLE BELLEVUE TOWNHALL

City Council launched the Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update in October 2024. Guided by our new greenhouse gas reduction target of 95% by 2050 in the Comprehensive Plan, we will use this update to refine our strategies to reach our 2030 targets and beyond. The plan has strategies, goals, and targets in six focus areas:

- CLIMATE CHANGE
- ENERGY
- MOBILITY & LAND USE
- WASTE & MATERIALS
- NATURAL SYSTEMS
- MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Project Timeline



There will be many more opportunities to engage on the Plan Update throughout 2025. Be sure to subscribe to our newsletter to make sure you don't miss an update. Scan here to sign up:

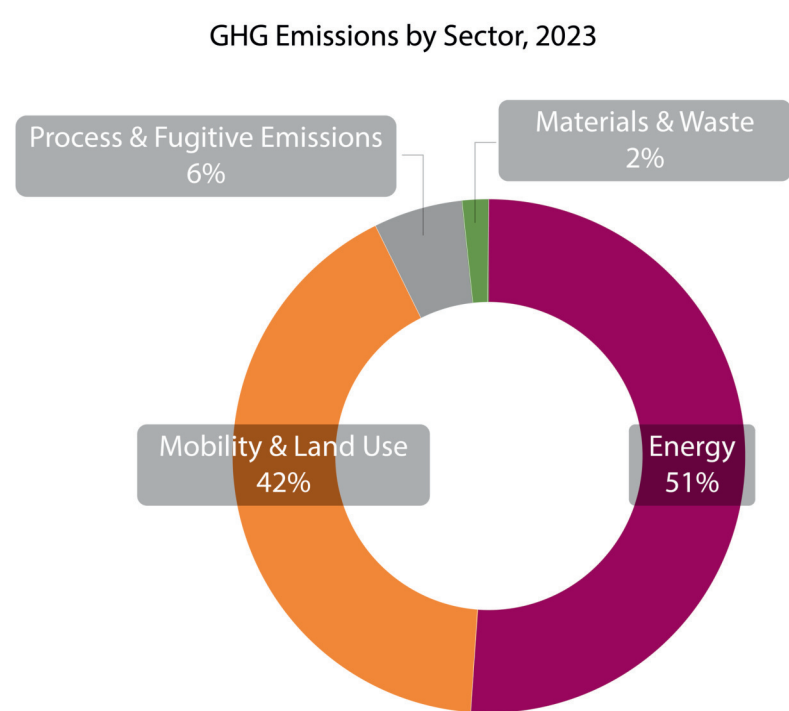
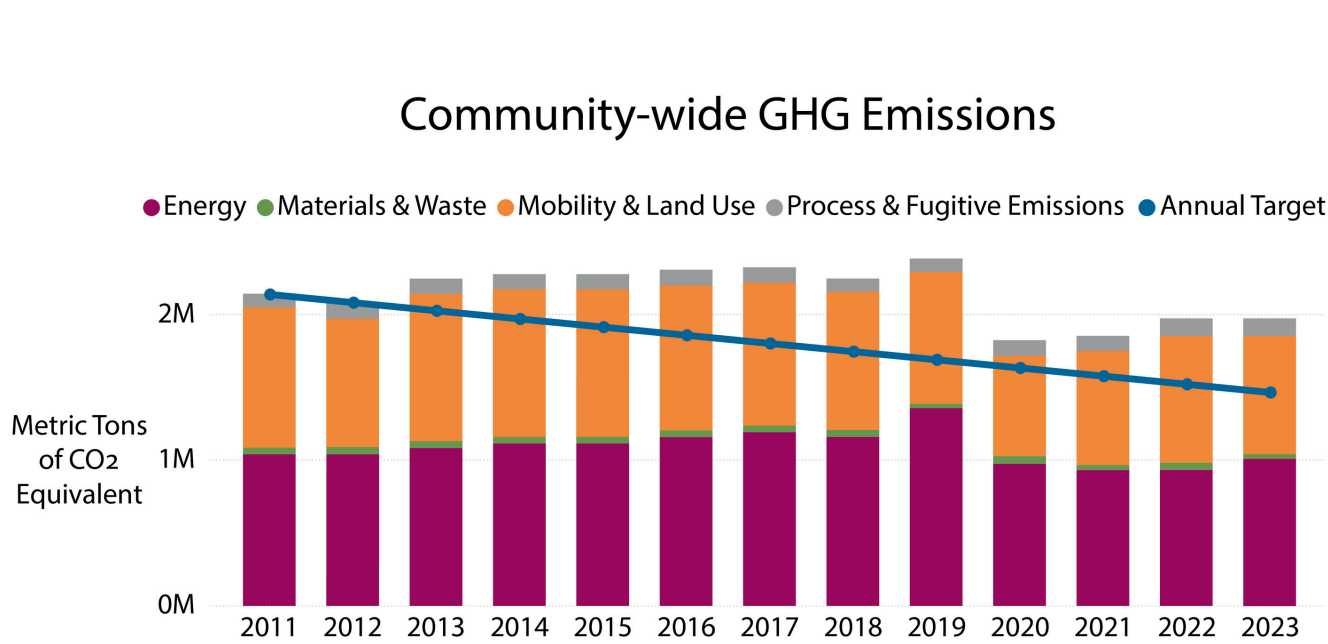




BELLEVUE'S 2023 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

State and federal laws and policies requiring Puget Sound Energy to electrify its grid will continue to bring down Bellevue's emissions in the coming years. But these policies alone will not reduce emissions enough for Bellevue to reach **our targets of 50% GHG reduction by 2030 and 95% by 2050**. With the Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update, we will refine local strategies to accelerate our progress towards our 2030 target and beyond.



WHERE WE ARE

In 2023, Bellevue saw a **4.5% increase in communitywide GHG emissions** since 2022. We have **reduced emissions by 8%** since our baseline year of 2011, despite **25% population growth**. This is significant progress, but Bellevue is not on track to meet our 2030 target. We must do more to reduce emissions from buildings and transportation to achieve our goals.



