

City of Bellevue Georgetown University Energy Prize Accomplishments

In 2015 to 2016, the City of Bellevue participated in the Georgetown University Energy Prize and engaged over 1,500 residents, distributed 2,600 LED light bulbs, and decreased per capita residential energy use by 3.6% from 33,100 kBTU in 2014 to 31,900 kBTU¹ in 2016.

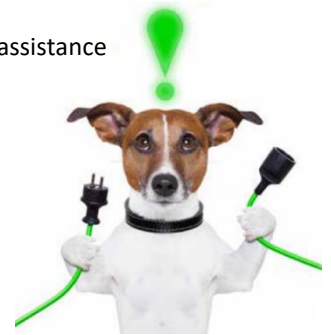
Competition Performance Summary

The City of Bellevue received \$25,000 in funding for energy efficiency and conservation education and outreach from the King Conservation District and worked with several groups and partners, including Puget Sound Energy, Sustainability Ambassadors, High School Green Teams, the Eastside Energy Corps, Hopelink (a human services non-profit), and Mini-City Hall (Bellevue's city hall human services outpost) to achieve the following:

- **700 people** took the Energy Smart Pledge – a voluntary commitment to take simple steps to reduce energy use
- **818 students** participated in the high school energy conservation competition and took the student Energy Smart Pledge
- Provided **300 PSE Home Energy Efficiency kits** to low income residents, seeking utility bill assistance
- Distributed **400 Bellevue Energy Smart 2-pack LED lighting kits** to Bellevue residents

To support Bellevue's Energy Smart Campaign, Puget Sound Energy achieved the following:

- Performed **348** home energy assessments
- Replaced incandescent light bulbs with LEDs in **47** units in multi-family complexes
- Weatherized **603** low Income housing units



Innovation

Community Program Innovations

The City of Bellevue, in partnership with PSE, utilized a variety of innovative approaches to promoting residential energy efficiency and conservation, including:

- Coordination between municipal staff and utility to cross-promote programs online and at events
- Distribution of free LED lighting kits to residents applying for energy bill assistance
- Leveraging existing communication channels, such as non-profit partners and Bellevue's satellite Mini-City Hall to distribute materials and promote programs
- Leveraging student volunteers to promote energy efficiency and residential programs at events, in partnership with PSE
- Providing free on-site installation of LED light bulbs and low-flow showerheads during residential home energy assessments
- Joint promotion of PSE's Green Power Challenge, and a \$50,000 prize from PSE for a solar array if Bellevue signed up 250 new customers, which Bellevue exceeded by signing up 543 new customers.

Municipal Innovations

The City of Bellevue also implemented several innovative best practices during the program:

- Green Power Procurement - In late 2016, the City of Bellevue signed up for PSE's Green Direct program to buy half of its' electricity from a new wind farm in Western Washington.
- Benchmarking – in November of 2016, Bellevue City County committed to benchmark its municipal data for buildings over 5,000 square feet, and the data is available at: <http://www.smartbuildingscenter.org/smart-efficient/benchmark-support/city-bellevue-benchmarking/>
- "Smart City" – While this is a commercial electricity efficiency program, Bellevue developed the Urban Smart Bellevue program aimed at reducing energy use in commercial buildings downtown by providing data and an outreach toolkit to businesses. The program has **101 participants**, including Bellevue City Hall, and has **saved 6% on electricity use** year to date since the program started. Bellevue City Hall has saved 8.8% on site EUI since 2016, through this program.
- Resource Conservation Management program – Bellevue's RCM program started in 2009 and has saved 4.2 million kBTU (weather adjusted) in the latest year for 54 of Bellevue facilities through behavior and operations.

¹ Raw change.

Potential for Replication

The City of Bellevue seeks to share the results of the Georgetown University Energy Prize with other cities around the country through the following strategies:

- Sharing outreach approach with cities in the behavior change outreach Urban Sustainability Directors Network peer learning group
- Sharing results and tools with other nearby cities through the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)
- Reporting and disclosing community energy use through a public-facing website (Scope 5 <https://k4c.scope5.com/dashboards/1>)
- Partnering with PSE, other K4C cities, NEEC's Smart Buildings Center, and the Pacific Coast Collaborative/IMT to adopt benchmarking and establish streamlined reporting and disclosure processes
- Continuing energy outreach and education in partnership with PSE, such as through PSE's grant to the Pacific Science Center program hosted at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center in Bellevue
- Partnering with the Eastside Energy Corps to promote PSE's Green Power challenge to encourage youth to have their households sign up for green power as part of a schoolwide fundraiser sponsored by PSE

Likely Future Performance

The City of Bellevue continues to decrease per capita energy use and overall energy use has also declined, even with a growing population and job base. All forecasts predict that Bellevue's population and number of jobs will continue to grow, and all new construction in Bellevue must meet WA State Building and Energy codes, which are some of the more rigorous in the country. The City is expected to continue to reduce energy use through efficiency, uptake of renewable energy programs, and conservation.

To support this future performance, the City of Bellevue is committed to partnering with PSE and others to promote energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy. Following the GUEP, Bellevue continues to work with the Eastside Energy Corps and the Sustainability Ambassadors student groups and is partnering with these groups and PSE to promote PSE's Green Power program, to encourage customers to sign up for renewable energy as part of a PSE sponsored fundraising drive for local non-profits. The City of Bellevue will also pilot commercial and multifamily energy benchmarking best practices as a follow up to the Urban Smart Bellevue program, and seeks to adopt a voluntary energy benchmarking program in the future, following other leading cities.

Equitable Access, Community and Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure equitable access and inclusion in Bellevue's energy outreach program, the team partnered with Hopelink and Bellevue's Mini City Hall to distribute LED light bulbs to Bellevue residents seeking electrical utility bill assistance. As high energy bills have a disproportionate burden on low income residents, and inability to pay utility bills can be one indicator of a risk of homelessness, the City sought to ensure the free LED light bulb resources were distributed to residents most in need. The educational aspect of the outreach with the King County Housing Authority, described below, provided another opportunity to reach a diversity of residents.

Education

Youth engagement was a core component of Bellevue's energy outreach program, and the City of Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Program partnered with the King County Housing Authority, Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, Bellevue Utilities, PSE, and the Eastside Energy Corps to hold a "Green Challenge" month, including an energy conservation education class and family event for low income families. The Eastside Energy Corps also worked with the Green Teams in their respective schools to learn about strategies for energy efficiency and conservation, and the student Energy Smart Pledge, which was taken by over 800 students, also reinforced the simple strategies for saving energy.

Summary

Through participation in the GUEP, the City of Bellevue created an energy efficiency and conservation program which engaged hundreds of residents, distributed LED light bulbs and educational materials to low income residents, and deepened Bellevue's partnership with its utility, PSE. Bellevue is committed to continuing energy outreach and education, and will continue its energy outreach in partnership with PSE through a recent grant PSE provided to Bellevue's Environmental Education Center, run by the Pacific Science Center. Bellevue will also continue to partner with PSE to promote renewable energy, commercial energy efficiency and conservation, and to share the results of these ongoing efforts with other communities.