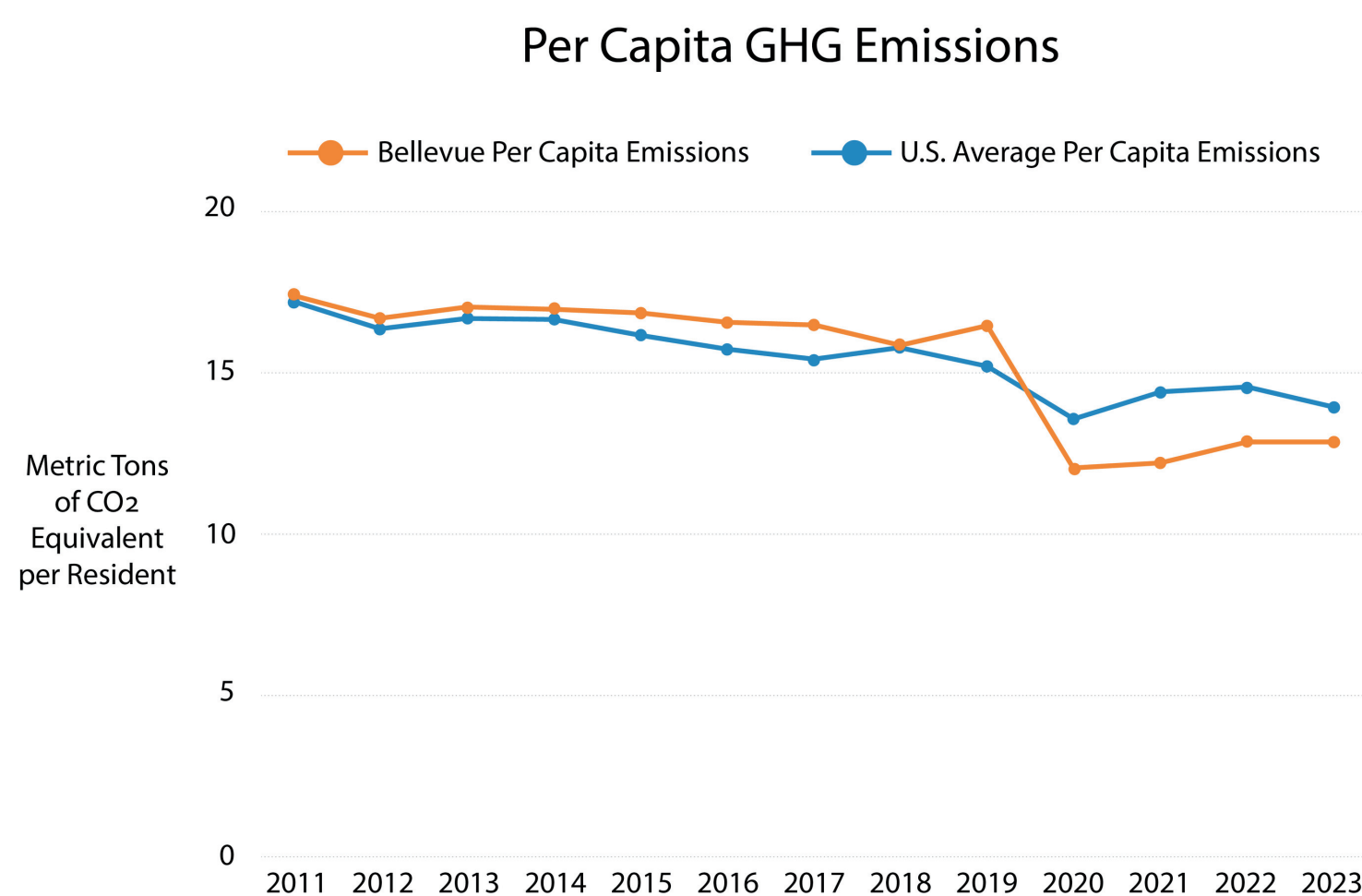


FOCUS ON: CLIMATE CHANGE

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

Our vision is a fully carbon neutral Bellevue, with greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 95% compared to 2011 levels. In 2050, Bellevue has:

- Implemented innovative local strategies to cut emissions in all sectors.
- Fostered resilient communities that recover stronger from extreme weather.
- Improved indoor and outdoor air quality.



WHERE WE ARE

Bellevue has made strides in reducing our emissions in spite of 25% population and 19% jobs growth, and has **reduced per capita emissions by 26%** since 2011. Our major sources of emissions remain buildings and transportation, and more reductions are needed to meet our 2030 and 2050 GHG goals.



Scan me



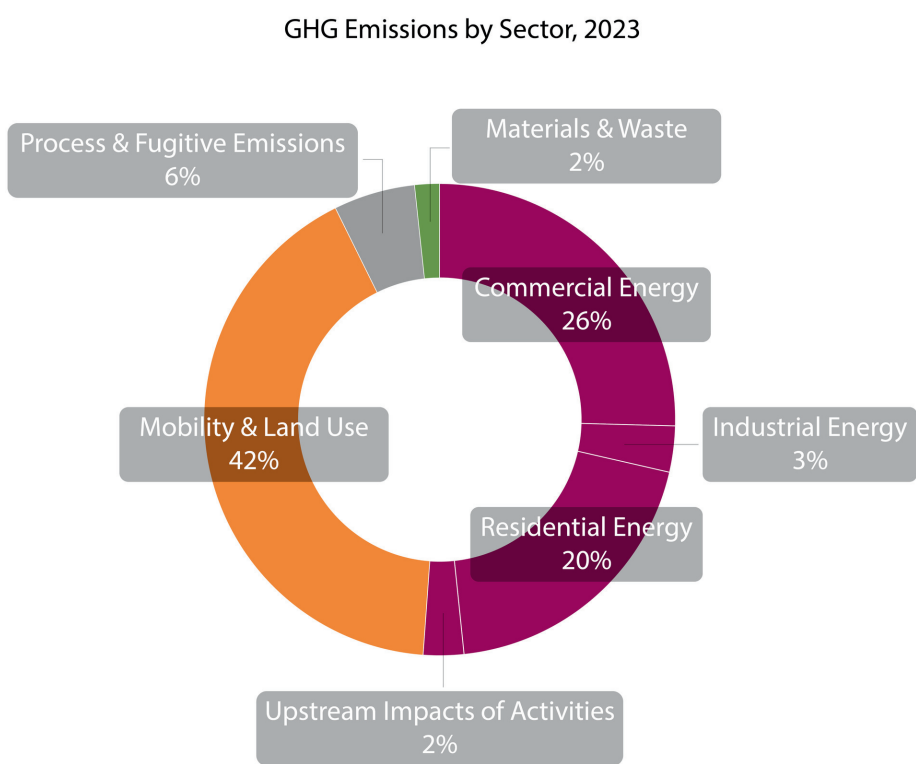
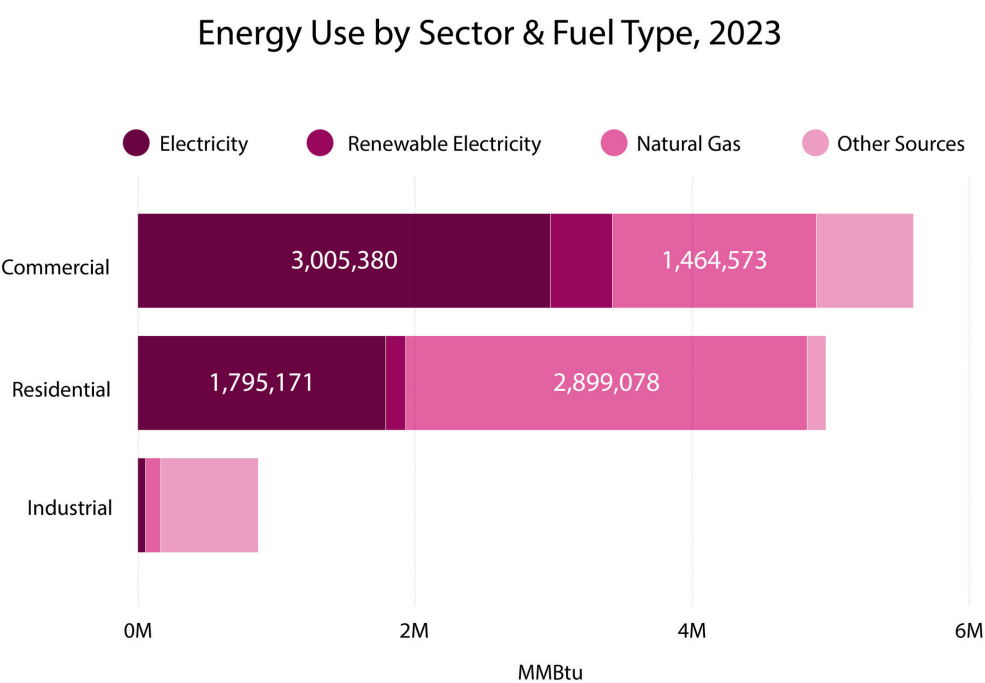


FOCUS ON: ENERGY

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

Our vision is a Bellevue powered by 100% renewable, efficient energy. In 2050, Bellevue has:

- Improved energy efficiency in commercial and residential buildings, reducing energy use and saving home and business owners money.
- Upgraded all buildings to fully electric, efficient appliances, creating healthier, cleaner, and higher-performing buildings to support community and economic growth.



WHERE WE ARE

In 2023, the energy (including natural gas) used to power Bellevue’s buildings accounted for **over half (51%) of our city’s total greenhouse gas emissions**. Still, in 2023, Bellevue was powered by **53% renewable energy sources**. To meet our goals, Bellevue must continue to reduce natural gas use in buildings while Puget Sound Energy continues to electrify its energy grid.





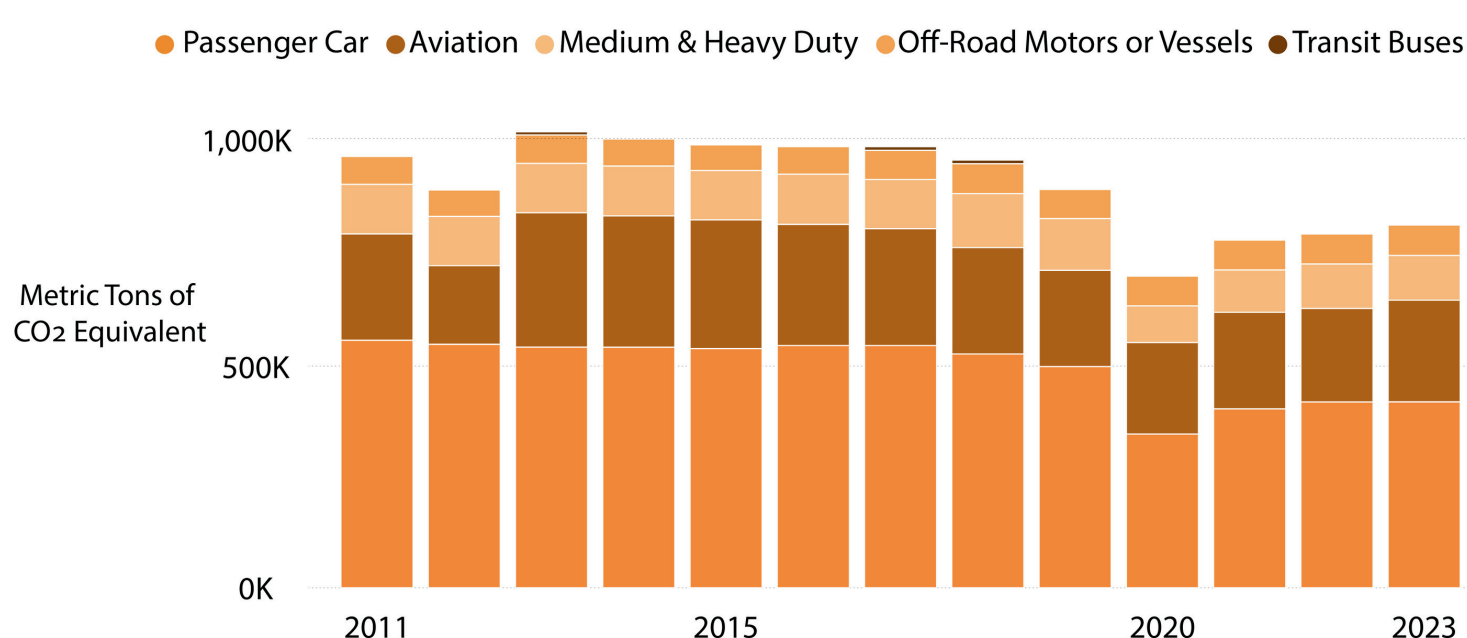
FOCUS ON: MOBILITY & LAND USE

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

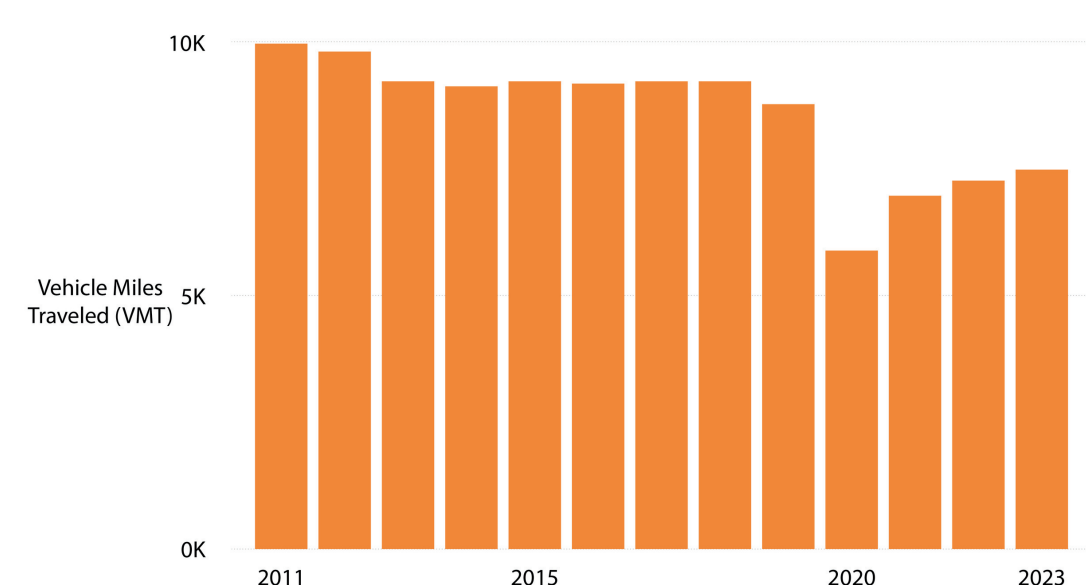
Our vision for is a Bellevue with convenient, efficient, and electrified transportation systems. In 2050, Bellevue has:

- Invested in fast, frequent, and accessible transportation options, from light rail to e-bikes to buses.
- Achieved widespread access to electric vehicle charging at home, at work, and in community spaces.

GHG Emissions by Vehicle Type



Per Capita Vehicle Miles Traveled by Passenger Cars



WHERE WE ARE

In 2023, transportation accounted for **42% of Bellevue's greenhouse gas emissions**. These emissions mostly come from driving cars alone and aviation. To meet our goals, Bellevue must reduce amount of miles traveled alone in cars and improve access to frequent transit for all residents, even as our transportation systems continue to electrify.



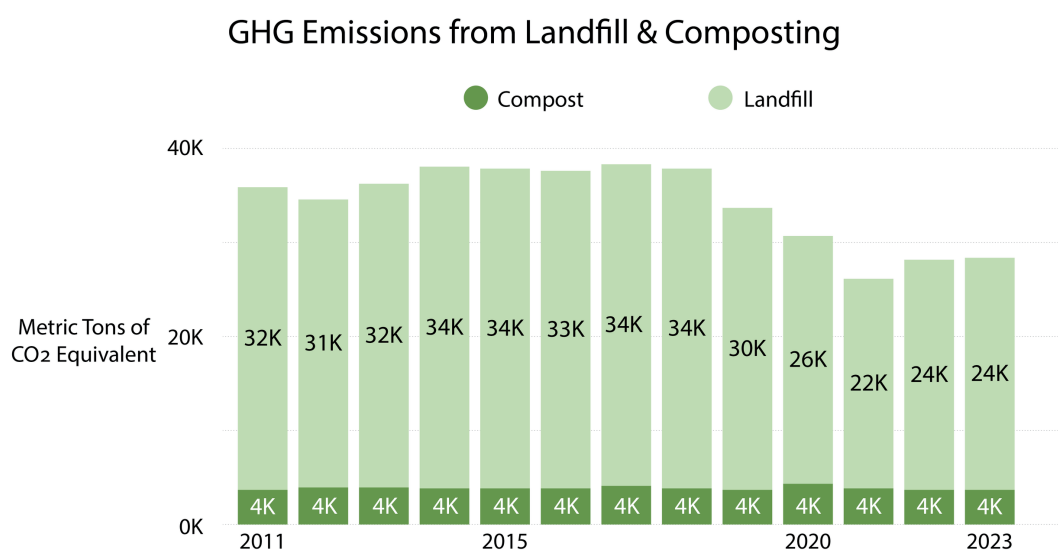
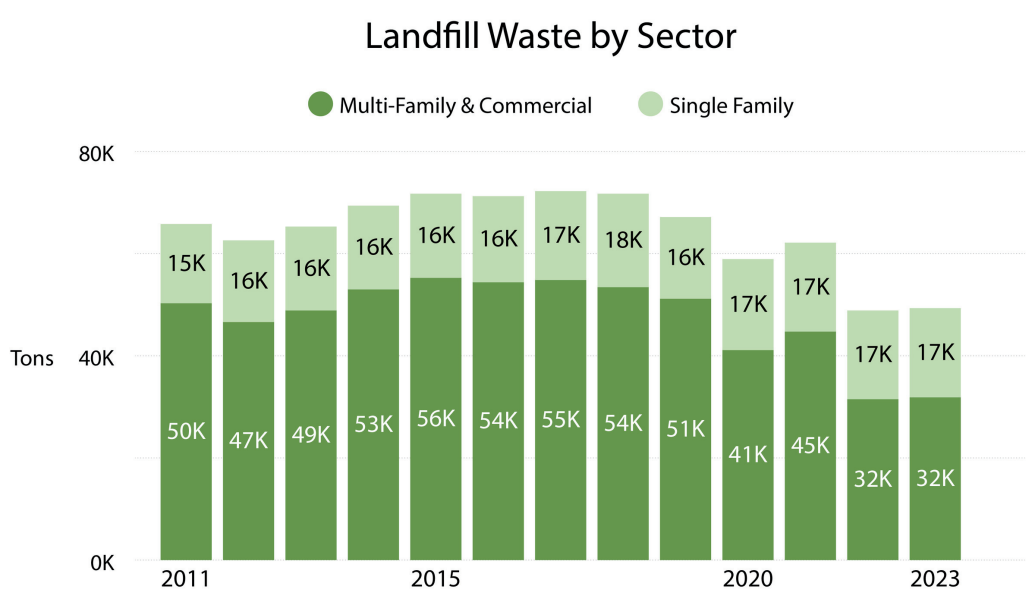


FOCUS ON: WASTE & MATERIALS

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

Our vision is a 100% zero-waste Bellevue. In 2050, Bellevue has:

- Eliminated landfill waste. All discarded goods, packaging, and food are recycled or composted.
- Reduced consumption, especially of single-use and disposable items. The community consumes only what it needs.



WHERE WE ARE

Although Bellevue’s discarded waste and materials do not make up a significant portion of our greenhouse gas emissions (**only 2%** in 2023), waste has many other environmental impacts. Additionally, the goods we consume (many of which are soon discarded) have significant greenhouse gas emissions associated with their manufacture and transport. In 2023, **47% of all waste** in Bellevue was sent to a landfill, instead of to compost or recycling.





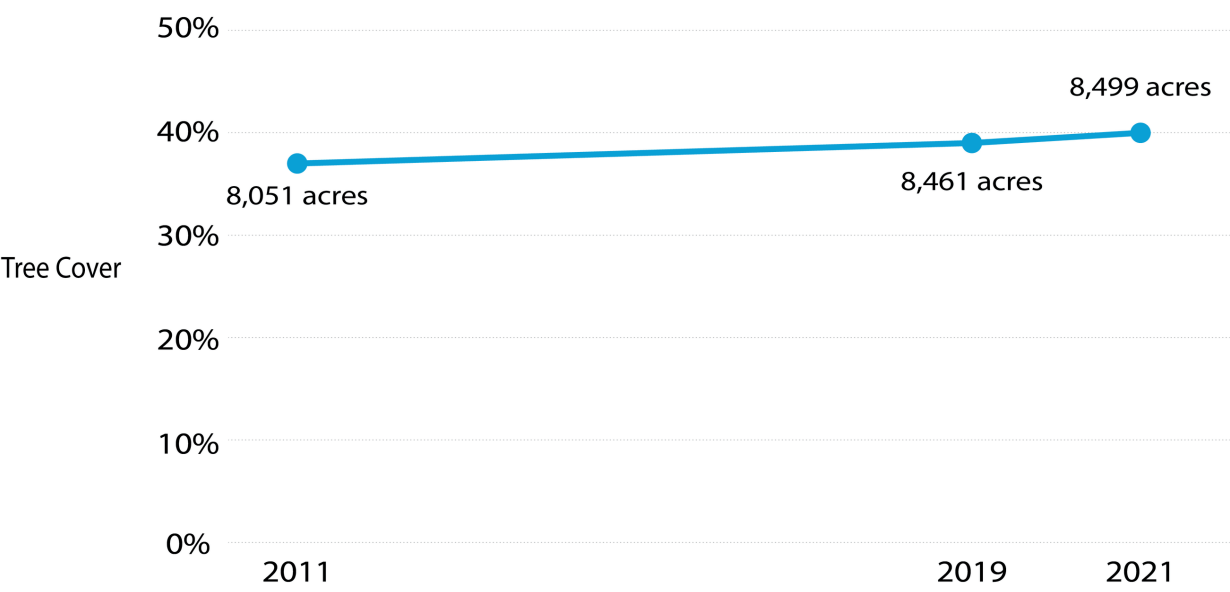
FOCUS ON: NATURAL SYSTEMS

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

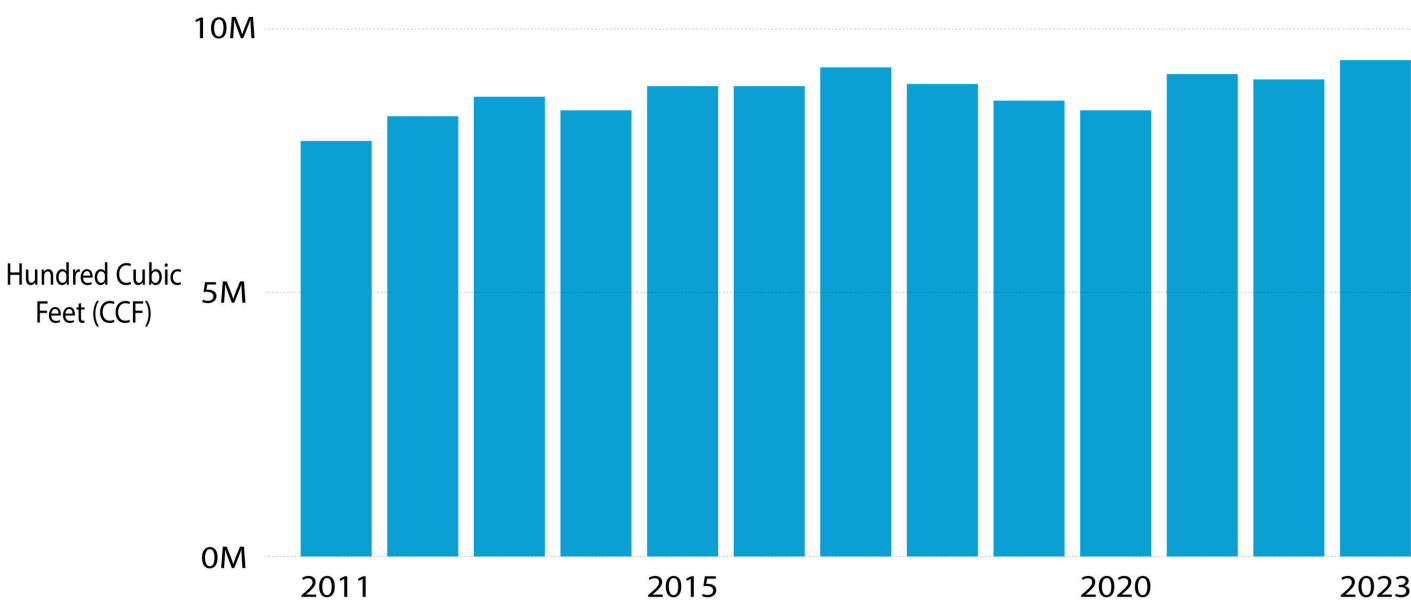
Our vision is a Bellevue with robust tree canopy in every neighborhood, truly a “City in a Park.” In 2050, Bellevue has:

- Protected and conserved its vibrant, healthy urban stream and forests.
- Stewarded high-quality habitat for plants and wildlife.
- Reduced water consumption and uses its rich natural resources efficiently and sustainably.

Bellevue Urban Tree Canopy



Community-Wide Water Usage



WHERE WE ARE

Bellevue’s natural systems are critical to our city’s identity. In 2023, Bellevue has achieved our goal of **40% tree canopy cover** citywide, and **73% of our residents** live within 1/3 mile of a park, trail, or open space.



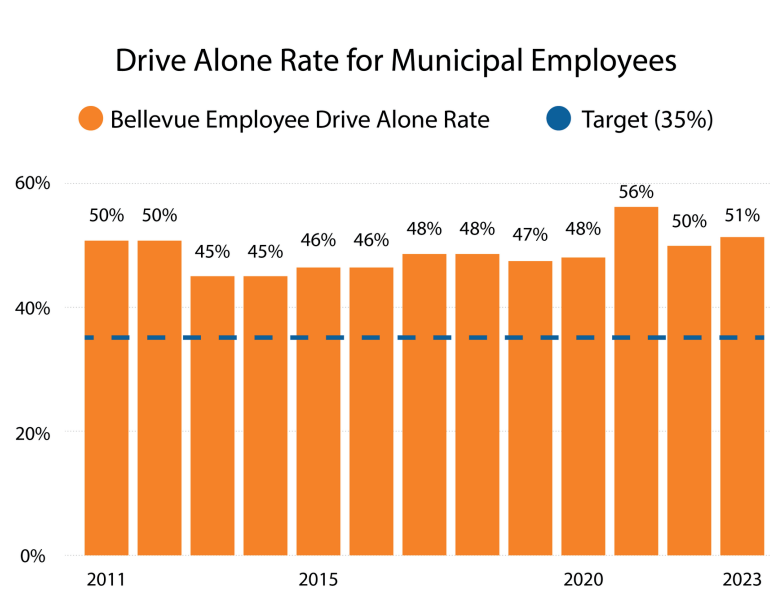
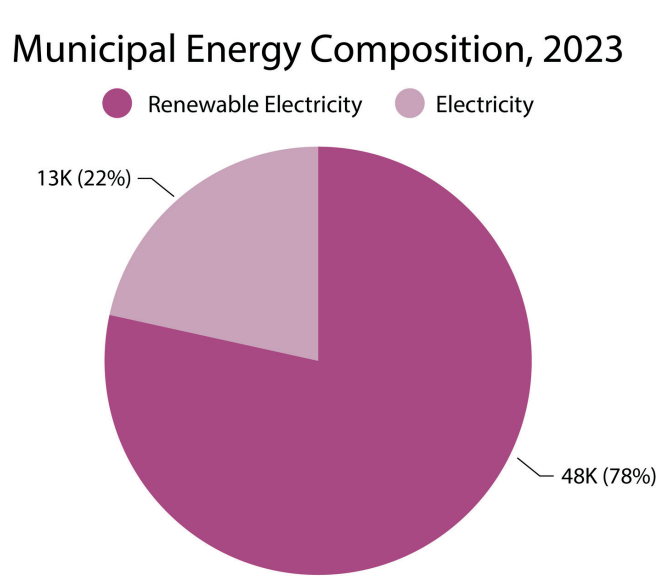
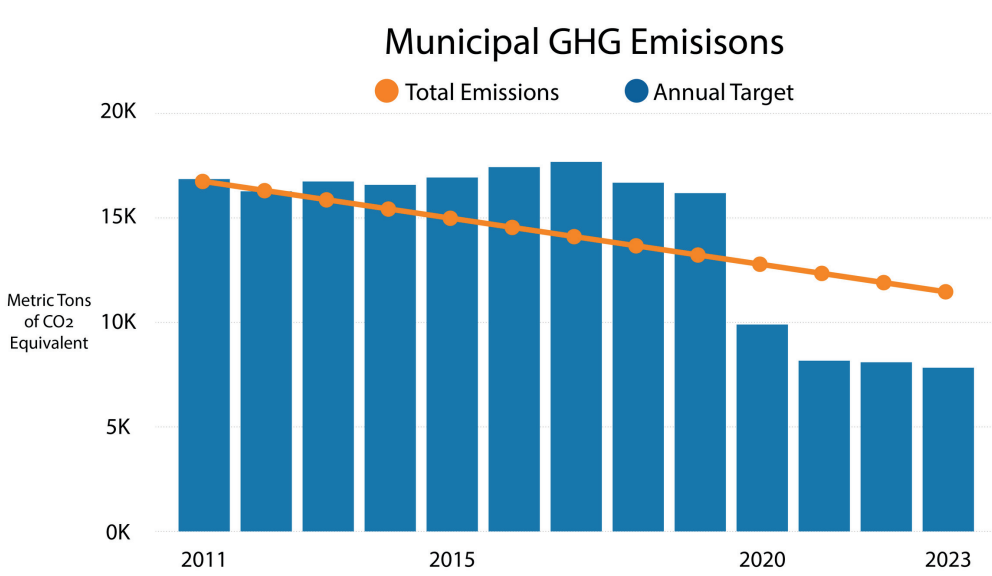


FOCUS ON: MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

Our vision for Bellevue's municipal operations is an efficient city government powered by 100% renewable electricity and a fully electrified fleet. In 2050, Bellevue's city government has:

- Improved employee commute options, so no more than 35% of employees drive alone to work
- Reduced building energy use by 50%, and water use by 10%
- Achieved zero waste in city operations



WHERE WE ARE

Bellevue has led by example in our municipal operations, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from **city operations and buildings by 54%** in 2023. This is major progress, and we are on track to achieve our 2030 target. In 2023, municipal operations ran on **78% renewable energy**. However, we have more work to do in reducing our emissions from transportation and employee commuting. Currently, **51% of Bellevue employees** drive alone to work.

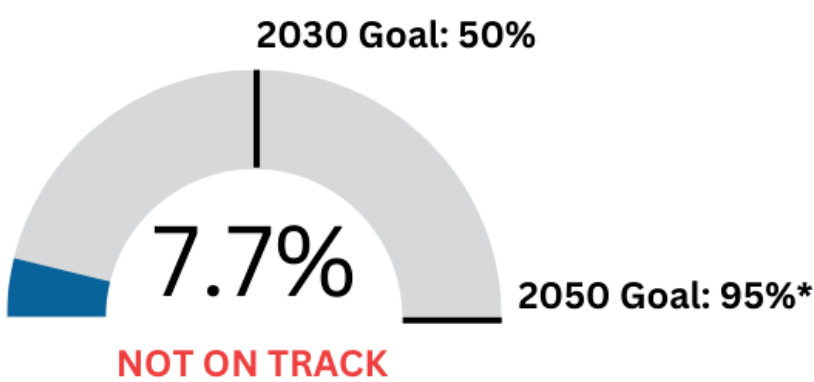


PROGRESS TOWARD 2030 & 2050 GOALS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Our vision is a fully carbon neutral Bellevue, with greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 95% compared to 2011 levels.

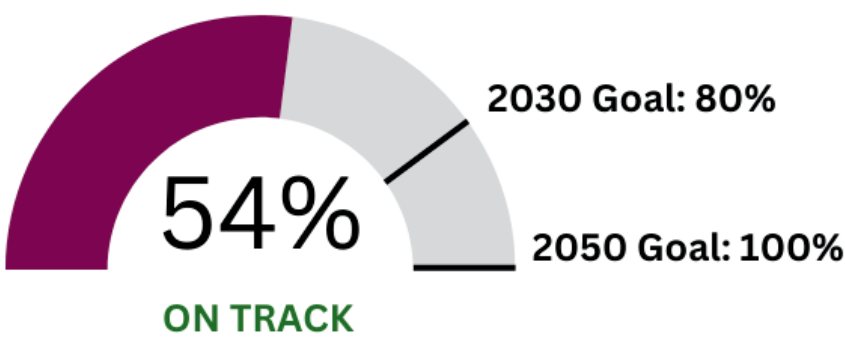
Greenhouse Gas Reduction



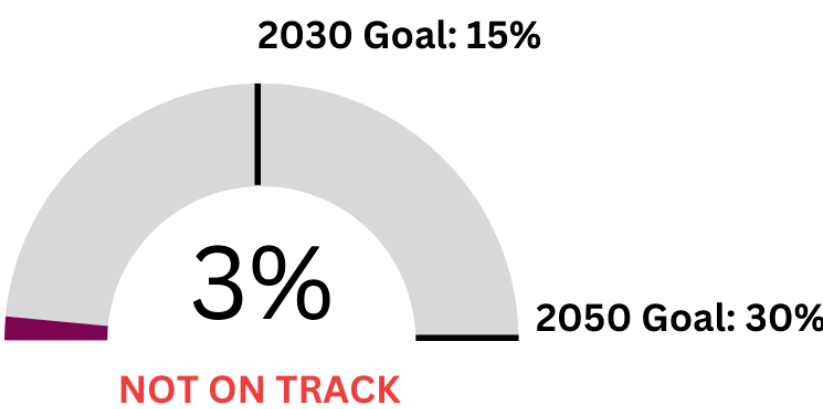
ENERGY

Our vision is a Bellevue powered by 100% renewable, efficient energy.

Renewable Energy



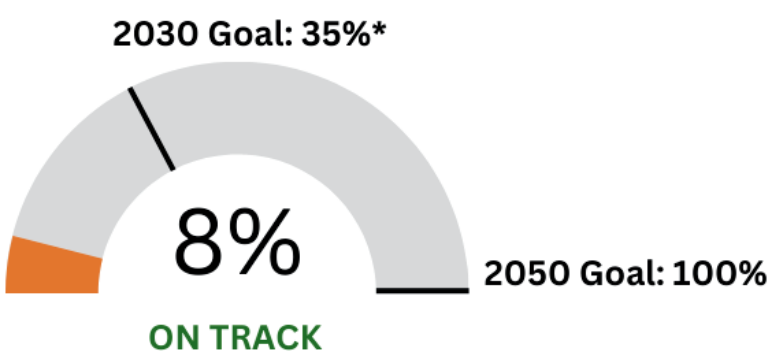
Energy Use Reduction *



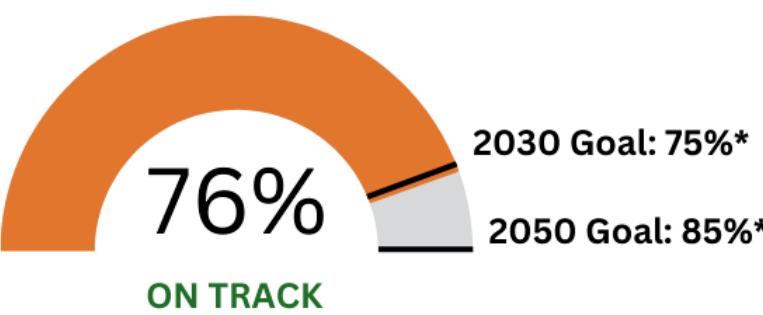
MOBILITY & LAND USE

Our vision for is a Bellevue with convenient, efficient, and electrified transportation systems.

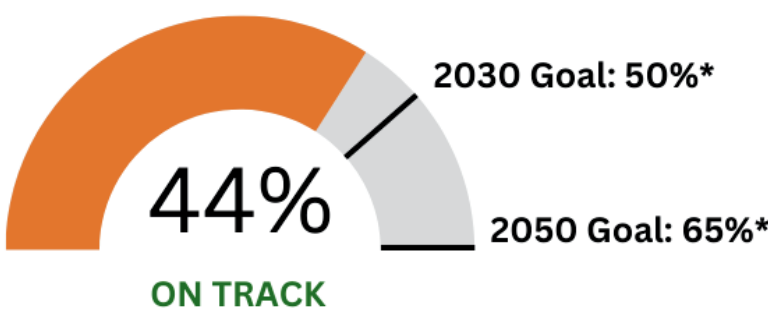
Registered Electric Vehicles



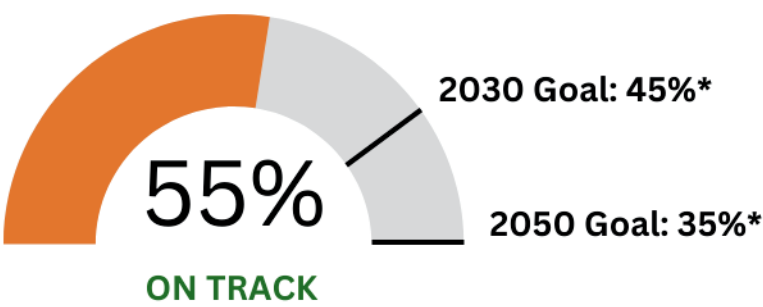
Jobs Within 1/4 mile of Frequent Transit Stop *



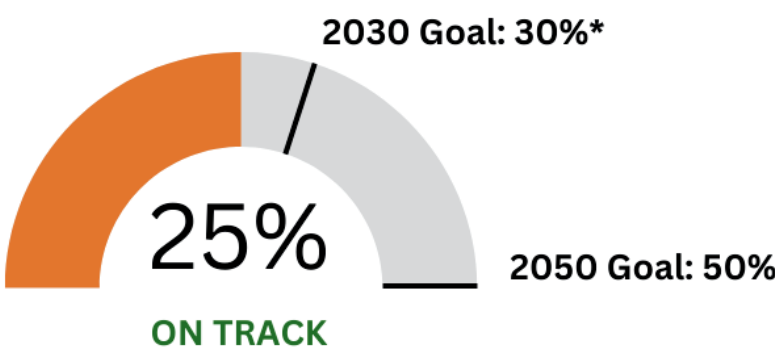
Housing Within 1/4 mile of Frequent Transit Stop *



Residents Commuting Alone



Per Capita VMT Reduction



* Indicates this is a proposed update since the last Sustainable Bellevue Plan.

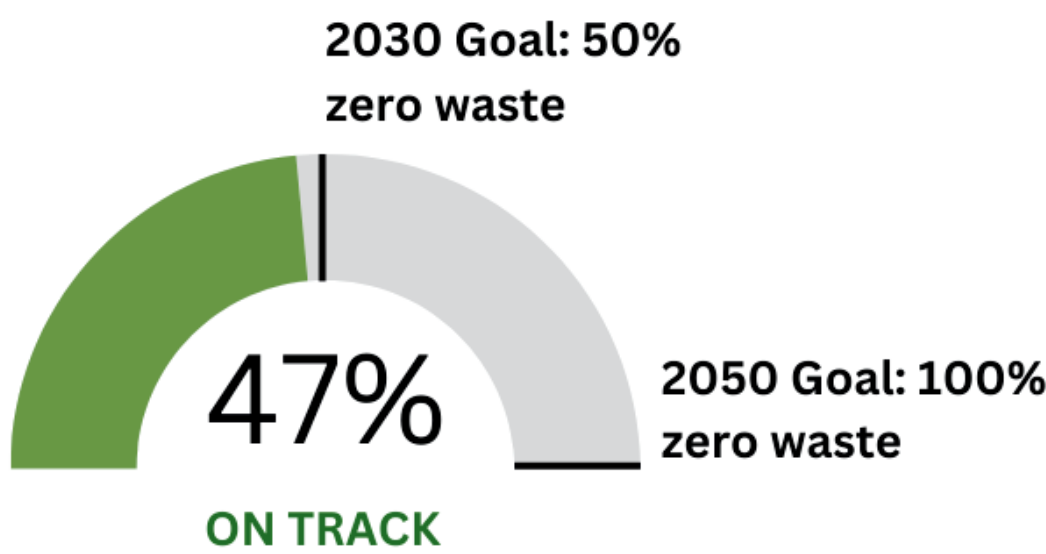


PROGRESS TOWARD 2030 & 2050 GOALS

WASTE & MATERIALS

Our vision is a 100% zero-waste Bellevue.

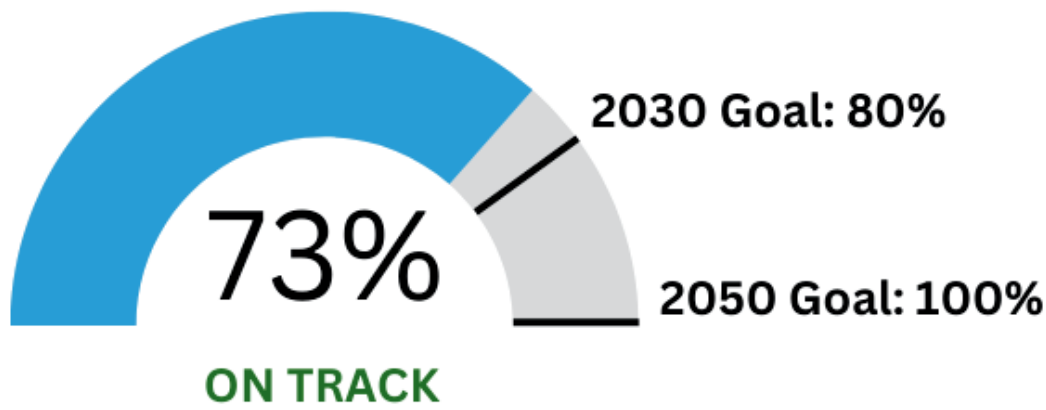
Waste Reduction



NATURAL SYSTEMS

Our vision is a Bellevue with robust tree canopy in every neighborhood, truly a "City in a Park."

Residents with 1/3 mile of a park, trail, or open space



ADDITIONAL GOALS ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR **CLIMATE RESILIENCE**, **STREAM HEALTH**, REDUCED **ELECTRICITY USE**, REDUCED **WASTE TONNAGE**, AND REDUCED **WATER USE**. IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR THESE GOALS, CONSIDER ATTENDING RELEVANT FOCUS AREA BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS TONIGHT TO WEIGH IN.



Sustainable Bellevue Plan Implementation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The City has made significant progress implementing the 2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Plan, including advancing implementation of 87% of the actions in the plan, increasing resources, and demonstrating impact. Highlights include:

CLIMATE

- Completed a **Climate Vulnerability Assessment**
- Strengthened **climate policies** in the Comprehensive Plan Update
- Distributed **225 filter fan kits** and **570 heat/smoke safety “to-go” kits** through partnerships with Bellevue School District, City of Bellevue Homelessness Services, and Bellevue Fire Department

MOBILITY & LAND USE

- Completed major **transportation planning initiatives** to expand mobility options
- Developed a strategy for creating a **Sustainability District in Wilburton**
- Completed the **EV Roadmap** to guide city priorities in supporting communitywide vehicle electrification

NATURAL SYSTEMS

- Updated **Bellevue Tree Code** to strengthen preservation requirements
- Completed 4 Tree Giveaways, distributing **over 3,000 trees** to Bellevue residents and organizations

ENERGY

- Launched Energy Smart Eastside and installed **130 heat pumps** in Bellevue, drove an increase in the % of residential HVAC permits that were heat pumps from 42% in 2022 to 59% in 2024
- Launched the **Clean Buildings Program** and benchmarked 180 commercial buildings, supported 13 in applying for WA State Early Adopter Incentives

WASTE & MATERIALS

- Supported **600 multi-family and commercial buildings** in improving recycling and waste diversion

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- Initiated implementation for significant **energy efficiency retrofits** to the Bellevue Service Center and other city facilities
- Implementing **infrastructure upgrades for EV charging**



Sustainable Bellevue Plan

VISION

The Sustainable Bellevue Plan is Bellevue's roadmap towards a healthier, more efficient, more livable, and more resilient community for all. Our vision for 2050 is a carbon neutral Bellevue powered by 100% renewable energy. A Bellevue with convenient, fully electrified and accessible transportation systems, and connected, complete neighborhoods. A Bellevue that uses energy and resources efficiently, and recycles and composts 100% of the waste it produces. A "City in a Park" with thriving tree canopy, healthy streams, and habitat for wildlife and plants. And, most important, a Bellevue with a flourishing economy and community, where vulnerable residents can stay cool in extreme heat, breathe clean air, and recover stronger from extreme weather.

HELP US REFINE OUR VISION.

WHAT WOULD YOU ADD OR CHANGE?

